

## Events and Christmas Activity

Our annual **Christmas Book Fair** arrives on the 28<sup>th</sup> November. It will be open after school for parents and friends to buy books. On the 6<sup>th</sup> December all infants attend a Christingle Service at St Francis Church at 2.00 pm. Mrs Masino's class is visiting **St. Francis over 60 Club** on the 7<sup>th</sup> December to sing carols, an afternoon that both young and old equally enjoy. The **Infant Christmas Play** is being performed on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> (pm) and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> (am) - more details later. The **Infant Party** is on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> and **Junior Party** on the Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> our Junior children will be celebrating Christmas at the **Junior Carol Concert** at St. Francis Church starting at 9-30 a.m. Everyone is invited to join us at this special time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. On the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> December we will be having our **Singing around the Christmas Tree** in the school hall from 7.00 pm followed by refreshments. So get your singing voices ready and come and join us for what should be a wonderful start to the Christmas festivities.

Our last day of school is Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2005 and pupils return on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2006.



## PTFA Dates for Diaries

A big thank you to everyone who supported our recent Chocoholics coffee morning or have placed an order. We will use the commission to provide small gifts for the children at their Christmas parties.

Last week every child was given a free "nit" comb as part of a nationwide campaign backed by Lloyds Pharmacy to help combat this perennial problem.

**Christmas Fayre** Thursday 8th December from 3.15pm, in the school hall. We have lots of festive stalls and games to get everyone into the Christmas Spirit! Visit Santa in his Grotto and have your photo taken, enjoy a turkey roll or a cup of tea, buy some cakes, peruse the Craft stall, guess the weight of the Christmas cake, crack the safe and win some cash, or decorate a biscuit, plus much more. Of course enter The Grand Draw. The winner could be you!

## Grand Christmas Draw

Please sell your tickets and return the stubs and money to the office before Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December. If you need further tickets please ask Sarah in the office.

## Bincombe Valley Primary School

Newsletter number 36

November 2005



Dear Parents,

### 'Top Notch News'

A principal inspector from Dorset LEA has worked with me to evaluate how well our school is doing. He provided me with the following news: In 2004 we were the top school in the country in regard to the progress pupils made.

The progress of our pupils over the past three years places us in the top 5% nationally.

Aspects of our work such as pupil achievement, teaching, leadership and pastoral care, which I had judged as good, were considered to be **outstanding**.

The standards of attainment of pupils are rising faster than standards nationally.

I am pleased to report this, knowing that it is all down to the commitment of staff, the hard work of children and the support of parents. Well done!

### Staff News

At the end of the term we will be sad to say goodbye to Mrs Murphy who is leaving the area. A fantastic example of her great work and motivation of pupils was seen at Wednesday's 'Victorian' assembly.

The school will shortly be holding interviews for a replacement teacher from January 2006.

### Christmas Pantomime

Our annual panto for pupils takes place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup>, when M & M Productions present 'Beauty & The Beast'. This is a professional production and to help meet the cost we need every child who attends to donate £2. Please send this in with your child on Friday or Monday.

### The Lantern Centre.

We have received a lovely letter of thanks from the Centre following our harvest donation.

### **Life Education Bus**

You may have seen the bus parked in the Infant playground. All pupils have attended sessions linked to the science of the body and aspects such as healthy living and safety. A big thank you to Mrs Holloway for organising this annual event, which this year has been provided free for pupils and funded by the school and the Lion's Club of Weymouth.

### **Class Assemblies**

It has been really nice to see so many parents and friends at the recent class assemblies. I know that everyone has agreed how fantastic they have been. They have been a real celebration of the successful learning that takes place in class. The children have really enjoyed them. A thank you to Mrs Staddon for the Harvest assembly (making us grateful for what we have), Mrs Varndell for her Tudor assembly (beheadings and all), Mrs Hart for her Trafalgar Day assembly (what a wonderful Nelson) and Mrs Murphy for her Victorian Assembly (a great chimney sweep dance!)

### **Celebration Assemblies**

The staff and pupils really enjoy these Friday assemblies led by Mrs Cobb. It is great to see so many parents attending. We have introduced picture postcards to notify parents when a child is to receive a Headteacher's Award. There are 12 different postcard designs but all have the one message of 'Well Done'. It is really important to me that we recognise and celebrate worthy achievements.



### **After School Clubs and Activities**

The football, art and newspaper clubs are all doing well. Mrs Staddon has put up an exhibition of some paintings in the corridor. The newspaper hounds are busy so they meet their deadline for their end of term publication and the football club is attracting over 20 pupils every week.

Mrs Cobb has arranged for parents to enjoy a Christmas Art & Craft activities with their children on a Monday through Weymouth Adult Education. It is proving to be great fun for those involved.

### **Pupil Safety, discipline and bullying.**

It is always a worry for any parent when their child feels upset at school. In a school there will always be times when children fall out and we are always ready to support pupils. We have support staff in our school, we have a pupil school council and also teachers who are available after school to meet parents and talk over issues.

This week at assembly I focused on the theme of bullying and discussed with the pupils what it was and how they could be helped and help themselves. Bullying is a planned verbal, physical or emotional attack aimed at frightening another individual. It is not falling out with friends or the odd incident of name-calling. If children feel they are being bullied then they need to tell one of the adults in the school so that it can be dealt with immediately. All allegations of bullying have to be fairly investigated as there are often two sides to a story and justice would not be served if only one view was accepted. We will always investigate incidents in order to obtain concrete evidence. Those who are found to be bullying are reprimanded in line with the school's pastoral care policy. This means that parents are informed and asked to support the school's actions.

In regard to discipline, the school has a reward and sanctions system, which is well known by the children. No child is ever placed in the Red Box unless it is warranted. I need the support of each and every parent to make sure this scheme is fully effective. The discipline of pupils in this school is very good indeed – pupils are courteous and well motivated. When things do go wrong they are dealt with fairly and firmly. The school aims to support every child and also assist children who find it difficult to behave well. Sometimes pupils are placed on an after school detention. It is important for all parents to support this measure and to know that the school has the right to impose it. In regard to safety parents of Junior aged children will note that entry to the junior block is restricted. If a parent needs to see a teacher they must do so through the school office. Parents must not enter the block and will be asked to leave if they do so. The block is a busy place at the start and end of the day and there are safety issues if the corridors and stairs are crowded. We are also keen to ensure our junior aged pupils develop personal independence and responsibility so please wait for your children to come to you.