

Bincombe Valley Primary School

Newsletter Number 68

October 2008



Dear Parents,

A big **thank-you** to all parents who assisted with the visit by our nursery and the infant classes to Lorton Meadows last Friday. The trip was blessed with lovely weather and everyone had a great time.

Please excuse any inconvenience caused by the current works to install the canopies and walkways. No doubt it won't rain for a month now!

Parents, Teachers and Friends Association

The PTFA hold their annual general meeting on Friday 3rd October from 3.00 p.m. in the school. All parents are warmly welcomed to attend and to have a say and give support to school events. The PTFA kindly donated £2600 to the school last year, raising funds through events such as bingo evenings, pupil discos, fashion sales and the school fete. Every child in the school benefits from their fund-raising. Last year they provided the Christmas parties, gifts for Year 6 leavers, the new sound systems and P.E. equipment. Please come along to the meeting where you are sure of a warm welcome.

School Football and Netball Clubs.

Both of these clubs are proving very popular and successful. The netball team coached by Mrs Mason have enjoyed training and fixtures at Budmouth School. The football teams coached by Mr Upton and Mrs Matthews have enjoyed a friendly against St Andrews and this Friday welcome Conifers Primary.

School Hot Meals.

We are having a good uptake of hot school meals and are able to take on more pupils. If you are interested then please collect information from the school office. The cost of a meal is £2.10 daily or £10 for a whole week. A reminder that these meals are free to children of parents in receipt of income support so please remember to send in the menu choice each Tuesday prior to the week ahead.

The School 'Sunrise' Breakfast Club

We have some spaces available for pupils. The daily cost is 40p.

The Breakfast Club usually operates from 7.40 to 8.40 p.m. Please let the school know if you would like a place for your child. This does not have to be every day but can be occasional.

Walk to School Fortnight 6th – 17th October 2008

Along with all Dorset schools we are taking part in this walk to school event in order to promote good health and reduce traffic on our roads. If you usually have to drive to school then perhaps park a little way from the school and walk the rest of the journey. If you are close enough then walk in for as many of the 10 days as you can. This year the top class will receive the 'Golden Boot' trophy currently held by Mrs Hart's class from last year.

School Uniform

We seem to have acquired a large number of 'nearly-new' school sweatshirts, trousers and dresses and these are for sale from the school office Tuesday – Thursday for £3.50.

School trips and events

Other class teachers have organised visits for their pupils over the next few weeks.

Pupils in Year 3 classes, Mrs Masino and Mrs Mason visit the Tutankhamen Exhibition in Dorchester on Wednesday morning 15th October as part of their history study on the Ancient Egyptians.

Pupils in Year 4 are visiting the Tudor House and Portland Castle with Mrs Bell as part of their history activity on Tuesday 21st October. Year 5 pupils are to visit Dorchester Museum with Mr Kay on Monday 13th as part of their study on the Victorians.

A group of Year 5 and 6 pupils take part in the Tag Rugby Festival on Wednesday 15th October. We wish Mr Upton and his team every success. We also extend our best wishes to the Year 6 team taking part in the annual primary maths challenge held at Budmouth School this Friday.

Worried about your child at school?

As parents we can all become anxious about our children and times when they may be unhappy at school. They may be unhappy if they fall out with other children or argue with friends, find that they don't fully understand their work or have felt unfairly treated. In all instances, after listening and talking with their child, I would ask parents to discuss such matters with class teachers as soon as possible and not let things build up. The best time to catch a teacher is usually at the end of the school day as mornings can be rather hectic. Sometimes when children fall out with other children there may be two sides to the story so it is important to understand this. At times children may feel vulnerable and be upset by the actions of other pupils. When such incidents are minor it is important to not only support a child but also to encourage them to develop some degree of resilience. Incidents of deliberate and continued bullying are rare at school but when they do occur are taken very seriously and dealt with thoroughly. We will always contact the parent of any pupil who bullies others.

Pupil Attainment Targets

As part of our work to continue to raise standards, teachers set annual targets for pupils in Reading, Writing and Mathematics from Year 1 onwards in each class. It is pleasing to note that most pupils reach these targets. At the end of last year our Year 6 pupils exceeded theirs, achieving the highest set of results the school has reached. Success at school is down to four important factors- good teaching, individual support when needed, commitment from the children and the active encouragement of parents. The staff and I will continue to ensure we deliver well on the first two and strongly encourage the third.

I ask all parents to commit themselves to supporting their children by listening to them read and supporting their homework.

A few dates for your diary.

On Friday 14th November we will stage a 'Pudsey' event for Children in Need. Details to follow.

On the morning of Thursday 27th November we have M&M Productions performing the pantomime 'Robin Hood' (Oh yes they are!). Details to follow.

From Monday 1st December we have a 'Gym Fit' programme running in the school.

The Nursery and Infant Christmas Nativity is performed on the afternoon of Wednesday 10th and the morning of Thursday 11th December.

The Junior Carol Concert is on the morning of Tuesday 16th December at St Francis Church and the community singing of 'Carols around the Christmas Tree' is the same evening in the School Hall.

The Christmas Party for our younger children is on the afternoon of Wednesday 17th and for juniors on Thursday 18th December.

Best Wishes

Les Strong
Headteacher