

Bincombe Valley Primary School

Newsletter Number 61 - January 2008



Dear Parents,

A Happy New Year to all parents for 2008. It is lovely to see the children back, working with purpose and enthusiasm.

Outdoor Activity – Information for pupils in Year 4, 5 and 6.

Year 4 children again have the opportunity for a visit to Carey Camp Centre led by Mr Leadley. The Centre is based near Wareham and run by Dorset County Council. Children spend three days on site engaging in a range of outdoor activities and spend two nights under canvas. The visit is planned for Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th June. The total cost is £70.

Year 5 pupils visit Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre (WOEC) for two full days learning to climb, rock-hop, sail and kayak accompanied by Mr Kay and Mrs Varndell. The visit is planned for Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th June 2008. The total cost is £60

Year 6 pupils are offered a five-day residential visit to Springhead. (Information was sent in December). The visit is planned for Monday 23rd to Friday 27th June 2008. The total cost is £125

The cost of each of these three visits is well subsidised by the school and offer excellent value for money. We would like all children to take part so if you require any financial support then please contact Mr Strong for an application form as soon as possible. In order to spread the cost the school will again this year run a Savings Card Scheme. If you are keen for your child to attend their class trip then please return the slip below with a deposit so I have some idea of initial numbers. The last payment for all trips will be Friday 23rd May 2008 when final numbers are needed.

The School Dress Code

All our pupils need to be dressed correctly for school. This includes a school sweatshirt, school trousers and sensible shoes. For P.E. the kit is plimsolls or trainers, blue or black shorts and a plain white tee shirt. A warm jersey or sweat -top (single colour and preferably blue) and tracksuit bottoms may be worn for outside games.

All clothing must be clearly marked with your child's name.

Due to safety considerations we only allow children, who have pierced ears, to wear one pair of small stud earrings. We do not allow platform footwear or large fashion belts. We also ask for children to keep their hair tidy with long hair tied back.

I am sure most of you will support the school dress code in order to maintain standards.

If you have any problem obtaining uniform please contact the school office for help. I will be speaking to pupils if needs be about their dress at school.

Finally please ensure your child wears a coat to school, as we all know how much it rains!

School Travel Plan.

I am in the process of putting our school plan together and would welcome any suggestions about travel to school, car parking and pedestrian matters. Like all schools we are trying to encourage people to leave their cars behind and to walk or cycle to school (or push-scooter). Our current survey showed that 92% of our pupils do in fact walk or cycle. I understand that some people need to use their cars and for this reason we are trying to reduce parking in Alamanda Way so that cars and taxi's can use this area safely. We have a staff car-park now at last, but we have been restricted to 12 bays.

Thank you to those parents who returned the 'Travel to School' questionnaire. Feedback from these, along with our own review has come up with many useful suggestions. This includes a 'walking-bus' scheme, return of cycle training to the school, bicycle and parent waiting shelters. Two issues I am currently dealing with is widening the pedestrian gate at Culliford Way and putting in a dropped kerb and putting walkways and shelters in areas of the school. The only reminder I need to give to some car users is to respect the zigzag lines outside the school entrances and don't stop or park there.

The Children's Centre.

The centre is now up and running. The Breakfast Club continues to flourish and Sure Start have begun to deliver a programme of activities. The introduction of the hot school meals has been delayed at County level, as contracts with suppliers need to be finalised.

Please remember that this is your Centre, so if you have any suggestions then please speak to Mrs Cobb who is our link teacher.

Reading Update.

The school is presently reviewing it's teaching of reading and putting new plans and resources in place. Many new books have been introduced in Key Stage 1. (Reception, Year 1 and 2). At Key Stage 2 we have increased the numbers of pupils being offered individual reading support through a new scheme introduced into the school last year.

Your support with reading is so important to your child and us. We encourage all pupils to spend 10 minutes a day with their children engaged in reading activity. If you are unsure of what to do or lack confidence and are interested in attending a one-off workshop then please return the form below to Mrs Cobb. We can then organise this event.

Staffing Matters.

Mrs Rankin is now teaching Class 4 due to the continued absence of Mrs White and will remain with the class for the rest of the year. Miss Roper remains on maternity leave. Mrs Guppy will be absent for the next few weeks and is replaced by Mrs Franklin.

Pupil Safety.

Just a few matters that have been raised.

Pupils being dropped off in the morning at Mrs Masino's class and Mrs Rankin's class should not play and run around the area near the fish pond. The area is too congested and there is the potential for an accident. They are able to use the Infant playground before school. Parents of Key Stage 2 parents should not enter the KS2 teaching block unless they have made an appointment with the teacher. Also please note that dogs are not allowed on any school sites.

Parent and teacher meetings.

These take place on Wednesday 13th February from 3.00 to 5.00 p.m. and on Thursday 14th February from 5.00 to 7.00 p.m.

This is an important opportunity for teachers and parents to discuss matters concerning their child's progress at school. Please put the dates in your diary. I am keen for every parent to attend and will send out further details closer to the date.

Football News

Mr Upton continues to run training every Tuesday after school and has now set up a club for pupils in Year 3 and 4 run by two of our teaching assistants/parents. The football team has several fixtures coming up including the Indoor 5-a –side tournament this Friday at Weymouth College.

Twenty Year 6 pupils will accompany me to an England U-21 international fixture at Southampton F.C. on Tuesday 5th February. As a F.A. Charter School we were issued with free tickets to attend.

Best wishes
Les Strong, Headteacher

I would like my child to attend the Outdoor Activity and enclose a £10 deposit.

Carey Camp (Year 4)_____ WOEC(Year5)_____ Springhead (Year 6)_____

I understand that the last payment day is 23rd May 2008._____

Please can I have an application for financial support_____

Child's Name_____

I am interested in attending a school based 'Supporting your child's reading' workshop.

Preferred time: Morning/afternoon/after school/evening?

Your Name_____