

# **Bincombe Valley Primary School/**

Newsletter 42- 22nd September 2006



Dear Parents,

Today the children in the school have been enjoying drum activity and workshops with Magic Drum.

## **Visit to Lorton Meadows.**

Next Wednesday all of the Infants visit Lorton Meadows Nature Reserve as part of their class theme this term. Let us hope for good weather.

## **How well are your children doing?**

I am pleased to report that I have received news from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) that the value added measure in 2006 for pupil progress from Year 2 to Year 6 is again well above average. I have also received information from Dorset Local Authority about progress of pupils in Year 6 for the three years 2002-05. It is *significantly higher* than expected in Science and Maths for each year and in English for two of the years. I have thanked the teaching staff for their commitment and success. Next week the teachers are setting targets for children in reading, writing and mathematics. We also begin our Catch Up programme again for older children needing to improve their reading.

## **Staff Training**

Fifteen of our staff recently undertook Emergency First Aid training from St John's Ambulance. The course was specific to children so that they have the skills and knowledge to help children should the need arise. For some staff this was new training and for others it was a refresher course.

## **P.E Lessons**

Games, gymnastics and sport are part of the statutory curriculum for all children. If any child is not able to take part for medical reasons the class teacher requires a short note. The issue of earrings and jewellery has again been raised so I have looked at our school brochure. This states that if earrings are worn only one pair of stud earrings is allowed. These have to be removed for P.E. lessons though they can be taped over. No other jewellery is permitted. Watches may be worn but removed for P.E. and are the responsibility of the child.

## **Celebration Assembly and behaviour matters**

We hold our celebration assembly on Friday morning at 9.00 a.m. and invite parents to attend. Each week the class teachers recognise the best efforts of the children and reward 'a star of the week'. Other awards are given such as headteacher certificates, reading prizes, sport and attendance certificates.

The school also runs a 'Gold-Box' scheme, which recognises individual achievement throughout the week. Children see me and are praised and rewarded for their efforts, positive attitudes and 'top-notch' behaviour.

In contrast to the reward scheme the school also runs a sanction scheme known as the 'Red Box'. This is used to discipline children showing poor behaviour such as rudeness, not doing as they are asked or hurting other pupils. It is important for all parents to fully support both the reward and sanctions systems. Teachers will only use the red box as a last measure, as all are well experienced in child management. In supporting such sanctions we would ask parents to talk to their child about the offence they have caused – sadly we note that some children will not always own up to their wrong-doing. Teachers will only 'red box' pupils if they or another school-based adult has witnessed an offence or they have gathered evidence from a broad group of pupils. Children showing poor behaviour will always be dealt with and given the opportunity to consider what they have done and how they can move forward.

The vast majority of our pupils are really well behaved all the time and they need to know that their education will not be disrupted by poor behaviour. If you are ever concerned about your child's behaviour either at home or in school please speak to the class teacher first of all and then contact Mrs Guppy if necessary through the school office.

#### **Fair Processing Notice - Information on Pupils.**

I wrote to you last year concerning the information we keep on pupils and again attach information about this, which the school is legally bound to do.

#### **Further Developments**

We have just ordered three more large picnic tables so that all our juniors can lunch outside in good weather. New bicycle stands will be erected shortly as we note that many children like to cycle to school. The playground markings are due to be renewed and added to. The small children's shelter in the infant playground damaged when fire engines had to get to the junior block is shortly being replaced and finally benches are being placed in the junior playground.

The governors and I are also working with the Local Authority and Sure Start in establishing a Children's Centre for Littlemoor on the site and also for the provision of hot school meals. I will keep you posted on progress.

#### **Correction to School term dates**

Summer Half Term 28<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007

Regards  
Les Strong, Head teacher