

## **Werrington Primary School Newsletter** **November 2008**

Dear Parents,

It has been good to see the children return from half term holidays looking refreshed and raring to go. I have enjoyed hearing the many stories of day trips and other such activities.

You will have noticed by now that the front entrance and building works have now been completed and the Key Stage 1 playground is returning to normal. Please do note the following:

- Access and egress for KS1 will be via the playground doors (at the beginning and end of each day).
- The pedestrian gates onto Amberley Slope will be locked just after 9.10am to enable cycles to leave the premises safely.
- Any one arriving after 9.00am pupil/parent should ideally use the New Front Entrance via the car park.
- Parents leaving school after 9.00am are requested to leave via the new front entrance and canopy as the gate will be locked very soon after this time.
- The pedestrian gate onto Amberley Slope will re-open just before the end of the school day allowing access from 2.45pm.

I hope that the above is clear but please do ask if you are at all unsure.

### **Homework**

The Staff and Governor's Curriculum committee will be reviewing homework arrangements in school. If you would like to be involved in a working group please indicate via email or letter. The working group will be meeting over the Autumn and Spring term to establish a whole school approach and policy for homework. Part of this exercise will be to consider the amount and frequency of homework and establish a school timetable. We shall also be investigating how our school website can assist with homework activities.

### **Pupil illness**

We have unfortunately had a number of children with a sickness bug recently. It is very important that pupil's who have been sick must remain off school for 48hours clear of the last episode of illness. Some members of staff have been affected too given the contact with sick children. Effective hygiene/washing hands etc combined with robust isolation will help us ensure further outbreaks do not take hold.

### **Car Parking**

It has become evident that the school car parks are being used by some parents for picking up and dropping pupils off. In the interests of staff and pupil safety please do not use the car parks. A Disabled parking bay will be marked in the front car park for authorised parking.

Sadly on this note I must refer to yet another incident where a car mounted the pavement narrowly missing a child. This incident along with others have been reported to the Police who are taking such reports very seriously.

### **Have tea with the SLT**

We shall be continuing with our initiative have Tea with the SLT on a termly basis. For those new to school, this was established last year providing time for parents to come in to school, meet with other parents and share thoughts without a formal agenda whilst enjoying a cup of tea/coffee and a cake. We hope you can join us on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2.30pm.

### **School League Tables**

It is unfortunate that the Times Parent Power has decided to proceed with publishing their School League information given the situation schools have faced regarding missing and inaccurate data. As you know many schools like us have suffered in this years SAT's marking and reporting farce with pupil data missing and scripts being sent back for remarking. The simple fact is that any league table published at this time will be in-accurate. I have now had confirmation that some of our missing data has been permanently lost by the SAT's handling company, thousands of scripts across the country have been returned for marking which will take months to clear. Any reporting on this subject will be based

on inaccurate data and it may be that we are subject to this type of commentary in the local press given the less than positive effect this could have on us. Peterborough Local Authority will be representing such views on behalf of schools locally.

### **Key Stage 2 Christmas Performance**

Following a review in Key Stage 2, Year 4 will be hosting the Christmas Performance this year. This has been a Year 6 event in the past however, given the Autumn/Christmas Fair preparation and hosting, a Summer production as well as leaver's assemblies to consider they have a lot on their plate. It is wonderful to allow another year group this opportunity to take the stage and work together as a team as they prepare for curtains up.

### **Peter Pan**

I think you will all agree that live theatre performance and particularly at this time of year a Pantomime is a fantastic experience for anyone to enjoy. The costs involved with transport let alone theatre admission would make this impossible to achieve for the whole school. However, if we cannot take the school to the theatre, we'll bring the theatre to the school! We are very excited to have secured a return visit from MandM Productions this year for their version of Peter Pan. A voluntary contribution of £1 per child is requested to help cover the costs of hosting the performance.

### **Modern Foreign Languages**

By 2010 primary schools should be delivering a modern foreign language (a DCFS target). We have chosen French for a pilot year and the staff are currently engaged in twilight professional development in preparation for launching in the Spring term. If you have any expertise in this area and able to support school please do make contact with Mrs Standen (MFL Leader).

### **School Improvement Plan – key focus**

The school is working hard to target Writing across all year groups and have launched two major initiatives this term supported by the Local Authority consultants. We are also focussing on other ways to celebrate great writing in school. In addition to this we hope to be able to offer a parent course entitled – Keeping up with your child in literacy. If you would be interested in taking part in this 6 week (12 hour) programme please complete the slip below (to register your interest). The course is likely to start in January and can lead to a recognised qualification/certificate.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Wilding  
Headteacher

### **School Dinners**

I would like to gauge how satisfied parents/pupils are with school dinners. I kindly request that you complete the form below if you have any feedback from this term's service. Please answer the following questions based on what you know directly or from what your child has said about school lunches: (Please circle or underline your choice)

1. I am happy / unhappy with the quality of lunch provided for my child.
2. I am happy / unhappy with the lunch choice available for my child.
3. I feel that a school lunch represents good / does not represent good value for money.
4. I would like to make the following comment:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent) Return to the school office by 28-11-08.

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### **Keeping up with your child in literacy.**

I would like to register my interest in the course and would prefer Mon/Tues/Weds/Thurs/Fri Morning.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_