

BINCOMBE VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER NUMBER 31. **NOVEMBER 2004**



Dear Parents,

PTFA Sponsored Walk around Britain.

Well done to everyone involved in this event. A big thank you to those parents from the PTFA who helped on the day either on the field or in serving refreshments. You made it happen! Also thanks to Mr Shutts for his efforts and to Mr Darmanin who produced the sponsor form. We were blessed with a nice sunny day and all the children completed several laps visiting cities on the way round. So far we have raised £1200. We are still awaiting some sponsor returns particularly from Year 6 and Year 3 before we reach a final total and send half to the Fire Service Benevolent Fund. Please note that tomorrow, Thursday 25th is our last collection day. Prizes for children raising the highest amounts in each class will be given out on Friday.

The PTFA have recently sent out a newsletter listing a whole set of events they have organised in December. They include the Christmas Craft stall on Friday 3rd December, the Grand Draw with tickets on sale up to Monday 6th December and the Christmas Bingo evening on Thursday 9th December. I would like to thank them for all their efforts and ask for your support to make each event a huge success.



Update.

I have again met with Dorset County Council staff to discuss the fire-damaged junior block. The plan to restore and completely refurbish the block is likely to take until next October. Although this is longer than first planned, it is best to take things one step at a time and ensure we get the best quality build we can. I am not concerned about the works taking longer as I want to make sure things are done really well. The Juniors appear settled in the temporary classrooms and we have had these upgraded to a high level of accommodation



More Great News – Hot off the Press

I have just received a copy of our schools Performance and Attainment (PANDA) document from OFSTED. This document provides information about the attainment of pupils at the end of Key Stages (i.e. Year 2 and 6) in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. The news is really pleasing and it shows that over the last four years, as a school the attainment of our pupils is rising year by year and the trend is above the national trend. The document also shows the value added from Year 2 to Year 6 for each child who took KS2 tests this year. This is from 2000 – 2004. The value added has given us A* meaning very high. Well done!

This success is down to the hard work of the children, teachers and staff and the support of parents. Though I'm really pleased with these results, I wouldn't want us to rest on our laurels. We still need to keep up the hard work and support in all year groups. I would particularly ask parents of Year 2 children to support their child's reading and homework. I would also ask parents of Year 6 pupils to support the homework given and in particular the revision packs that will be followed next term. I know that the effort of every child makes a difference to how well we do as a school, so I will be following each child's effort with interest. Like you, I am also committed to helping children in making a difference to their education.



Our Website.

We are getting plenty of visitors to our Website so thank you for your interest. There are many websites for parents to use in helping children learn. Please try www.parentcentre.gov.uk and www.cleo.ucsm.ac.uk

School Events.

We hold a Book Fair for a week from next Monday – please see the letter from Mrs Varndell. There are a host of school events taking place around the Christmas season. Please make a note in your diary or stick this letter on your fridge!

We start on Monday with M & M Theatre presenting a pantomime version of 'Sleeping Beauty'. (Oh yes we do!)

Mr Shutts will switch the lights on our Christmas Tree on Wednesday 1st December.

On Wednesday 8th December Year 2 sing carols to entertain the Over 60s Club at St Francis Church. They will be accompanied by Mrs Masino.

On Monday 13th December we stage our Infant Christmas Nativity Production at 1.30 in the school hall.

On Tuesday 14th we hold our Infant Christmas party with the Juniors enjoying their party the next day.

On Thursday 16th we have two events. Our Year 6 pupils are off to Brewer's Quay to sing carols to the public. Later that day at 7 p.m. we host a sing-a-long of traditional carols around the Christmas Tree in the school Hall. Everyone, young and old is invited. Please would you help me by letting local people know? The PTFA will provide refreshments.

Finally on Friday 17th the Juniors will hold their annual Christmas service at St Frances Church at 9.30 a.m. Again we warmly welcome all to attend. This is a special event to end our school term on. (Please note change to previously announced date)



Free Fruit for Younger Pupils.



We have registered in a scheme to provide free fruit as a mid-morning snack for our pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This is one of our initiatives in being a 'Healthy School'. From tomorrow pupils will be provided with the free fruit. Thank you to Mrs Holloway for introducing this scheme.

Dates for you diary.

The next PIPs (Parents in Partnership) meeting is on Tuesday 30th November at 3.15 p.m. in the school. All parents are warmly invited to attend this group which discusses a range of school issues. If there is any information about school, about how best to help your child or any issues of concern then feel free to come along. A crèche is provided. Mrs Cobb and Mrs White are arranging this meeting.

Monday 21st February – School Closed for Training Day

Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th February – Parent Consultations

Monday 11th April - School Closed for Training Day

Monday 9th to Friday 13th May – Year 6 SATs – **no leave of absence can be authorised for this period.**

Wednesday 25th to Friday 27th May – Year 4. Carey Camp Residential Visit.

Monday 13th to Friday 17th June – Whole School Theme Week.

Monday 27th June to Friday 1st July – Year 6 week residential trip to Springhead.

Monday 6th and Friday 10th June – Year 5 activity at the Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre.

For parents of children in Years 4, 5 and 6.

In regard to educational visits next summer for Years 4, 5 and 6, it may seem early but I wanted to let you know the likely cost. It may help your child should they plan to use any Christmas money they receive towards the costs. The three day visit to Carey Camp for Year 4 will cost £50, the two days outdoor activity at WOEC for Year 5 will be £35 and the 5 days at Springhead will be £100. These visits are very popular and great fun. I will write early next term with more information. If you wish your child to attend then a 50% deposit will be required in January.

Best wishes

Mr Strong

