

Newsletter

20th May 2010

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

This week's newsletter is a mixture of positives and disappointments I'm afraid. It would be easy to pretend everything is 'Hunky – Dory' but if we are to be the open, successful and positive school community that we wish to be it is important to face some of the negatives as well as celebrating the great things that take place. I would hope that, as we discuss on a regular basis, all adults and children are able to take responsibility for those things that are related to day to day behaviours in and around school. In this way we promote a culture based on the values we have identified that we wish to aspire to. I would ask you all to reflect on how any of the issues below affect you. Best wishes.

David Forrester

Class of the week

Celebrations for Winning Wagtails. Well done to you for a great turn out this week.



Sports Day

Please be aware that this years Sports Days, as indicated above, are earlier in the term than they normally would be. Due to limitations brought about by the rebuild we set them to coincide with Revel in order that they can be part of the whole village celebrations. The afternoons are a mixture of co-operation, competition and fun. If you can be there it will be great to see you.

Kwik Cricket

Please note there will be no Kwik cricket club next week – 24th May

Parking

I came out of the school's rear entrance to check on parking last Friday and was very shocked at the inconsiderate nature of what some people are doing. There was a Red and Silver Saab estate parked up on the verge outside the rear school entrance and blocking the pathway on Westerleigh Road. A silver mini was parked on the corner of Westerleigh and Castle Rd, causing traffic to drive into the middle of the road and creating unnecessary blockages with cars coming up Castle Rd. There were a huge number of cars parked on the verge on Westerleigh Rd, again restricting vision for drivers trying to exit Castle Rd and finally, several neighbours driveways and garage doorways were blocked by parked cars or by people waiting in cars.

I can only stress, as I have done many times before, the need for adults to be thoughtful about parking. It puts lives in danger. The Community Centre and the Star car park are available. We all know the limitation of parking facilities but to carry on doing the above shows little respect for the children in particular and for others in general. The five minutes it takes to cross the Rec are equivalent to the time it takes to get out of a congested Lansdown and Castle Rd. Please reflect on your parking habits and behave in a way that makes children safer.

Dates for your diary

Friday, 21st May - Wagtails class assembly starts at 9.05 am. All are welcome.

Friday, 28th May - Inset Day 5

Monday 14th June - Rec & KS1 Sports Day

Thursday 17th June - KS2 Sports Day

Bikes and Scooters

There has been another incident within the school grounds where a child has been riding a bicycle. Bicycles and scooters should be pushed or carried on all school property. It is worrying for the younger children in particular when brakes screech and wheels skid. This must stop before an accident occurs. Any child seen scooting or riding in school will be immediately banned from bringing their bike or scooter to school.

VALUES

This week Leo showed how creative he could be in his learning in ICT. Nicole was identified for her Integrity in particular. She is always genuine in the way she treats all around her – a general good all rounder who always has a smile on her face.

Values start as early as reception and it was wonderful to see Robbie showing both Respect and Compassion in the way he spoke about and treated, a variety of minibests during their 'bug session'.

Travel Plan

We are in the process of working with South Gloucestershire transport department to secure help in running a walking bus to school. In order to gauge interest before our first meeting could you please indicate below your name and post code so that appropriate routes can be planned and return the slip via your child's class teacher.

Name: _____

Post code: _____

Charity running

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored me for Breast Cancer Campaign. I've raised over £300 so far which is more than I'd hoped! I've completed 4 out of the 6 half marathons and am now beginning to collect the money which is due at the start of June. If you have sponsored me, I'd be grateful if you could drop the money into the school office as soon as you can. If you still wish to sponsor me, any donations will be gratefully received.

Many thanks for your generosity,

Gemma Cummins

Out of School Club.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all who gave up last Friday afternoon to relocate the Out of school Club.

The move would not have happened without your help! There was lots to do and everyone rose to the challenge.

Thank you to Gary Thomas, Andy and Debbie Woods, Justin Fox-Robinson, Samuel Brown, Candice Bowers, Mr Hanks, Mr Forrester and Sarah Fox-Robinson, Lin Ford and Sally Baker and anyone else I forgot to mention.

The club has moved in to the Nest and it is already looking like home!

Thanks again

George Wynter - Club Manager

PSA News

Summer Fete

The fete arrangements are well under way and we look forward to seeing you all there next week. This is a great opportunity to have a fun evening and to support school in raising funds for the outdoor environment we really think the children deserve (see below). There really is something for everyone and it's a good way to end the term. So please join us, even if it's only for an hour

Reminder:

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. All shapes and sizes of bottles welcome. Please remember we need a range of nice bottle prizes as well as the odd bottle of 'ketchup'!!

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. The KS1 playground will be a larger area and we would like to make it possible for children to take part in different types of play. The KS2 playground and the school field offer a massive choice of things we could/ should be doing. 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.

PSA Dates

We have provisionally booked an end of term event at the Community Hall on Saturday, 10th 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

Golden Valley in the Spotlight

The Golden Valley Nature Reserve is the subject of a TV programme over the next three weeks on BBC1, on Sundays (times may vary). It is called Halcyon River Diaries and the focus is on the River Boyd, which flows through Wick, Oldland and Bitton. The reserve has free entry of course to anyone who wishes to use it and is a lovely place to take a walk with the children. The programmes will give you a chance to see some things that maybe you didn't know about this superb natural area, and the opportunity to wow your friends and family with your detailed knowledge during a Sunday stroll!

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 23rd – 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.
2. June 20th – Church Youth group activity – book the date in your diary for a bbq.