

# Bincombe Valley Primary School



Newsletter Number 71

February 2009

Dear Parents,

We welcome all the children back after the half term break with some new pupils who have just joined us. At the end of last term we said goodbye to Andrew and Wendy Darmanin and their children as they moved to Hampshire. Both gave a lot of support to the school and our pupils. Andrew committed time to Art projects here and of course ran the Kids Zone at the Community Centre. Wendy was an invaluable member of the PTFA and served as a school governor. I wish them well in their new home. We do have a vacancy for a parent governor so if you are interested in applying then please contact me directly before Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March

## **Communication Friendly Spaces Challenge**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> January the nursery received a special award from the Dorset Early Years Advisory Team. It was given in recognition of the work they are doing in extending and enriching the communication skills of the Bincombe Valley nursery children. Research has shown that the physical environment effects children's language development. The challenge for the nursery is to create an environment that maximises opportunities for speaking and listening. We are all very pleased with the progress the children are making in this area and are proud of the nursery's achievement.

**Teacher consultation meetings.** It was really good to see such a huge turnout of parents for these meetings. Having spoken to all the teachers I was pleased to hear that they had received such positive feedback from you for the work they carry out with your children. Teaching young children is challenging work, so I want to echo the views of those parents who attended the meetings and thank all the teachers at the school. If you were unable to attend the meeting then please contact the school office to make an appointment to discuss your child's progress.



**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.

**Rights Respecting School.** We recently conducted a **pupil survey** to listen to the views of our children at school and a summary of the results are shown overleaf. A more detailed response is on display in the office entrance.



This Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February we take part in the UNICEF 'Day for Change'. The aim this year is to raise awareness of the rights of children to good health and well being. In particular we are looking at the right to fresh water and any funds we raise will be spent by UNICEF to put a standing water tap in a village community in Papua New Guinea.

We will have a non-uniform day and some children may choose to dress in the colours of the Papua New Guinea flag; black, red, yellow and white. We are asking each child who takes part to donate at least **50p**. If each child gives just 50p we will be able to raise £150.

The children have also been asked to carry out some activity at school with a drop of water (on A4 card) and each drop will be put together on display to make a large pool of water. Through this we hope to raise awareness of the value of water and the responsibility to use it well.



**Outdoor Education for Year 4, 5 and 6.** A reminder of these visits-

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.

If you would like your child to attend and receive a savings card please contact the school office.

**Special Educational Needs.** All pupils who receive additional support for their work in class will have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) written out for them. A copy is being sent to relevant parents on Friday this week. If you do not receive your copy and know your child receives additional support then please contact the school office.

**Parking near the school.** Please consider the safety of children when dropping them off or collecting them from school. I have again had to speak to some parents to deal with inconsiderate parking in the Alamanda Road turning circle.

**Absence from school.** I am pleased to see pupil attendance has improved over the last couple of months. The more regularly a child attends school then the better they will do, not only here but at secondary school and in later life!

**Activemark 2008.** A certificate arrived today from the DCSF and the Minister for Sport! Well done to Mr Upton who has successfully guided the school in gaining the national Activemark award for 'Exceptional delivery within the PE and Sport Strategy.' It reflects the huge commitment he has made to further develop PE and Sport provision within our school for every child.



**Pupil Survey.** The survey questionnaire was drawn up by pupils in the School Council under the direction of Mrs Rankin. The class teachers in the Infants supported their class in responding to the questions. Each pupil in KS2 were provided with a personal questionnaire and given time in class to complete it. All pupil responses were collected and Miss Eccles in the school office detailed responses for each year group. The summary below reflects the overall view of all children in school to each question. We will let you know over the term how we do in dealing with their responses.

*Q1. How do we listen to your views?*

Children said teachers and adults listened well. Children enjoyed having 'chatting chums' and 'talk partners' They gave the view that it was a good idea to put your hand up before you spoke.



*Q2. Are there any things that we could do to improve the way we listen to your views?*

The majority of pupils thought all was good. Junior pupils suggested more time to speak to adults, class 'ideas & issues' box and the School Council to meet with each class after every meeting.

*Q3. What things do you like about our school?*

The children gave a wide variety of answers. At KS1 they enjoyed playing with friends, happy face chart, writing, outdoor play equipment, working on the computer and the Gold Box. Older pupils enjoyed clubs and sport, liked their teachers and seemed to like most subjects.

*Q4. What things don't you like about our school?*

Most pupils agreed they liked their school. Many did not like the Red Box and other children being unkind or being a bully. Some older children felt the school day was too long and work too hard.

*Q5. What things would you like to change about our school?*

There were a lot of interesting and varied answers but a chocolate drinks fountain isn't going to happen! More serious suggestions included a junior outside Play Frame, more Maths, and an increased variety of after school clubs for all age groups. Some children suggested a pupil 'buddy' support club to help children when they argue or fall out.

*Q6. How do you know what you are going to learn in each lesson?*

The majority said either their teacher told them, wrote it on the board or displayed it. Some children answered WILF (What I'm looking for!)

*Q7. How do you know what you have got to do to improve your work?*

The majority said the teacher either told them, or wrote down targets in their books. Some children mentioned parent evenings and school reports helped them know.

*Q8. How do you know how well you're doing at school?*

Most children said their teacher told them or from the marks and merits in their work. Several said going in the Gold Box and getting Headteacher Awards. Parent evenings, school reports and test scores (from older children) also let them know.

*Q9. If you had a problem at school, how was it resolved?*

Nearly all said it was sorted out by talking to an adult in the school.

*Q10. Who helped you?*

Most children said by the teacher or another staff member. Some said by friends. Some children said the Headteacher helps them.

*Q11. What else can we do to help pupils?*

The most popular responses were to have a 'class 'ideas & issues' box or to have a private, quiet place to chat informally to someone.

*Les Strong* Headteacher

