

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Abbey Park
First & Nursery
School.
MARCH 2010



**WORKING TOGETHER
LEARNING FOR LIFE.**

It finally feels like spring is in the air and it is so nice to get the kids outside in the fresh air. Hopefully we have seen the last of the cold weather. It has been lovely to see the children playing in the sun, they even managed to get on the field this week. Hopefully the good weather will continue over the Easter break.

OFSTED - A BIG PAT ON THE BACK

Hopefully you have all had a chance to read the full report from Ofsted, which was sent home last week. We are all over the moon at receiving an overall 'good', with a number of 'outstandings'. The number of schools now being classified as good has significantly reduced since the new Ofsted framework was introduced in September, so this really is a great achievement. Obviously the outcome is as a result of the dedication and hard work of all the staff, the excellent behaviour and attitudes of the pupils and the support from our parents. Well done everybody!

Whilst we are on the subject, a great big well done goes out to the staff at Abbey Road Playgroup who also received a 'good' with areas 'outstanding' in their recent inspection.

HOLIDAY LEAVE IN TERM TIME

The only area of our Ofsted report that did not receive a good or outstanding grade was the attendance of pupils. As a result we are asking parents to fully support our efforts as a school to reduce absences. Absences can be significantly reduced by cutting down on term time holidays. As you know the school will now only authorise holiday leave in exceptional circumstances, full details of these can be found in the Attendance Policy; a copy is available to all parents from the office. We hope we can all work together to improve our attendance figures in the near future.

HOME ACCESS – FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES WITH ICT

A Government scheme called Home Access has been recently introduced which provides significant financial support for low income families looking to purchase home computers, lap-tops or broad-band. For further details visit the website: www.homeaccess.org.uk or telephone 0337 200 1004.

FRIENDS IMPROVE OUR GROUNDS

Many thanks to the Friends of Abbey Park for their many efforts to improve our school grounds and environment. Recently the Friends have funded projects such as the front picket fencing, gardening, outdoor writing board and cycle shelter. All of their hard work is really making a difference to the outdoor areas. Particular thanks go to Dave and Danielle Fryer, Hayley Tomkins and Martin Hiden. The Friends have raised £355 already this year from DVD sales, cake sales and non-uniform days.

PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

We will be holding our Spring Term consultations at school during the week commencing **Monday 22nd March**. Appointments will be made available most evenings immediately after school, but the late evening will take place on **Thursday 25th, between 3.30 and 6.30pm**. A letter outlining the arrangements in greater detail was sent home earlier this week, please read and return the reply slip by Thursday. Turn out at Abbey Park First is always pleasing and I stress how important it is for us to meet, in order to discuss the progress your child is making.

THANKS FOR KIND DONATIONS FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES

Thank you AB Books in Pershore for their kind donation of children's books and also to Tomkins Plumbing and Heating who donated materials for the new outdoor writing board.

EARLY MORNING CONGESTION

Due to the layout of our playground congestion is unavoidable. We do however request that parents, particularly of KS2 children, whenever possible leave their children on the playground from 8.40am with the teacher on duty. We hope that this will clear a pathway to the classroom doors for the teachers when they collect their class. In addition we remind all parents not to drive up the school driveway when picking up or dropping off children.

Please also be aware that the main school doors will be locked from 8.45am, any pupil arriving after this time will need to report to the main reception.

We trust that all these systems will ensure the safety of all our children and thank you for your co-operation.

FRIEND'S EASTER DISCO (Reception – year 4)

Due to the success of the Christmas Disco the Friends are having an Easter disco on Friday 26th March. The disco will follow the same format as the last one; starting at 3.30 and finishing at 5pm. The day is also a free, non-uniform day. A letter giving more details of the event and how to buy tickets will be sent out by the Friends soon.

PERSHORE AREA MUSIC CENTRE CHOIR (7-12 year olds).

The youth choir operates every Monday evening from 6-7pm at Pershore High School. If you are interested in your child attending please contact Ruth Bennett, Worcester Youth Music on: 01905 333344.

DECORATE AN EGG COMPETITION (all years)

Based on the enormous success of last years egg competition we are repeating it this year. Pupils are invited to decorate a hard-boiled egg in any way they wish. Entries must be brought into school on Monday 29th March and the winner from each year group will be announced in the parents Welcome Assembly on Wednesday 31st March at 9.00am.

A flyer with all the details will be handed out to the children next week.

ST RICHARD'S HOSPICE FAMILY FUN RUN

St. Richard's Hospice are holding a family fun run to raise money for their charity on Sunday 21st March at 11am in Peopleton. To get involved please phone: 01905 763963.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Wed. 31st Mar.

Welcome Assembly for parents at 9am.

Thurs. 1st Apr.

Key Stage (yrs 1 & 2) Topic assembly for parents at 9am.

Thurs. 1st Apr.

Pupils break up for Easter.

Mon. 19th Apr.

Teachers Training Day – school closed to pupils.

Tues. 20th Apr.

School re-opens for the summer term.

HOLIDAY CLUB – QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARENTS

Please return this slip to school if you are interested in paying for your child to attend a summer school during the summer holidays 2010.

Pupils name(s): Year group:

I would be interested in my child attending a summer holiday club this year

Please tick

Up to 3 days.....

One week

Two weeks

Three weeks +

Parents signature

please return to school by Monday 22nd March.