

# Bincombe Valley Primary School

**Newsletter Number 68**



**November 2008**



Dear Parents,

A big thank-you to you all for supporting our Children in Need 'Abba Day'. The children and staff looked terrific in their costumes and we all enjoyed the day. We are hoping to raise over £250. Special thanks to Mrs Guppy for organising the event.

Also thank you to the PTFA for the 'Film club' event they held last Friday after school, which many children attended and enjoyed



## **School Sport. Mr Upton writes:**

'This has been an exciting term of sport at Bincombe Valley. We now have five clubs running with between 70-90 children attending. These are netball, football (girls and boys), rugby, dance and a new club which runs at Redlands on a Thursday after school. Due to the higher attendance at these clubs we are now starting to see more success in the inter school competitions.

In October we attended the tag-rugby festival where our team performed incredibly, winning four and drawing one match. Then we started our football fixtures where the boys are now through to the semi-finals of the 7 a-side tournament. The girls have also been playing very well this year in friendly matches where they have won 1, drawn 1 and lost 1. There will be more to come from this very strong girl's team I'm sure. In the netball as well we have seen a vast improvement in the performance of our team, with the target of scoring more goals achieved as early as their first game. I'm very proud of the enthusiasm and effort the children put into their sport at Bincombe and I hope to see the success from this in the near future.



## **Book Fair**

The school book fair runs next week from Monday to Thursday in the Music Room from 2.45 to 3.15 p.m. There will be a superb range of books for sale so this is a good opportunity to buy some Christmas 'stocking -fillers'. The school receives free books for our pupils dependent on sales at the book fair so please support this event organised by Mrs Holloway.

## **Pantomime show**

On the morning of Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November we have M&M Productions performing the pantomime 'Robin Hood'. If you would like your child to attend please send in £3 for a ticket to the school office. This will help cover some of the cost to the school.

## **Walk to School 2008**

We were pleased to receive a certificate from the local Sports Partnership for our Year 6 class, who from all the local schools had the highest percentage number of pupils walking to school.

## **Year 4 visit**

A reminder that on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November Year 4 visit the archaeological dig site on the Ridge



## **Attendance. Mr Strong and Mr Wood (Chair of Governors) write:**

'As a school we are concerned about the current levels of absence of some of our children. It is a statutory obligation for children to attend school each day unless they are ill, receiving medical treatment or the absence has been authorised by the Headteacher. Every child has a right to attend school and parents are obliged to ensure this happens. Absence from school seriously disrupts a child's progress. Research show that even if it as little as 10 days in a school year (5% absence) a child's attainment at SATs and later GCSEs is badly affected and in turn their career aspects in early adulthood. Please do think seriously before requesting absence. Children should not be kept away if they are worried by something at school or have fallen out with their peers. It is better for the child to attend school and for any issues to be resolved. We are working with a group of local schools who also share the same concerns as we do and are supported by Dorset County Council and the Government department responsible for education nationally. As part of our work to lower absence rates we already acknowledge with certificates those pupils with good attendance and will always offer family support when needed. We will over the next few weeks be contacting parents where their child's absence rates are above 10%, wishing to discuss the matter with them. Please support our drive to reduce absence rates so that every child is given the chance to have a full education'.

Best Wishes *Les Strong*  
Headteacher

