

Bincombe Valley Primary School

Newsletter number 34

Dear Parents,

Welcome return.

It is lovely to welcome back all of our children safe and well after the summer break. I give a warm welcome to the parents of new children who have joined us this year.

Staffing.

There have been some staff changes: Miss Roper is on maternity leave and her replacement is Miss Whiteman. We have also appointed two additional teaching assistants in Mrs Garbutt and Mrs Farmer.

Mr Leadley is now working back in the mainstream school and will deliver lessons to the junior classes. This is due to the introduction of release time for teachers for planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) – statutory government requirement.

We have also introduced PPA for our infant and nursery teachers and devised a programme of activities for children working with our teaching assistant staff to take place in the afternoons.

School Uniform.

It is lovely to see the pupils smartly dressed in their uniforms. If you need any advise about uniform or related matters such as hair- styles, ear-rings or PE kit then please speak to Mrs Cross in the office. We do have a full stock of new sweatshirts at £8.50. We can also order embroidered fleeces for winter wear at £10.50

Contact the Office.

Have you moved house or changed your telephone number during the summer break. If so please let the school know immediately.

Our Mission Statement

I take the opportunity to re-affirm our mission statement here at Bincombe Valley School, which we wish to live up to.

‘Children receive the highest quality education within a stimulating and safe environment where each child is valued.

‘This is achieved by staff, governors and parents working in partnership.’

Curriculum Visits for Year 4, 5 and 6

Each year we arrange for our junior pupils to enjoy outdoor activity and experience learning out of the classroom. These activities form part of our statutory curriculum provision for pupils and so all pupils are meant to take part. We are writing early about these visits this year to avoid any confusion about them and to enable you to save to meet the cost. These visits are well subsidised by the school and prices are below that offered in many other schools.

Year 4 pupils - Carey Camp. A three-day residential visit into the heart of Wareham forest at this LEA managed site. Activities range from forest trails, mini-beast study and low ropes course. The cost will be £

Year 5 pupils – Two days at Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre. Activities include climbing, rock hopping, sailing and canoeing. The cost will be £

Year 6 pupils – Springhead. A five-day residential visit in the heart of the North Dorset countryside at Fontmell Magna. Activities include Mr Strong’s hill walk and Mrs Hart’s Camp fire with marshmallows. The cost will be £
To enable these visits to go ahead I am grateful for the commitment of my staff. I need your commitment also to support these visits and would ask you to return the attached slip with a small deposit. I will then issue savings cards and collect money over the next 8 months up to 1st May 2006. If finance is a real worry then please contact me.

Assemblies and Celebration assemblies

We always look forward to parents coming into school for these events. As usual the celebration assemblies are each Friday morning from 9.00 a.m. It is great to say well done and this year we might learn another new song to sing.

Class teachers will deliver class assemblies on a Wednesday from 9.00. They will let you know when these happen as I will in these newsletters. We have two already planned.

Mrs Staddon will lead a Harvest Celebration assembly on 12th October and on the 19th October Mrs Hart’s class will lead an assembly.

Curriculum Meeting for Parents.

At this annual meeting the class teacher will talk to you about the curriculum your child is following throughout the year. This is a time to ask questions and raise any issues. The meetings are planned for Tuesday 20th September.

Infant class (KS1) at 2.40 p.m. and Junior (KS2) at 3.05 p.m. after school. I would urge you to try to get along to the meeting. If you have children in more than one class either ask a friend or spouse to attend.

Home and School agreement.

Like all other schools we issue these annually and lay out a shared commitment for your child's education. The form is enclosed with this newsletter and I would ask for it to be returned back promptly to the school. An important aspect of life in school is the security and safety of each child. We want to ensure children are happy and are able to learn in a well ordered environment. If your child is ever worried then please speak to their class teacher in the first instance. Discipline is good in our school but like any other school there are times when a minority of children need reminding about their behaviour. This is why we have a 'Red Box' Scheme. Should your child enter the Red Box we look for your support. Children are reported if they hurt or are aggressive to others – this includes children, school helpers and teachers. I have been reviewing the scheme and have made some minor changes so it is more effective. The sanctions for incidents are generally as follows:

1st Incident – a verbal warning 2nd Incident – a missed play

3rd Incident – missed play all day 4th Incident - detention

5th Incident – detention and missed plays

Hopefully no child will go any further than this. Any further incident would lead to a meeting between the child and myself with their parents.

As you know most of the time all our pupils are keen to learn and really well mannered. For outstanding work or attitude we have the Gold Box. This year I am also introducing the Gold Book to keep on record these wonderful achievements. As we all know it is so important to focus on the good and give well-earned praise and reward.

After School Clubs

Football Club. I will again run this on Tuesday after school for Year 5 and 6 children. This year I am introducing an award scheme supported by the FA, which I am sure the children will enjoy. Tony Stevens from St Francis Church will be assisting me. The club is great fun and we may have to restrict numbers if demand is too high.

I have managed to obtain sponsorship for new kit and footballs. We will run two teams this year and play matches either on a Wednesday or Thursday. Our first session is next Tuesday after school. We finish at 4.15 so every child should be home by 4.30 p.m. that afternoon.

Mrs Varndell will again be running her Newspaper Club for Junior pupils on a Wednesday straight after school to 4 p.m. So if your child enjoys finding out and sharing news then they might well enjoy this.

Mrs Staddon will again run her art club. This will also be on a Tuesday (sorry but we can't avoid the clash with football club). This will be for children from year 3,4 and 5. And again runs after school for an hour. The number of places is limited so ask your child to speak to Mrs Staddon

Breakfast Club.

We continue to run our successful Breakfast club from 7.45 – 8.45 each day. We know this club is a valuable service for both working parents and others. The cost will be pegged at last term's prices because we have secured funding from sure Start. It would be nice to receive feedback from you about the club – both about what works and what we might look to improve. Please let me know either directly, by phone or in writing.

The cost this term is

If you would like more information or like to register your child arrange to speak to Jo Ings or Sue Parker.

How are we doing as a school?

The teaching staff and I have spent time analysing the performance of our pupils from the tests taken last year. This has included us looking at OFSTED information (2004) and that from Dorset LEA. (2004, 2005). I would like to share with you a couple of items that speak of our success and also a couple of items for improvement.

Success:

From Year 2 to the end of Year 6 the value-added to pupil attainment in English, Maths and science is higher than expected.

In both the end of Year 2 and Year 6 tests the trend is one of improvement above the national trend.

Areas for Improvement:

Reading levels for some pupils in Years 4 and 5 need to be raised.

There needs to be increased opportunities for creative writing

Higher than national figures are recorded for unauthorised absences

I will provide more information about all of this when I publish the School Development Plan outlining the actions we are taking.

Any action we take works best with your support. We are introducing a reading support programme 'Catch-Up' for those Year 4 and 5 pupils. I would ask all parents to support their child's reading and spend some time listening to them and talking about their books. We are reviewing the teaching of writing in discussion with the LEA and will implement recommended changes.

In regard to absence from school we all need to keep this to a minimum as any absence affects a child's learning. Remember to use the holiday form we have available in school so that this can be authorised. The high level of unauthorised absence is usually caused by a handful of children. Again if a parent ever needs support then please contact me at the school.

