

## Newsletter

13<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Congratulations to the Y6 children for approaching their assessments with real purpose and effort this week. The fact that we are assessing internally this year, as part of the range of assessments we use for children, is a very important decision. From the children's perspective they were expecting external assessments until a month ago. That is a major change to take on board for anybody. The fact that they have approached it with a real maturity and an understanding of what it means for them is of great credit.

David Forrester

### Class of the week



Woodpeckers

Go team go! First of the year and so you've avoided a nil score. Who else has yet to top the pile?

### Help needed

As part of getting school ready for builders in July we are upgrading the Elliot building that currently houses the After School Club. We are still in need of volunteers to help move the furniture out and into the Nest on Friday Afternoon 14<sup>th</sup> May. If you are available to help Mr Hanks between 1 – 3pm it would be very much appreciated. Please contact the office and leave your name.

### Music Lessons from September 2010

We will be able to offer guitar, Clarinet, Trumpet, violin and flute lessons for children in KS2 from September 2010. Should your child be interested in learning to play one of these musical instruments, please contact the office for more information by Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> May.

### 'Reduce , Reuse, Recycle'

A natural consequence of getting the builders in is that we have a number of items that we have to clear out. In the interest of the environment we are happy to recycle any of these. Rather than putting them in the skip we would happily see them go to a new home. If you are interested in old chairs and tables in particular please don't hesitate to contact the office and you can have a look at what we've got.

### Summer suffering

Along with the summer sunshine (we have seen it – honest!) comes the joy of playing on the field. Along with the joy of playing on the field comes, for some, the irritant of Hayfever and Asthma. If your child suffers from these conditions and needs medication in school please make sure that the class teacher is aware – however minor. This can then be communicated to all staff. As I write this the heavens have opened again but I'm sure the Sun will make a comeback soon so let me add the reminder of children having sunscreen applied in the morning and hats to wear as protection.

### VALUES

The recognition of how children are expressing the values in our school has enabled us to see the huge variety of behaviours that support the ethos we wish to build here. This week's congratulations go to Luke (Woodpeckers) for the **Compassion** he showed in giving care and support to another child who had fallen and injured themselves on the playground.

The role of Lunchtime helper can sometimes be an onerous one if it comes at a time when the sunshine is out and you would like to be outside but Kane (Woodpeckers) and Curtis (Kingfishers) have earned great **Trust** from teachers by the way they have been committed to their role

Please be aware that this years sports days are earlier in the term than they normally would be. They have been set to coincide with Revel in order that they can be part of the whole village celebrations. Sports day for Reception & KS1 children is on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June, whilst KS2 children will be 'breaking the tape' on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June. The afternoon is a mixture of co-operation, competition and fun. If you can be there it will be great to see you.

### Not so valued

I am sorry to have to say that we have had a few cases recently where children have not lived up to the values we promote. All three instances have come at dropping off or picking up time. If any parents experience behaviour that is not what we would expect from children at this school, please inform any member of staff and it will be followed up. At the same time could I remind parents that when children are with you they should not be scooting, cycling, climbing or racing around in corridors or along the pathways. This is for everybody's safety and peace of mind.

# PSA News

## Summer Fete

Fete preparation is well underway. Girls and Boys please remember to colour in your Fete Poster so you can stick it in a window! Parents - If you want to help on a stall please ring Kate on 07789 070073.

We will be having a Non-uniform day on Fete Day - rather than pay 50p please bring in a bottle for the Pull a Bottle stall! Still collecting raffle prizes, second hand books and uniform donations if you can spare them! Thanks a lot!

## PSA Funding

As a major part of the rebuild we will be aiming to improve the outdoor provision for children. The cost of this is significant and the only way we will be able to achieve it is by creating a plan for the next 5 years of what we want the outdoor environment to be like.

We will be improving the Early Years area by increasing the range of play and learning activities that are physically possible – creating different levels and surfaces that promote a variety of things that children want to explore, create and do.

In what will be the KS1 playground there will be a larger area and we would like to make it possible for children to take part in different types of play whether it be board games, role play, talking, sport or singing for instance.

The KS2 playground and the school field offer a massive choice of things we could/ should be doing. On top of those same things which we are considering for the KS1 playground, there is the possibility of a wildlife area, sheltered seating, a designated hard court area as well as making more of the current wooded area.

All of this work will be expensive but will transform the outdoor experiences for children, both in learning and at playtimes. With the PSA contributing to the costs of this work we will not only be able to achieve it more quickly but it gives a great focus for the fantastic fundraising they do over the year. What's more both children and parents will be able to see the impact of the fundraising in a direct and significant way.

Governors are fully on board with supporting the development of these facilities and will attempt to fund whatever possible. This, together with the funding from PSA, will mean that we can attempt to create an environment that the children deserve. Your support for the PSA will therefore be vital and very much appreciated.

## PSA Dates

We have provisionally booked an end of term event at the Community Hall on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> July. However, we would like feedback to know if you would like a Barn Dance theme with band and caller or School disco with a fancy dress theme. Can you please indicate your preference below and return to the school office.

**Barn Dance theme**

**School disco fancy dress theme**

# Community News

## Revel Dates

**If you are new to the village and would like to meet some friendly faces, do come along to the Rose and Crown on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> May from 7.30 – 9.30 pm. You will receive a warm welcome from the Revel committee and many people who are involved in the groups/clubs and activities that are available here in Pucklechurch.**

**Come along and enjoy a glass of wine/juice and hamburger/hot dog and have an enjoyable time meeting new people.**

**If you are a villager – are you able to lend a hand on revel day. Please pop along and join us on the 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**For more details please call 937 3105 or 937 4392.**

**The Revel Family disco will take place on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> May from 7.30 – 11.30 pm at Pucklechurch Community Centre.**

**Bring your own drinks and American supper.**

## Swim for Haiti

Kerry, Debbie and Beth successfully completed 64 lengths (1 mile) of the pool in 56 minutes last Friday. Thank you to everyone who sponsored us. You can donate online at [www.justgiving.com/swimming4haiti](http://www.justgiving.com/swimming4haiti) or in person to Kerry, Debbie or Beth.

## St Thomas à Beckett Church Services

“St Thomas a Becket Church welcomes everyone to all services and activities. Children of all ages are always welcome as well as their parents and grandparents. Here is a list of our regular activities and some of the special events and festivals over the coming months. Do feel free to come along or if you would like to find out more, ask Chris Moore (Rebecca's Mum in Yr 4) or Julie Gardner (Hannah's Mum in Yr 3) or ring Stuart Young (our vicar) on 0117 937 2260.

Get ready for some fun packed social events at St Thomas a Becket in May!

1. May 16<sup>th</sup> – Church Youth group activity – climbing in Bristol. Meet at 2.30pm @ the vicarage – specifically for year 6+. Pre-booking is absolutely necessary, limited places available – first come first served – please ring Chris Moore on 937 3337 if you would like to come
2. May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Messy Church – calling all primary aged children! Meet at church at 3.00pm for games, arts and crafts, singing and the chance to find out a bit more about God.
3. June 20<sup>th</sup> – Church Youth group activity – book the date in your diary for a bbq.