

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Abbey Park
First & Nursery
School.
FEB 2010



**WORKING TOGETHER
LEARNING FOR LIFE.**

This half term has just flown by and has been somewhat dominated by the unpredictable weather. We are all looking forward to the arrival of spring and the thought of getting outside to get some fresh air.

CIRCUS SKILLS WEEKEND

Due to a grant from Worcestershire's Extended Services we are pleased to invite parents and pupils to attend a free day of circus skills workshops on Saturday or Sunday 13th/14th March. The workshops will be led by Steve Grainger from Shooting Stars Circus Skills and promises to be fantastic fun for all the family. Places are limited, so we urge you to book early. Extra forms are available from the main office.

THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS

The Friends have been very busy over the past week helping to improve areas of the school grounds. They have worked wonders on the court-yard and have erected a lovely fence around the front garden to the school. Furthermore they have plans to install a new bike rack and outdoor writing wall in the near future. Many thanks for the hard work of our dedicated members and also to all parents who have raised money by supporting Friend's events.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Many thanks to all the staff who prepared presentations and hand-outs for the information evening last Monday. The evening was highly successful and we have received very positive feed-back from the parents who attended. Unfortunately we were disappointed with the turn out and hope to offer several after school sessions for those parents who were unable to attend.

SCHOOL SECURITY

We prioritise the safety of our pupils and therefore have tightened up on the timings by which the school gates are opened and closed. We urge all parents to drop off and collect children on time so that we can secure the site. Please report to the main office if you arrive late, so that your child can be signed in to the register.

SNOWMAGEDUM!

No one could have predicted the snow that we encountered at the start of term and we had no choice but to close the school. Whilst many of the pupils may have been able to get to school on foot, the majority of our staff were unable to get safely to school by car from further afield.

The decision to close the school is made by Mr. Johnson in conjunction with all the local head teachers and the decision is made purely in relation to health and safety.

We have since purchased a texting service; which will enable us to inform parents immediately of closures and cancellations, details of this system will follow shortly.

Obviously in deep snow the school grounds become treacherous and we will always make an effort to clear paths and drives as promptly as possible. Please understand this is not always possible with only one shared site caretaker.

INDIVIDUAL PUPIL PHOTOS

The photographer will be in school on Thursday 11th March. Pupils will need to wear full school uniform (apart from Nursery).

HAITI FUNDRAISER

Our pupils are very keen to raise money to help the victims of the Haiti earthquake and have decided on the idea of a bring and buy sale. This will take place on Friday 5th March and coincides beautifully with our Maths Week.

Full details of how you can help and of the other exciting events taking place during the week will follow shortly in a letter.

DIVERSITY WEEK

No doubt your child will have told you all about the exciting events that took place during our Diversity Week recently. The children spent the week learning about the different cultures, faiths and traditions of children locally, nationally and internationally. We were also very pleased to welcome a range of visitors who led assemblies. These included a group of Pershore High School 6th formers, who are involved in an exchange to Zambia. Some of our pupils were lucky enough to make a short film which will be shown in a Zambian school. We also had visits from local residents who captivated pupils with tales of Pershore past.

PHOTOGRAPHING & VIDEOING DURING PERFORMANCES

A number of parents have requested clarification regarding the photographing and videoing of pupils during performances and assemblies. We are encouraging parents not to do so, purely for reasons of safeguarding and not to enable greater sales of Friend's recordings. We will however need any parent wishing to film or photograph performances to sign a book, to ensure that footage is not published or posted on the internet.

The Friends have kindly agreed to reduce the price of their pre-recorded disks from £5 to £4.

REQUESTS FOR NURSERY PLACES – SEPTEMBER 2010

If you have a child due to start Nursery in September please make sure that you have given your full details to the office so that they can be placed on the waiting list. Places will be allocated after half term and parents will be notified from 8th March.

Any parent wishing to see the schools admission policy with selection criteria can request a copy from the main office.

PARENT TIPS TO HELP AT HOME

Visit a brilliant spelling website: Spell City at www.spellingcity.com

We guarantee this will get your kids excited about learning their spelling with some fun games.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon. 1st March.	Maths Week and bring & buy sale on Friday 5th March.
Friday 26th March.	Life Education Van (Science workshops for years R-4).
	Non-uniform day & Easter Disco
Thursday 1st April.	Break up for Easter.
Monday 19th April.	Teachers' Training Day (school closed to pupils).
Tuesday 20th April.	Summer term starts.