

Bincombe Valley Primary School



Newsletter Number 79

January 2010

Dear Parents,

A Happy New Year to you all and best wishes for 2010.

We welcome Mrs Jo Simpson who has joined us as school administration officer. She will be contacting you next week about the pupil contact records we hold which need to be updated.

OFSTED Action Plan.

Following our successful OFSTED Inspection in November 2009 in which teaching and pupil achievement was judged good and pupil care, guidance and support judged outstanding, I have been working with staff and governors to put together an action plan to address the two key issues highlighted as areas for improvement in the report, namely:

1. Provide a consistently high standard of teaching by:
 - ensuring sufficient challenge is provided for the more-able pupils.
 - developing consistent strategies through which pupils gain an understanding of how well they are doing and how to improve.
 - ensuring boys make progress as strong as that of the girls.
2. Ensure that pupils gain a better understanding of the diversity of cultures in the United Kingdom and a greater understanding of the differences in people's lives in other parts of the world.

Below is a list showing some of the actions we will be taking.

Strengthen the monitoring of teaching and learning processes within the school
Create a register of more-able pupils and provide more challenge in lessons
Ensure all teachers follow marking procedures and all children understand what they need to do next
Clarify the way the school measures pupil progress including class-based targets for pupils
Teachers to provide assessment levels in reading, writing and mathematic each term
Monitor more closely the progress of boys on the Special Needs Register
Review the way the school reports a child's progress to parents, looking to introduce short reports each term

Review the best way for pupils to gain a better understanding of the diversity of cultures in the UK.
Look to arrange more visits to and visitors from different cultures.
Continue the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools work including a Day for Change
Class teachers arrange various activities about a country from a different culture who are taking part in the FIFA World Cup 2010 as part of Theme Week.
Children celebrate the work of Theme Week with both the school and parents at special assemblies.

You can play your part in regard to both areas. In regard to the first, please try to attend all the planned meetings with teachers organised during the school year. That way you will really know how your child is doing and what they need to do next in their learning. Also talk to your child about their learning targets and if they are not clear about these then speak to the class teacher. In regard to the second area you can talk to your children about the mix of people in our country and how this diversity contributes to our society. You can also support them in understanding the UNICEF Charter of Children's Rights (attached) and their responsibility to others. Finally if you have any suggestions or ideas in ways to improve any other aspect of our school then please let me know.

Attendance

It is really pleasing to note that the level of attendance at the school has improved considerably over the last year. We all know how important it is for children to attend school every day if they are to get the best out of their short time at school. My next job is to improve the punctuality of some of our pupils – as lateness is not a good thing. The following rhyme is a useful reminder for some:

*Get out of bed, rise and shine
Bincombe Valley starts at **ten to nine!***

Year 6 Statutory Assessment Tests – notice for parents of Year 6 pupils

The date of the SATs for Year 6 pupils is **Monday 10th to Friday 14th May 2010**.

All pupils must attend school and no leave of absence will be granted.

Year on year standards are rising in our school and we need to continue this so that all 11 year olds on leaving Bincombe are well prepared in reading, writing and mathematics to meet the challenges at secondary school.

This year, Mr Kay will be providing a **10 week** block of additional lessons after school.

These run from Tuesday 23rd February for all year 6 pupils on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3.00 to 4.00 pm and we expect all pupils to attend. The Year 6 pupils will continue, as in previous years, to bring home a school revision pack and the additional lessons are to enable them to carry out this revision with teacher support. This will reduce the pressure on parents at home, though we would still wish you to offer support on the other two evenings. As ever, the extra effort of the pupils will be recognised. They will be given a reward for their effort and success during these additional lessons.

At the start of the lesson children will be provided with a drink and snack.

We hope you will support this revision scheme and note that your child will finish school at 4.00pm on these days.

Notice for parents of pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6.

We are taking names of pupils keen to take part in our residential and outdoor visits to Carey Camp, Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre (WOEC) and Springhead. These visits and activities help to enrich the curriculum for our pupils and develop learning. An information sheet of each visit accompanies this newsletter. As in previous years the visits will be heavily subsidised by the school to minimise costs and a savings card scheme will operate

Year 4 Carey Camp Wednesday 26th May to Friday 28th May 2010 led by Mrs Bell and Mrs Mason. The cost will be £65

Year 5 WOEC Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th May led by Mr Upton and Mr Leadley. The cost will be £55

Year 6 Springhead Monday 21st to Friday 25th June led by Mr Strong and Mr Kay. The cost will be £105

As we need to gauge interest we ask that the slip below is returned to indicate if your child will or will not attend. You can also find out more about the visits on their websites.

www.springheadtrust.co.uk and www.dorsetforyou.com in *Search* enter Carey Camp or WOEC

School Clubs

Mr Upton runs Gymnastics for Years 5 and 6 on Thursday from 3.00 to 4.00 (Year 6 after half term from 4.00 to 5.00). Mrs Mason runs Netball for Years 4, 5 and 6 on Tuesday from 3.00 to 4.00 (Year 6 up to half term). Mrs Masino runs the Gardening Club for Years 3 and 4 from Weds 27 Jan. Mr Upton, Mr & Mrs Matthews and Mr & Mrs Garbutt run the Football Club on Friday after school for children from Years 3 to 6

Mrs Holloway runs a dance club for juniors and Mrs Bell a recorder club for Year 5 during lunchtimes.

Parent/Teacher Consultation Meetings

These take place on Wednesday 10th February from 3.45 to 5.45 pm and on Thursday 11th February from 5.00 to 7.00 pm. Please make a note in your diary. It would be great to see all parents attending these meetings to talk about their child's learning and progress in class and their life at school and home. Further information to follow shortly in a separate letter.

Finally can I remind parents to park with consideration to local residents when dropping off and collecting children at the Culliford Way entrance.

Our Website is www.bincombe.dorset.sch.uk where you will find more information about our school.

Best Wishes, *Les Strong*, Headteacher

Child's name _____ Carey/WOEC/Springhead (tick)

I would like my child to attend _____

I do not wish my child to attend _____

Please return before Friday 22nd January to the School Office