



'Fearless Education'



Newsletter

15th September 2011



Dear Parents, Carers and children,

I believe the phrase is 'It's like we've never been away' and in so many ways that does seem to be the case. Neither is that a bad thing as it means the children are able to settle so much easier. Even so, the new year does bring fresh challenges, opportunities and ideas which is what stirs the excitement. We've already had some great events for the children, The Roald Dahl Celebration at Mangotsfield Secondary School and the trip to the Georgian House and the M-shed for the Y5/6 learning on Slavery. Read about them below. The Summer holiday provides a time to reflect and evaluate. It gave me an opportunity to think about the potential we have for an absolutely brilliant year. We have committed staff and governors, wonderful children and will soon have the majority of a great school building to make use of. So much is possible and if we are all able to work together we can make really huge steps in this year itself; building on the progress of the last few years. I look forward to really making that partnership work even more effectively this year. As a start may I remind you that the SDP consultation is happening in the Parent's Room each morning and will still be on for one more day on Monday from 9.00-9.45. If you have any views / ideas to share it would be great to have them – even if you only have 15 minutes to spare. Have a great weekend.

David Forrester

Reminders

May I remind / alert parents to a few guidelines that we have in place that are for the ultimate benefit of all in school. Sometimes things become a bit blurred over time through different interpretations and developments but the following are aspects we feel it is important to re-emphasise:

Children should not be wearing jewellery in school, including bracelets and necklaces. If they have pierced ears then only stud earrings should be worn please.

Nail varnish and tattoos / body stickers should also not be worn in school. If children have been wearing them at out of school events then please ensure they remove them before coming into school. They may otherwise be asked to remove them or even to return home to do so.

We are asking parents to ensure uniform fits school expectations in respect of sweatshirts, fleeces and particularly footwear. A large number of children have been wearing trainers. Even though they are largely black they are clearly not school shoes. If any parent has a difficulty with any aspect of school uniform, please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher or Mr Forrester. We are only too happy to help in any way we can.

No child has a need for a mobile phone in school. The only way that we can ensure children aren't exposed to the sharing of inappropriate information, music or images is to not allow them in school at all. If children are found in possession of one then it is confiscated and has to be picked up by the parent. Any necessary communication can be done through the school office. Please help us with this for the safety of all.

Reading

Love reading? Love your children reading? Want to encourage it even more? As those of you who have read the draft SDP in the Parent's Room will know, Reading has a massive focus for us this year. We are looking carefully at the time and focus given to reading in the curriculum, the resources we have available to support children's progress whatever their ability, the use of our new library and the importance of the partnership with home. There will be lots of fun events through the year that we hope you can support and be involved in. The library will become a significant part of the things we do and we would love to hear from any parents who would like to help us develop this new resource, whether through time or such things as business contacts, and to make the most of it for the children. Please contact Miss Kate White or Mrs Dee Higgins if you are interested in helping in any way.

Roald Dahl Day!

On Tuesday 13th September, Year 5 celebrated Roald Dahl Day by visiting Mangotsfield school for some Roald Dahl fever! Along with children from other schools, the Year 5 children learnt all about the author. They enjoyed watching videos,

asking questions and being quizzed! There were some super fancy dress costumes and Darcy Jones won the best costume for Pucklechurch. She put a lot of effort into her Fantastic Mr Fox tail, which she made with her mum. Darcy



and the other winners even appeared in the evening post! Darcy said "I was quite surprised that I won but I was excited to be in the paper!" Roald Dahl fever is continuing in Year 5, with lots of children picking up one of his books to read. Kingfishers are also enjoying reading Charlie and the Chocolate factory together!

Attendance

Some parents will already be aware that as part of a review of the procedures for attendance we have put in place changes that have been discussed and agreed with all of the local primary and secondary schools in our Mangotsfield and Downend cluster.

We no longer use absence forms. All holidays/ days out taken in term time will be marked as unauthorised. If you feel there is an exceptional circumstance, please write a short letter requesting the absence. You will receive a written response to your request. Absence requests for any other reason should be communicated to the office or the classteacher by a short letter. This should be done at least three weeks prior to the absence as per attendance leaflet sent at beginning of term.

Travelling to school

Car Park

This is always a regular point of concern and so it is probably no surprise to many of you that I am writing to remind you of the restrictions! The car park is not available to parents at any time during the school day – from 8.00am to 5.00pm. If you are using it to drop off at Breakfast Club or pick up from After school club we would ask that you use the right hand side and park properly. Children should not be dropped off to walk through the car park on their own. Equally parents should not be walking through the car park with children when bringing to or picking-up from school. The only access path is the one that leads straight from the road to the main gate.

Entrance

There is no entrance to school through the rear gate. This is for coaches and services only. Parents and children should not use this route and any time. This is for the safety of all parents, children, contractors and delivery drivers.

Bikes and scooters

Please could I remind everyone that bikes and scooters should not be ridden on school premises at any time. This includes older siblings and even parents coming to pick up children. There are hidden corners and doors that are potential hazards when people are moving faster than walking pace.

All bikes and scooters need to be put into the temporary store during the school day.

Important Dates for your diary

The Parents calendar for the year will be coming out at the beginning of next week.

But... in the meantime we would like to raise your awareness of our Harvest Service which takes place on Friday 23rd September. We would be very grateful for donations to be brought in on Thursday 22nd or the morning of Friday 23rd and will once again be sharing with elderly residents in the village. Tins, bottles and packets of food are the easiest for us to distribute but some small amounts of fresh food are always good to see too. Whatever you can spare we will share. Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

Grace School Uganda

A huge thank you to all of the parents who contributed towards our Ugandan fund raising efforts at the end of last term. Each class had the task of raising money which would go towards resources and building materials for the Grace School in Uganda.

Collectively we raised an amazing £546, we will keep you informed of further projects which will now be taking place in the school.

Playtime

As you are aware we have been working to develop the opportunities for play during the school day and whilst we have a long way to go in completing the physical environment that we feel the children deserve, we have established the core ethos to play in school and begun the resourcing of it. The Lunch Break Supervisors (LBS). We would like to share and discuss the principles of this with you and to celebrate the successes. We have therefore organised a 'Stay and Play' session for you to share in what your children are experiencing. This will take place on Wednesday, 28th September at 2pm.

There will be a short introduction to the principles behind the practice that has been developed as well as the policy that has arisen out of it. Then we will share some of the successes we are already seeing with this approach (as well as some of the learning) and finally what our plans are for the next few years. After that the children will be given an extra playtime that you will have the chance to observe and discuss with staff or each other, which you can stay at until 3.30pm if you wish.

School Dinners

On Monday 19th September school lunch will have an Indian theme to coincide with year 3 and 4 topic for this term. There will be a choice of curries and other authentic Indian delights! If your child does not like spicy food, do not worry as there will also be sausage, sauté potatoes and peas available.

Cost is £1.70 per meal to be sent in a sealed envelope with your child's name and class.

Activity Clubs

All clubs have now been allocated. Your child should have brought home their slip for you to sign and return confirming you are happy for them to attend a particular club.

Term 1 clubs start next week so please ensure your slip has been returned.

Monday: 3.15 - 4.00 KS1 Football

Tuesday: 3.15 - 3.50 KS1 Ballet

3.15 - 4.15 Y5/6 Newspaper

3.15 - 5.00 KS2 Film

Friday: 3.15 - 4.00 Y5/6 Netball

Due to a huge amount of information to pass on we will be sending out Community Newsletter and the Slavery Trip Review on Monday!

Newsletter – Part deux!

Slavery Project – Year 5 and 6

As we arrived in Bristol, we were all tingling with excitement. Year 6, of course arrived first. The thing ahead, as we all knew, was a mystery. There was only one thing we all knew: we were about to learn about slavery.

At long last we finally got there. We strode towards the magnificent M-shed. Whilst we were waiting, we chatted contentedly and peered nosily inside and saw...: a gift shop. Lots of staircases leading up to the top.

Then we were let in. The lady who welcomed us in was apparently called Donnie Houser. Then we started the tour. First our group, 'The Cupcakes' climbed enthusiastically up the stairs into our first gallery. We saw a big wooden-like board with a map and some information. We had to write some of it on a piece of paper. Next we walked to the other side; we weren't allowed to run.

During the time in the next room, we had to try and get information about John Pinney. It took our group absolutely ages to find it but we did eventually. The computer said.... John Pinney lived in the Georgian House and was the slave master of Pero or something like that. There were also some small videos that you could watch.

After that, a few of us went down to the gift shop.

A few minutes after we bounded (not literally) up to the workshop. In the workshop, it was beautifully toasty. There were 5 tables inside, which had some slavery things on it. On one table there were some sugar nippers, sugar that we could nip, tobacco that stunk horribly, soft cotton, some sort of corky thing with a coffee bean stuffed up it. All of that was very interesting to use and to look at. On all of the other tables the stuff was cool and I'll tell you about it.

Another table had a huge bowl and some other things I have no clue about! On one of the other tables there was a double slave collar and a branding iron that you burn on a slaves back. This next one is my favourite table: it had some sugar and some beads. Finally, the last table had a replica of the slave transport boat, a book and some pages with some writing on.



After what felt like days, we walked out of the M-shed and towards Pero's Bridge. As we were walking across Pero's Bridge we saw a saxophone player. Then we arrived at Brandon Hill.

We rolled down Brandon Hill, which was fun and dizzying. Just after lunch we strode over to The Georgian House where a strict woman was there with a couple of others. We looked at some good facts and went up a couple of flights of stairs. John Pinney's bath is the size of a swimming pool!

Then we left for the coach.

My favourite part was rolling down Brandon Hill, until Miss Morse stopped us that is!

Rebecca



Community News



French Club – Free taster session

Bonjour!

French club will be starting a new beginners class on Wednesday lunch times. In order for your children to see what goes on we are offering a **free taster session at 12:30 on Wednesday 21st September** . If you have a child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 who would be interested in attending or for more information please call **Carmen on 0117 908 2707**

or email: mortbak@blueyonder.co.uk by Tuesday 20th Sept (spaces are limited)

To find out more about la Jolie Ronde please visit our website:www.lajolieronde.co.uk

Merci

Carmen Bakaj.

Calling all parents and Staff

I am running the Chipping Sodbury Slog on November 13th. It is a nine and a half mile run through deep mud, up and down hills, in the rain – basically it lives up to its name – it is a slog. I am really excited about it and hope to raise £2000. £1000 will go towards art projects in the village, with your children, the school and the youth and another £1000 will go towards the organisation 16-25 Independent People. I have done some work with them in the past and they are passionate about getting the youth off the streets and back into everyday life.

I have been training hard and I will complete the race!

If anyone is interested in sponsoring me then please could you fill out the sponsor form that will be placed in the office? Alternatively you can phone me on 01173039190.

I appreciate your support and thank you!

Kind regards

Rachel Goodchild

Photography Competition

The 7th Annual Bob Stone Memorial photography Competition will be taking place on Sunday, 9th October in the Community Centre from 10.30 am – 1.00 pm. Pick up entry details at village shops or online from www.pucklechurch.org. If you have photographs you would like to display but not enter into the competition, please contact Mike Hanks at school or Elaine Stone at 49 Homefield Road.

Come on get those cameras out and start clicking away!

Revel AGM

The Revel AGM will take place on Wednesday, 28th September at 7.30 for 8.00 pm at the Community Centre Meeting Room. Come along as a member of a village organisation or individual and enjoy a glass of wine and some cheese. Tell us what you want to see happen and where Revel should go next.

St Thomas a Becket

All are welcome to join our weekly service on Sunday mornings 10.00 – 11.00 am. Children have their own activities during the service. In addition we hold Junior and Youth church twice a month.

Below are some of the activities that are taking place this term.

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| 24 th September | 7.00-7.30pm | Harvest Supper ticket only from Bristol 9372516 or 9373134 in Church |
| 25 th September | 10.00 am | Harvest Festival Service |
| 16 th October | 3.00 pm | Organ & Choir Concert in Church |
| 21 st October | 3.30-5.30pm | Light Party in Church for 5-11 Year olds. Older children welcome to help. |
| 30 th October | 3.00 pm | All Souls Service |