

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Abbey Park
First & Nursery
School.
JAN 2009



**WORKING TOGETHER
LEARNING FOR LIFE.**

I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and wish you all the very best for the New Year. The spring term is not living up to it's name so far, with the terrible weather, we hope that things will improve over the coming weeks. Fortunately we have got lots to look forward to this term, the spring weather being one of them for certain!

FREE SCHOOL MEALS ENTITLEMENT

I have recently received a letter from the Local Authority outlining some changes to the criteria for being able to claim free school meals for your children. As from January, families claiming the following support are entitled to claim:

- Income Support
- Job Seekers Allowance
- Employment & Support Allowance
- Immigration & Asylum Support
- Child Tax Credit (under £15,575 income)
- State Pension Credit

Please contact the school office or Worcester County Council if you have any questions regarding eligibility or how to apply.

EMERGENCY PICK UP OF CHILDREN

Hopefully the school will experience no further closure due to bad weather. We do however ask that you keep us informed of any changes in contacts. To ensure the safety of all pupils the school will be unable to release pupils to people who are not recorded on the system as named pick ups. Please notify the office of any additional names of friends or family, who you wish to pick up your child either at the end of the day or in an emergency closures situation.

SWINE FLU AND NORO VIRUS

A number of families were affected by the bugs going around at the end of last term and, just like my children, I'm sure many of yours suffered over the Christmas holiday. Unfortunately the bugs are still around and the County Council are anticipating similar problems during the Spring term.

The advice is to keep your child off school for 24 hours after the symptoms have passed. Please let the office know on the first day of your child's absence and obviously consult a doctor if the symptoms continue for more than a couple of days.

PHOTOGRAPHING PERFORMANCES & ASSEMBLIES

We are quite happy for parents to take photographs during presentations, but stress that photos must not be published on the internet, on sites such as Facebook or My Space. We also request that parents avoid using video cameras during performances and remind you that the Friends film all productions and sell copies at a very reasonable price. We thank you for your understanding on this matter.

KEY STAGE TOPIC ASSEMBLIES

The key stage 2 Roman assembly was the first of our new topic assemblies, which took place at the end of the autumn term. We will now be holding a similar assembly each term and parents and family will be invited to attend. These assemblies give an opportunity for our classes to share the wonderful work they have completed over the term. Our KS1 topic assembly will take place on Thursday 26th March at 9am.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Thanks to our staff, pupils and parents the school managed to raise £140 for Children in Need this year. The children had a laugh with their horrid hair, they were particularly impressed with some of the staffs' new styles! The pupils were moved when they watched a series of short films which introduced them to the many good uses the money is put towards, such as children suffering from illness and poverty in Britain.

PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

Our spring term parent consultations will take place in the week commencing 22nd March and the late night consultations will take place on the Thursday evening (25th March). Please make every effort possible to book an appointment to meet your child's teacher. Forms will be distributed nearer the time.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR RECEPTION PLACES 2010.

Applications for places in Reception are due in by the 22nd 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.

TRAVEL PLAN TARGETS

Each year the school produces a Travel Plan which aims to increase the number of pupils travelling to and from school on foot or bicycle, thus leading to pupils living more active lifestyles. Over the past 5 years the school has reduced the number of pupils travelling to school by 10% which is amazing, thanks to the efforts of all our parents. We have set a target to reduce this by a further 2% this year, so get out those walking boots and thermals!

DIVERSITY WEEK

Based on the success of our Modern Foreign Languages Week last February, we will be holding a similar event this year: Diversity Week. The week starting Monday 1st February, will involve all pupils in a wide range of fun activities that explore the diversity of culture and faith in schools locally, nationally and internationally. All schools in the Pershore area will be holding a similar event that week and there are plans for pupils across the schools to engage in shared work. Further details of the event will be shared with parents nearer the time.

PEDESTRIAN TRAINING

Pupils from Reception to year 4 will under-go pedestrian training with the local patrol crossing team on 11th February. The workshops will take place in school during the day and aim to make our children more aware of the dangers on the roads. Any parent interested in becoming our regular, paid crossing patrol officer at the start and end of the school day, please contact Mr Johnson for details.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Fri. 12th Feb.	Children break up for half term.
Mon. 22nd Feb.	School re-opens.
Fri. 12th Mar.	Mothers' Day Assembly for parents (9am).
Thurs. 25th Mar.	KS1 Topic Assembly for parents & Parent/Teacher Consultation.
Wed. 31st Mar.	Welcome Assembly for parents (9am).
Thur. 1st April	Children break up for Easter.
Mon. 19th April	Summer term begins.