

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Abbey Park First
& Nursery
School.
December 2011



**WORKING TOGETHER
LEARNING FOR LIFE.**

Christmas is quickly approaching, we are all looking forward to the many wonderful events due to happen before we break up and we are excited about sharing many of them with you.

APPLICATIONS FOR RECEPTION/NURSERY 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.

Although there is no formal closing date for application for places in the Nursery from September, we also urge all parents to ensure that they have registered their child's details with the office before the end of January.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

Our new after school and lunch time clubs are proving a real success with the children and we are pleased to welcome Sports Xtra and Number 8 into school to run many of them. Thanks to our Lottery Grant this is all possible at no cost to parents and will continue for at least another year.

We do ask in return that parents ensure their child attends the club each week once they are committed, as places are limited. If for some reason your child is unable to attend a session please inform a member of staff so this can be indicated in the register and staff will not get concerned about children's whereabouts.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – SHOE BOX APPEAL

We received 50 boxes for the charity (9 more than last year!), which have now been sent off to children living in poverty and difficult circumstances all around the world. This was a very valuable charity event which has made our children aware of the needs of other, less fortunate children. Each of the boxes really will make a difference to a child's life at Christmas. Many thanks for the support of so many families and staff.

PRIVACY NOTICE

Data held by the school relating to attainment, attendance and personal details is made available to the local authority for local and national monitoring. Full details of how this data is used is available to all parents in the school office or online via Worcester County Council, please visit:

<http://worcestershire.hub.org.uk>.

POPPY APPEAL

Many thanks to all our children and families who brought in money for this year's poppy collection, we raised over £50 for this very important charity.

BAGS 2 SCHOOL

Thanks to your generous donation of unwanted clothes, shoes and textiles the school's PTFA managed to raise £210. This money will be put to great use when we improve the playground seating areas.

LITERACY FESTIVAL 2011

The children thoroughly enjoyed our first ever Literacy Festival which took place at the end of November.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE & CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our two Christmas events this year are guaranteed to get you in the Christmas mood. The Christmas Service will take place on Wednesday 7th December at 10am in the Abbey and the Christmas Fair on Tuesday 6th December from 6pm in the hall. We invite parents and families to join us and support these great events.

FOREST SCHOOL

Full credit to our wonderful Forest School Leaders for continuing to run outdoor sessions right through the winter! We do need parents to help out a little by ensuring that their child brings along a warm, waterproof coat, wellies and gloves on the relevant days. If you are unsure of the dates please speak to the class teacher.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

You may be aware that every school now receives a sum of money for every pupil on free school meals called The 'Pupil Premium', awarded after Christmas. It is therefore extremely important that all families eligible for free school meals registers for them before we break up, regardless of whether or not the child actually claims them. If you are in receipt of benefits your child may well be eligible for Free School Meals; for further information and support with the application please contact the school office.

JUICE OR WATER?

A number of parents have approached me recently as they are unsure about the school's policy on drinks in school. I therefore thought it would be useful to remind you all. We are happy for children to bring along still juice to drink with their lunch, but ask that they only have water to drink during lessons. This may seem petty, but is one of the requirements of all schools with a Healthy Schools Award like ours. Don't forget that children can drink from the water fountains at any point in the day and that water bottles can be filled from either of our water coolers; it's amazing how both of these can make water seem more appealing!

ATTENDANCE

Many thanks to all parents and pupils, our attendance for the Autumn Term A came in at an amazing **97.3%**, this is great news and looks very promising for the rest of the year.

SCHOOL NURSE PARENT DROP-IN

The School Nurse Sara Stainforth will be available to meet parents in The Snug on Friday 16th December between 8.45 and 9.45am – no booking necessary.

SCOOTER SAFETY

It's great to see pupils coming to school on their scooter, but for safety reasons we remind you to ask your children to walk with them until they leave the school site, to avoid any nasty collisions!

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES FOR 2011/2012.

Staff and Governors have been busy drawing up the School Development Plan for the following year. The main priorities have been created based on our self evaluation of pupil attainment and progress and findings from parent and pupil questionnaires, they include:

- Improving pupils' reading and phonics skills through new resources and intervention groups
- Developing pupils' speech and language skills, through increased opportunities for them to enter into quality dialogue and solve problems
- Updating the school website and prospectus
- Developing a more creative and themed curriculum to engage pupils and parents.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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| Tuesday 6th Dec. | <u>Christmas Fair from 6-7.30pm</u> |
| Wednesday 7th Dec. | Christmas Service – 10am in the Abbey |
| Monday 12th Dec. | Christmas Panto at Number 8 |
| Thursday 15th Dec. | Christmas Lunch |
| Friday 16th Dec. | Lantern Parade - Yr4 at 5.30pm. |
| Monday 19th Dec. | Christmas Party Day |
| Tuesday 20th Dec. | Break up for Christmas at 1.30pm |