



## Weekly Newsletter

4 September, 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year and an equally warm welcome to all our new parents. I trust your association with our school will be both rewarding and enjoyable. Please don't hesitate to ask any member of staff or existing parents for help regarding any queries you may have. We are all here to help and support you.

Attached to this letter is the diary for this term. There will be other dates to add over the next few weeks but hopefully the information contained, so far, will help you begin to plan the term for your families. I will send out information regarding clubs for the term next Friday and these will start the following week. Also next week, Mrs Harding will be sending out the annual permission slips and also asking you to check and update the data we hold about you, such as emergency telephone numbers, contact details etc. Class information leaflets will also be coming out over the next two weeks.

As you will probably all have seen work has commenced on our neighbouring property. We have stressed to the children how important it now is to be very careful when crossing the lane between the playground and the main school building. We will continue to stress the importance of vehicle awareness and road safety at every opportunity over the coming term. We have made certain changes to our procedures and tightened up our supervision of the children during periods of movement over the lane such as at lunch times and playtimes. We have put up posters to remind children to be careful when crossing the lane at exit points from the main building and now will only send children in pairs to cross the road during lesson times and only if absolutely necessary. Please can we ask you to help us to reinforce this message and **do one practical thing to help** and that is if your child is in Coly or Yarty Class and they need to change their reading book get them to do it as soon as they come to school before 9am. This will greatly reduce the need for children to be crossing the lane. It is simple **but** effective in helping us to keep your children safe.

Also attached to this letter is our Healthy School Packed Lunch Policy and Guidelines as agreed last term. We hope everyone will get on board with this and help our school and our children keep healthy and fit by having a balanced nutritional meal at Midday. The benefits for the children are well known and documented and will have a long lasting effect on their health as they grow. As part of this policy, we are therefore no longer going to allow children to bring in sweets when it is their birthdays to share with other children. It seems a good time to start this at the beginning of the year being fair for everyone before the first birthdays start this month. If children want to bring in fruit, raisins or other healthy snacks to share that is fine but we will not allow sweets to be given out.

Please note Coly Class will be going swimming this half term on a Wednesday, starting next week. A letter is attached with further information.

Also with this letter is the menu for this term and could I remind you that the cost remains at £1.95 per day.

I want to flag up a couple of PTFA Events coming up in the next couple of weeks. The first one is next Tuesday, 8 September which is a welcome back Coffee Morning in the ICT Suite. To make it

easier for you it will be between 9 and 10am so as soon as you have dropped off your children either at school or playgroup then why not come along and take the opportunity to catch up with fellow parents/friends etc. The PTFA AGM is on Monday, 14 September at 7.30pm. This organisation is for you all and is very much a vital part of school life so please come along and support it. The postponed Rounders match and Barbeque is scheduled for Friday, 18 September. As the nights are now pulling in the plan is for it to start immediately after school at around 4pm with food being served at around 5:30pm. Please put this in your diary and more details will follow at the beginning of next week. Instead of an end of year event let's turn it into a social event to start a new school year.

Finally, the school has been notified that the Next Steps Booklets are being sent out to **Year 6 parents** direct from the Local Authority. Contained in these is the important information about applying for Secondary School Places for September 2010. Online application facilities are now open until 16 October, 2009. It is extremely vital if you don't receive a booklet within the next few days to let us know so we can chase up the Local Authority to send one out.

*Malcolm Bettison*

Message from the Churches:

Messy Church is back on Wednesday, 9 September 4pm-6pm. Come along and join in the fun in the village hall. There will be plenty of crafts to do, a chance to find out a bit about Joshua and a meal to finish. We had 119 people to the last one so it would be good if you could let Lucy Holmes or Jo McCollum know if you will be coming (and if you have any allergies) so we can make sure we have enough to go round!