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Dear parents and pupils,

We have an exciting couple of terms ahead in preparation for our first show! I would appreciate if you could take the time to read this letter through, as there is a lot of important info regarding this and other subjects!

SHOW TIME

As you know, **all** of the children have been invited to perform in the show in July. After the Easter holidays, (some classes may start a little earlier) we will be starting to rehearse the show dances in the children's classes. Unless told otherwise, I will assume that your child would like to be in the show, so please do let me know if they are unable to do so before we break up for the Easter holidays.

Show dance term is often very exciting as it gives the children a break from syllabus and exam work, and a chance to learn a full length dance to a high standard. The children also love performing on a stage with costumes, perhaps props, lights and an audience!

Please may I add that it is **very important** that the children attend **all classes and rehearsals** in the run up to the show and that they are committed throughout the summer term. Of course I will always recognise any unforeseen circumstances and recognise that these cannot be avoided.

The students work so hard to learn the show work, that if someone drops out or misses a class/rehearsal it holds all of the students back in that class and their dance will not progress. The student that misses classes will fall behind as there often is not enough time to go over parts already taught, and the show dance will then not improve as the teacher will have to go over the same bit of choreography as the previous week for that one person. It is also unfair on the well attended students, as they will get frustrated and want to move on to the next part of choreography. Rant over and thank you in advance for your understanding in this!

More information and the finer details regarding the show, costumes etc will be coming shortly!

Chaperone volunteers

In order for the show to go ahead we will need volunteers to help look after the children back stage. These volunteers will need to help the children change into correct costumes, chaperone the children safely to the stage when its their turn to dance, and back again to the changing rooms. On the dress rehearsal day, chaperones will also be needed to escort and stay with the children when they have the photographs taken. If you are able to help please do let me know as I will need at least 15 volunteers per show, plus volunteers for the dress rehearsal. All chaperones will need to be officially checked and registered, a licence will be needed for each volunteer in order to safe guard the children which I can sort out but I do need to know numbers asap. If you could email me, stating which performance/rehearsal you are able to help with, and if you can help with the dress rehearsal it would be much appreciated.

Costume Fund

So far we have raised £358, which is fantastic! Our winner from 'Guess the Bears name' was Eliana McQuiod and the bears name was Ollie! Well done Eliana! In order to raise more money for the show costume fund, if you would like to put **an advert in the show program regarding your local business or services**, in return of a sponsor I would be more than happy to support this. Just email me with your advert and how much you would like to donate.

With regards to costume prices I will try my very best to keep costume prices to a minimum. Please allow £25-£40 per costume. Each child will have a different costume per dance class. If your child attends 3 dance classes for example, they will need to buy 3 costumes! The costumes and confirmed price per costume will be supplied nearer the time of the show, once we have finished raising money for the fund.

Show Photographs

These will be taken at the dress rehearsal on Thursday. After each group dance has been performed, they will be chaperoned to the professional photographer for group and individual photos to be taken. Please let me know if you do not wish for your child to be photographed.

Show DVD

I am hoping that the performances on Saturday 16th July will be recorded, so that if you wish you can purchase a DVD of the show.

Dates for your diary including Rehearsal and Show dates

Summer Term starts : Saturday 9th April (7 and half week term)

Bank Holiday May Day – Monday 2nd May – NO CLASSES!

Half Term : Monday 30th May – Sunday 5th June

SHOW DRESS REHEARSAL- Thurs 14th July – 4:15-onwards- times to be confirmed at Comberton Sports and Arts Theatre

SHOW TIME!!! Saturday 16th July – Matinee and evening performance- times to be confirmed at Comberton Sports and Arts Theatre

NO CLASSES WILL BE RUNNING ON THE SATURDAY OF THE SHOW!

Summer Term finishes Saturday 16th July (6 week term)

SUMMER SCHOOL – Provisional dates 8^h Aug-11th Aug

EXAM RESULTS

Congratulations to the pupils that took their Primary Ballet exams at Christmas, they all achieved Merits or Distinctions, which is fantastic. Well done girls!

ADULT DANCE CLASSES

Adult classes are still running on a Monday evening, Ballet at 7:15-8:15, and Tap at 8:15-9:00. Whether you are a beginner or have danced in the past these classes are a great, the emphasis very much on fun and exercise! You also have the option of paying as you go or half termly. Don't worry if you don't have Tap shoes, you can wear a pair of flat outdoor shoes to have a go, for ballet bare foot is fine! I hope to see you there! Bring a friend too...

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Due to last years success I am hoping to do some more summer workshops this year! The theme and dates are to be confirmed but I am hoping they will run on the week commencing 8th August. Last year we did 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', and a 'Got to Dance day' and much fun was had by all. More info regarding this will be sent out shortly.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR EXISTING PUPILS ONLY

After half term, all pupils will have the opportunity to trial any other classes (suitable for their age and ability) for 2 weeks free of charge. This is in the hope that they may want to take the class up after this opportunity. Remember there is a 10% discount for those that attend 3 classes or more.

UNIFORM AND HAIR

Please can you ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform to all classes. Dance is a strict discipline therefore the correct uniform should be worn, for the same reasons why children wear a school uniform! The correct uniform list is on the website should you have any queries. For the same reasons please can you ensure your child's hair is neatly groomed and tied back for **all** classes. From Primary Ballet upwards, children should be wearing classical ballet bun

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

There is a small notice board in which you can either purchase, or put your child's old/unwanted uniform items up for sale. All you need to do on your advert is include the items you are selling, price, and your contact details so that any other parents can contact you for collection and payment.

CHILDREN WAITING BEFORE, AFTER OR IN BETWEEN CLASSES

Please note that if your child awaits at the school/halls in between, before or after classes, they are your responsibility. Although it goes without saying that I do my best to try and keep an eye out for all children, I cannot be held responsible for any child who is on the premises on their own waiting for classes! Those attending classes at Icknield School should either wait in the corridor or staff room in between classes, the classrooms are OUT OF BOUNDS! Could I also ask that you close the doors as you come and go as there have been a few occasions where doors have been left open in the rain and the corridor has got soaking wet!

UP TO DATE INFO AND LAST MINUTE CHANGES

If you are on facebook and you haven't already, please support us and add the 'Dance Dedication Sawston' page. We are also on Twitter- 'Dance Dedication @DanceDedSawston'.

Facebook, Twitter and the website will regularly be updated with any important info, plus any last minute changes will appear here e.g. cancellations due to weather etc!

THE BORING BUT NECESSARY BITS!

Attached with this letter is a copy of the terms and conditions signed by all when your son/daughter started classes. Please can you browse through this to ensure there are no misunderstandings regarding fees and other matters.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Miss Christina