

# Bincombe Valley Primary School



**Newsletter Number 85**

**October 2010**

**Dear Parents,**

**Thank you** to all the parents who helped on the recent visit by Year R, 1 and 2 to Lorton Meadow nature reserve. The children enjoyed the pond-dipping and walking in Withy Woods at Lorton. The children in these five classes are also enjoying visits to Littlemoor Library. If your child has not yet joined the library then now is a good time to do so. It was also lovely to see our younger children dressing up as Book Characters on World Book Day last Friday,

**Next Wednesday** we welcome teachers from École Élémentaire Jean Moulin, Louviers, France to our school. This is part of a link to our teaching of French at Key stage 2 which gives children more insight into the culture and daily life of French people. Mr Michel Deshayes, the head teacher, will visit the junior classes and with two of his staff carry out an activity with the pupils. Mrs Bell is arranging their visit and there will be more news to follow later in the year.

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**Class trips.** Year 4 visit Athelhampton House, Puddletown next Tuesday as part of their history topic in The Tudors. Year 5 visit Dorchester Museum next Friday as part of their Victorians history topic. Please make sure that any money for these trips is paid by next Monday.

**Harvest Celebration.** Next Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October Class 9 and Mrs Brookes lead our annual Harvest Celebration for Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils which this year takes place at 9.30 a.m. at St Francis Church. Parents are warmly welcomed to join us.

Younger pupils will be reminded of the Harvest at a morning assembly in school.



'We **CAN** help' is the theme of our Harvest and we are inviting all of our children to donate a **CAN** of food produce – baked beans, soups, peas, spaghetti hoops etc. Just as we have done in previous years, the children's donations will be given to the Lantern. This is a Weymouth based Christian charity which supports homeless and needy people in the community. We would ask for **CANS** to be handed in to the school office or to myself next Wednesday so we can display them at the Church.

**Parent Association News.** The PTFA held their AGM last week to organise events for the year ahead. They are keen to welcome new parent members to join. Their first event is a Film Club for Year R-6 pupils on the afternoon of Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

**Reading.** Parents of pupils in Year 2 upwards will have received information giving the reading age of their child. Reading is the main focus of our school development this year and I would ask all parents to support their children and the work of class teachers by listening to their child read on a regular basis. If they are a strong reader then it is good to challenge them by asking them about what they are reading.



From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November we have our Book Fair in the school hall. There are a range of children's books on sale at reasonable prices – some would make nice Birthday or Christmas gifts. Classes in the school receive free books dependent on sales so your support is really welcome.

If there are any parents who would like to volunteer time on a regular basis in the afternoon to listen to children read then please get in touch with me.

**Special Educational Needs.** During their school life some children can encounter difficulties with their work or in accessing the curriculum on offer. When a child is provided with additional support at this time, it is referred to as a special educational need. Class teachers have recently sent out independent learning plans (IEPs) to parents where this is the case. Along with a covering letter there is also a reply form and I would ask all parents to help both the school and their child by responding on the form and sending it back to me at school.

**New Parents.** Is your child due to join school next year from our Nursery or do you know of a friend whose child is due to start school? Do you dislike form filling? On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 9.00 a.m. Mrs Cobb and Mrs Simpson have organised a coffee morning to support and inform parents about joining school.

**Stay Dry.** Mrs White has asked me to point out that in wet weather parents are able to find shelter from the rain outside the back of her class room – both before and after school.

### **School Activity for pupils in Year 4, 5 and 6.**

Below are set out the venues, dates and costs of our school residential and outdoor activity this year – with an accompanying leaflet. We subsidise all these trips to keep costs to a minimum and operate a saving card scheme to help ease the payment. Also if your child is entitled to free school meals or you foster them then Jo Simpson in the office can assist you in applying for a grant through the STEP-Up scheme. Please contact her direct if this is the case.

Year 6 Springhead 5 days residential 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2011 – Cost £110

Year 5 Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> May 2011 – Cost £60

Year 4 Leeson House 3 days residential 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011 – Cost £80



**Bike – It.** I have enrolled our school on this scheme, which encourages the school community to be active and safe cyclist. On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> at our morning assembly Jon Dixon the local Bike It Coordinator will launch the school's participation in the scheme and let children know about a range of activity.

You will hopefully have noticed the four new cycle shelters which have been erected. My application for funding for these through 'Sustrans' was successful, so the school does not bear the cost.

**Mrs Rankin.** At the end of this half-term we say a fond farewell to Mrs Rankin who leaves the school after teaching here for over 15 years. We thank her for her contribution and commitment to the children of Bincombe Valley and give all our best wishes to her for the future. A good deal of her teaching time has been spent with our younger pupils and with pupils who attended our Base unit. Not only has she developed the children as they follow the National Curriculum but she has contributed to the nurturing ethos of this school – where every child matters.

Best wishes

Leslie Strong  
Headteacher