

# Bincombe Valley Primary School



**Newsletter Number 88 (Copy 2)**

**March 2011**

## **Dear Parents,**

It is lovely to see the first rays of Spring sunshine and the lovely daffodils around the school grounds.

## **Parent teacher consultations.**

The meetings with teachers just before the half term break were attended by 86% of parents – a good turnout which shows the commitment of so many parents to their children's education. The chart below indicates attendance in each class.

|          |            |     |           |            |     |
|----------|------------|-----|-----------|------------|-----|
| Class 10 | 24 parents | 86% | Class 4   | 22 parents | 85% |
| Class 9  | 15 parents | 88% | Class 3   | 20 parents | 70% |
| Class 8  | 18 parents | 90% | Class 2   | 13 parents | 87% |
| Class 7  | 25 parents | 93% | Class 1   | 15 parents | 88% |
| Class 6  | 21 parents | 81% | Nursery 1 | 30 parents | 83% |
| Class 5  | 23 parents | 84% | Nursery 2 | 8 parents  | 80% |

## **BikeIt.**

As a member of the BikeIt Scheme the pupils in Year 6 began cycle training this week with Cycloan and this continues to the end of term.

Jon Dixon from BikeIt also held a 'Bike Surgery' for Year 6 to ensure all cycles were safe for use.

He will hold two further 'Bike Surgery' times this term. Next Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> for Class 9 Mr Upton's class and the following Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> for Class 8 Mrs Bell's class. Children should leave cycles in the small Junior playground at the start of the day and collect them when school ends. Jon Dixon will place an inspection sheet on each bike with a discount voucher for a local cycle shop if parts are needed.

## **Comic Relief Red- Nose Day etc.etc.**

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March we will be holding a charity event for Red Nose Day with the money we collect helping our linked school Kiriani Primary School in Kenya to buy reading books. The suggestion from teachers this year is for children to **make** and wear a wild animal hat/head-dress/mask: such as lions, elephants, giraffes and wart-hogs. There will be small prizes for the best in each class. Entry will be £1. Two pupils - Madeline and Eleanor from Y6 will lead a short presentation using Power Point at the Celebration Assembly on that Friday morning and later judge the competition.

## **Reading.**

Thank you for the continued support of your child's reading. We have just completed our annual 'sight' reading tests for pupils in Year 2 to Year 6 and results show that really good progress has been made by all pupils since September. In Years 5 and 6 for instance the vast majority of pupils have reached the top of the test scale. Some children still require support at school through our Catch Up Programme and all children will improve more if they read every day at home.

## **We are a Lead free zone**

A few weeks ago we had the remainder of the lead on our school roof stolen. This was the second incident within the last year and the cost of repair for the damage totals £1300. Money which should have been spent on children! We also had a metal drinking fountain stolen. We have not replaced the lead so now we are a lead free zone. We will of course have to concrete in the school goal post given the rising price of metal if these 'selfish and mindless individuals' (and I say this politely) keep stealing from our school community!

## **Our links with Kenya.**

During the half term break Mrs Mason and Mr Leadley accompanied by other local teachers visited Kenya to teach at a local school. Our link school is Kiriani Primary School in the Chogoria District near Mount Kenya. The teachers have both commented that the experience was both hard-work and brilliant. They were able to note first-hand the difficulties faced by some children to get to school, how highly valued education is, the high aspirations of the community and how happy the children were (yet they had so little in material terms). After their local language the children are also taught Swahili and English at school.

Their Headteacher, Mrs Catherine Kithuchi wrote to me and an extract appears below:

*'Dear Mr Les,*

*Kindly receive much warm greetings from myself and the whole Kiriani fraternity. I wish to inform you that Ivan and Karen have been very good teachers of our children. They are hardworking, kind, humble, respectful and the list is long. We love them so much and would have them stay longer. Their stay here has had an impact. Firstly most pupils practiced English speaking. Now people have known where Weymouth is on the world map'*

*I wish you and everybody at Bincombe, good times, good health and strength to continue working. May the Almighty Lord bless you. Thank you.'*

Mrs Mason's class will be presenting a Kenyan assembly on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March in the school Hall at 9 o'clock and you are invited to attend to find out more about our link school.

### **Well Being and Mental Health Support in Schools**

Our school has just completed participation in a national two year project to look at the mental health of children in a large sample of England's schools. The pupils taking part were the current Year 5. We have received back very positive data, linked to three key areas comparing our school to the National picture. The data shows that the Emotional Difficulties of our pupils are broadly comparable with pupils nationally, Behavioural Difficulties of anger and aggression are lower than pupils nationally and the School Climate and how pupils feel at school here is much higher than pupils nationally. This data appears to confirm our view that our pupils are happy at school, feel secure and behave positively. Well done!

### **School Events this half term**

This week a group of Year 4 and 5 pupils have enjoyed team building and puzzle challenges at Weymouth Outdoor Centre. A group of pupils continue to enjoy swimming after school on Friday. My thanks to Di Webster.

On Tuesday afternoon 22<sup>nd</sup> March, pupils in Years 4 and 5 attend a production of 'Astra – The Waste Monster.'

Our school football team took part in the Nash Cup and play Holy Trinity School in a cup game this week.

Our netball team takes part in the District rally at Budmouth on the afternoon of Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

Weymouth Churches will visit KS2 pupils on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> to present the 'Spring into Life' Easter activity which feature a play, an assembly and class visits.

The PTFA will run another Film Club after school on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Further details to follow.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> April the Year 4 pupils attend a three day residential visit to Leeson House near Swanage.

### **Staff News**

We are pleased to welcome back Mrs Masino after her long absence and delighted to hear news that Mrs Guppy has been promoted to the headship of St. Catherine's School in Bridport.

### **STEP Up Funding**

I have written in the past to parents about this pot of funding, held outside the school, for pupils eligible for free school meals. I know that take up has been sketchy. The danger is that any unspent funds provided to Dorset will be taken back by central government, so I am keen to keep the amount returned as little as possible. With this in mind I have considered a range of other extended school activities that I may be able to access for the benefit of the children on your behalf. To do so I need your consent and would ask that if you are able to give this then you send the attached slip back to me by return.

Best wishes

Leslie Strong, Headteacher.

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### **STEP Up Funding**

Further plans for the use of StepUp funds for extended activity:

1. Key Stage 1 trips
2. Y5 Cycle Training
3. Gymnastics Club
4. After School Well Being Clubs
5. Extend before School Breakfast Club
6. Walking Bus – to collect pupils for school
7. Creative Arts Club.

Please sign below giving consent for Mr Strong to seek funding on your child's behalf for use to establish extended school activity.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Of \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this slip back to the School Office. Thank-you