

# Bincombe Valley Primary School



Newsletter Number 70

January 2009

Dear Parents,

I wish you all a Happy New Year. It is lovely to see the children back after their Christmas Holidays. Please read below about school events taking place this term, school clubs and other news we would like to share with you.

**The Sunrise Breakfast Club.** We presently have spaces for more children who would benefit from attending the breakfast club. The cost per morning is 40p. As well as enjoying a good breakfast the children can join in a range of play activities. The club runs from 7.45 to 8.45 am every school morning in the Children's Centre and is staffed by Sue, Karen and Janet. If you are interested in a place for your child then either contact one of these ladies or speak to our office staff.

**Hot School Meals.** With the arrival of colder weather we have more children taking a hot school meal at lunch time. The cost of each meal is £2.10 or £10 for a whole week. If you would like your child to have a hot mid-day meal then please contact Cathy in the school office. If your child is entitled to a free school meal they can have a hot mid-day meal every day. Please ask Sarah at the office if you are not sure if your child is entitled to this.

**The Nursery.** If you have a child in the Nursery you may have noticed some recent improvements both inside and out. The inside has been completely redecorated and the grounds have been opened out to make the area safer for outside activity. Mrs George has introduced a lunch club and I am really pleased to see how well it is going. We are actively looking with the Local Authority into extending the times of the sessions and will let you know the results of this shortly. We are also looking to increase the current numbers attending so if you know of any parents looking for a nursery for their child then please point them in the direction of this excellent provision.

**The Children's Centre.** If you have a baby or toddler then please see the Action for Children notices around the school showing the range of activities available for you and your child. Anita the local outreach leader would be pleased to welcome you or offer you any advice. She can be contacted at the Centre or by phoning 01305 834718. This term they are offering activities such as Baby Massage, Stay and Play and Talking Tots

**Outdoor Education for Year 4, 5 and 6.** During this cold spell the idea of camping outside or canoeing at sea must be the last things on our minds, but I am writing now to give early notice of the three visits that take place in the Summer Term 2009.

Year 4 visit Carey Camp from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Initial information for parents of Year 4 pupils is attached. The cost this year has been reduced to £65.

Year 5 visit Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre for two days on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> June and this year we will also include an evening activity. Some information is also attached. The cost this year has been reduced to £55.

Year 6 visit Springhead in North Dorset for a week's stay from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June. Information is attached. This year we have received some additional funding so we have cut the cost from £125 (2008) to £105 this year.

All three visits offer excellent value for money and provide wonderful experiences for the children, both in terms of education and social development. The school will continue to subsidise these visits to help keep down costs.

We run a savings scheme to help manage the costs so that parents can pay a small amount weekly. For all payments received before the end of April we will reduce each visit by £5. The card also encourages children to contribute to the cost of the visits themselves either by using money from Birthdays or by earning a small amount by doing small jobs around the house. This is all part of understanding 'Rights and Responsibilities.' If you would like your child to attend and would like a savings card return the slip below.

This year the Year 3 class teachers will also be organising a 'sleep-over'. Details to follow.

**Rights Respecting Schools.** As a part of our continued activity to develop an understanding of the United Nations 'Rights of the Child' we will be conducting a survey with pupils this week about their life at school and their learning. The School Council supported by Mrs Rankin have developed a questionnaire and they will share the findings with you.

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February the school will join in the UNICEF Day for Change 2009 which is a fund raiser to help UNICEF improve the lives of children in poorer parts of the world. We are trying to raise enough money to pay for a standing water tap in a village. Pupils will be invited to take in a non-uniform day for 50p. Further details will follow in the next newsletter

**School Clubs this term are as follows:**

Years 4, 5 and 6 – Football Club – Tuesday 3.00 to 4.00pm

Years 5 and 6 – Gymnastic Club – Wednesday 3.00 – 4.00 pm

Gardening Club – Wednesday 3.00 – 4.00 pm

**Parking near the school.** A Y5 boy has recently been involved in a car accident whilst leaving the school from the Culliford Way entrance. The boy's mother has pointed out that the accident was caused due to the inconsiderate parking of a parent. For each child's safety please ensure that if using your car you find a clear space to park, not on the yellow hatched lines, the pavement or across our neighbour's drives. If necessary park a little distance away and walk in. I have spoken to the children about leaving the school carefully and also contacted the police to take immediate action against any inconsiderate driver.

**Internet safety.** This item may be of interest to parents of older pupils at this school or at secondary school. Dorset County Council is running a series of Internet Safety Evening for Parents – 'Do you know what your child does online and who they could be talking to?'

The evening will offer advice to parents and takes place at the Wey Valley School on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January from 7pm – 9 pm. The evening is for parents/carers only so children should not be taken along.

**Absence and late arrival at school.** I am really pleased to report that overall pupil attendance has improved over the last couple of months and that fewer children are turning up late. Please continue to support our drive to improve things even further.

**Parent Evenings– dates for your diary.** These take place on the Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 3.15 to 5.15 pm and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 5.00 to 7 pm.

A reminder that like all Chesil Education Partnership Schools, we are closed on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

**Dates for next academic year.** Several parents have made enquires about dates perhaps to ensure family holidays take place out of school terms. The dates are as follows with half terms in brackets:

Autumn Term 2009 - 3<sup>rd</sup> September to 18<sup>th</sup> December (26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October)

Spring Term 2010 – 4<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> April (15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February)

Summer Term 2010 – 19<sup>th</sup> April to 23 July (31<sup>st</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June)

Best Wishes

*Les Strong* Headteacher

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**Outdoor Education for Years 4, 5 and 6**

I am interested in my child attending the planned outdoor education activity.  
Please may I have a savings card.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Year Group \_\_\_\_\_

Please return before **30<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

