

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Abbey Park First
& Nursery
School.
December 2010



**WORKING TOGETHER
LEARNING FOR LIFE.**

As we draw to the end of the Autumn Term the school once again is full of excitement, both the children and staff are looking forward to the Christmas holiday. The term has been a very busy one with lots of fun activities going on and as always the children have been motivated and a pleasure to teach.

APPLICATIONS FOR RECEPTION PLACES

Applications for places in Reception are due in by the 15th January. We urge you to get all applications in to school by this date to increase your chances of being allocated your first preference. If you have misplaced your application form, further copies are available from the office or apply online at www.worcestershire.gov.uk.

Those parents who have applied for Reception or Middle School places this year are requested by county to complete a short questionnaire to assist them in improving the process in the future. To complete the questionnaire visit: worcestershire.gov.uk/researchweb/school/admissions.html

CHILDREN IN NEED

Many thanks to all the children, parents and staff who helped with the fundraiser in November. The children made and sold an assortment of homemade gifts and edible goodies and managed to raise a total of £148 – well done everyone.

LUNCH TIME DRINKS

We provide fresh water to all children at lunchtime, but a number of children are not taking up the offer. We therefore ask that all pupils who bring sandwiches also bring along a bottle of water or juice to drink with their lunch. Keeping hydrated throughout the day is essential for learning.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

As you are aware attendance was the only area during our last inspection not to receive a good or excellent grading, therefore we are working hard to improve attendance. One way of achieving this is by keeping our pupils and parents informed of attendance figures on a regular basis; in the hope that we can all take a shared responsibility for reaching our target of 95% or above.

Attendance figures for the Autumn Term:

Reception = 95.3%

Year 1 = 95.8%

Year 2 = 94.4%

Year 3 = 94.7%

Year 4 = 93.0%

FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY

Due to new Government funding criteria the school will receive extra funding from January for any pupil receiving free school meals, it is therefore very important that all parents who meet the criteria and are eligible for free school meals inform the school. If you believe you may be eligible and have not registered; please contact the school office and they will be able to guide you through the process.

SCHOOL NURSE PARENT DROP-IN SESSIONS

Our school nurse Pat Day has been running parent drop-in sessions for the past year and parents have given very positive feed-back regarding the range of support with health and well-being she has provided. Drop-in sessions for the new year will now be fortnightly on Thursdays, no booking is required; simply drop in to the Snug between 8.45 and 9.15am.

Spring Term dates:

13th Jan/27th Jan/10th Feb/3rd Mar/17th Mar/31st Mar.

CHRISTINGLE & TILLY & TOBY'S DRUM

Our two Christmas performances this December did not disappoint, Christingle and The Reception play were both very entertaining. Many thanks to all our parents and relatives for their support, to the staff who worked extremely hard to make them happen and of course to our ever talented pupils.

WHY LET DRINK DECIDE?

The Department for Education has made available new online resources to help parents support their children with the topical issue of teenage drinking. The website provides guidance on how to educate your child on the dangers of underage drinking and has some useful resources for Key Stage 2 pupils and their parents.

If you would like to find out more visit: whyletdrinkdecide.direct.gov.uk

FLUTE LESSONS

We are offering pupils in years 2, 3 and 4 the opportunity to start flute lessons during the school day. Lessons will be led by a local peripatetic teacher and are reasonably priced. Please contact Mr Johnson if you would like further information.

LIBRARIES & LEARNING - ADULT COURSES

A new range of courses will be on offer to all parents in the Spring Term. Courses will be led by the local library and range from ICT to the Arts. For further information about the courses and dates please see Mr Johnson for a brochure or call: 01905 766264.

FUN WITH LANGUAGE – FREE PARENT LEARNING COURSE

Following our EYFS family learning taster session in November we are excited to be running a 5 week adult learning course 'Fun with Language' starting in January. The course is absolutely free to parents with children in Nursery and Reception and will take place each Friday morning between 10am and 12pm. The course will enable parents to support their child's language development at home and will also give them an opportunity to work with their child in the classroom. Places are limited so book with the office as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

Children learn a great deal about writing from reading stories, one way to get your child confident in using rich language is to get them to retell or re-enact stories they have read. For example; get them to perform a puppet show using their favourite stories, alternatively get them to dress up and play the characters themselves.

From all the staff and children at Abbey Park First & Nursery School, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Friday 17 th Dec.	Break up for Christmas
Tuesday 4 th Jan.	Teachers' Training Day (school closed to pupils)
Wednesday 5 th Jan.	Spring term begins
Monday 21 st Feb.	February half term break.