

# NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Abbey Park First  
& Nursery  
School.  
November 2009



**WORKING TOGETHER  
LEARNING FOR LIFE.**

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of November already and we are all starting to think about Christmas, especially the children! As always there are lots of exciting things ahead, with the pantomime, performances, party and disco. Full details of the dates can be found on the back of this

## **APPLICATIONS FOR RECEPTION PLACES**

Applications for places in Reception are due in by the 22<sup>nd</sup> January. We urge you to get all applications in to school by these dates to increase your chances of being allocated your first preference. If you have misplaced your application forms, further copies are available from the office or apply online at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk).

## **REPORTING AN ABSENCE**

Please help the school to keep a track of all absences by telephoning the office as early as possible on the day that your child is off. This way we know exactly what reason to record. We also request that you send in a brief note when your child returns to school, this can then be filed.

Please remember that holiday absence must be requested from the head teacher, for this there is a form, which is available from the office. Holiday leave is unlikely to be authorised other than in exceptional circumstances, please bear this in mind when planning any term time breaks.

Please contact Mr Johnson if you would like to discuss holidays, or alternatively you may request a copy of the school's attendance policy from the office.

## **LIFE 4 LIVING PARENT/PUPIL SESSION**

All parents and family members are invited to attend the free Life 4 Living family session this Thursday in the hall, from 2.00 until 4.30pm. The afternoon will be a great event; with visitors from the local community, hands-on activities, free gifts and advice. Take a moment to pop in the hall during the afternoon or after school, we promise you won't be disappointed.

## **EARLY MORNING CONGESTION**

Our system of lining up on the play ground when the whistle is blown at 8.45am is working well, many thanks for your support. The staff are however a little concerned about the congestion around the forest school area as the lines are led in. This makes it difficult for teachers to see that all children are actually going into the school building. We therefore ask that whenever possible parents leave the school grounds as soon as the children line up with their teacher.

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – SHOE BOX APPEAL**

We have already received many boxes for the charity and hope that by Thursday we will get even more. The boxes will be sent off to children living in poverty and difficult circumstances all around the world. This is a great opportunity to make your children aware of the needs of others, less fortunate and each box really will make a difference to a child's life. Spare leaflets are available from the office, boxes will be collected on Thursday.

### THANKS FOR YOUR FUNDRAISING

Many thanks to all our children and families who brought in money for Children in Need last Friday. We made a massive collection of coins, which are still in the process of being counted up. We managed to fill a big outline of Pudsey Bear with coins on the yard.

### SCHOOL NURSE DROP IN SESSIONS

Our school nurse, Pat Day, will be starting regular drop-in sessions for parents at the school. The sessions are open to all parents and no booking is necessary. Pat is available to offer advice and support on a whole number of health related issues. She will be holding a 2<sup>nd</sup> session on 7<sup>th</sup> December, between 8.45 and 9.15am in the Snug.

### BLOSSOM VALE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

The Children's Centre is going from strength to strength and now has a wide variety of events and workshops for families with children up to 5 years of age. To find out more information about how the centre can support you, please visit their web-site at: [www.worcestershire.uk/blossomvale](http://www.worcestershire.uk/blossomvale)

### CHILD DEVELOPMENT COURSE FOR PARENTS

All parents are invited to attend this free parent workshop, run by Family Support Worker, Neil Grimshaw. The session takes place in our school on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 1.30-3pm. During the afternoon parents will be able to explore a range of feelings and behaviours children experience as they grow up and will be given strategies for supporting their development.

For more information or to reserve a place, please contact Blossom Vale Children's Centre.

### BE CONSIDERATE WHEN PARKING

To prevent the lay-by outside the school on Abbey Road becoming a risk to our pupils' safety, we ask that all parents park in the car park on Abbey Park. It has now been confirmed that there will be no charge if you park there for a short period when dropping off or picking up.

### NEW SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The new 2009-2010 School Development Plan is now completed, with thanks to the staff, parents and Governors for their contributions. The plan is available in full if you wish to read it. Please contact Mr Johnson if you would like further details.

The plan details all the actions that will take over the next 12 months to make our school even better. In brief the main priorities are to:

- Improve pupils' achievement in reading, writing and numeracy – through the introduction of new assessment, pupil targets and an intensive phonics programme (EYFS/KS1 only).
- Develop a VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) – enabling pupils and parents to access information about the curriculum, homework and events online.
- Establish links with a French school and strengthen out links with our Kenyan school.
- Update the curriculum – introducing new exciting themes and activities.
- Improve communication with and the involvement of parents in their child's learning – details on targets, parent workshops and curriculum overviews.

The document is ever changing and your views for the future are, as always most welcome.

Any great ideas? Let us know!

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

<b>Fri. 4<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	<b>Non-uniform Day/Christmas Disco after school</b>
<b>Tues. 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	<b>Christingle performance for parents in the Abbey at 10.00am.</b>
<b>Thurs. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	<b>Reception Play for parents at 1.30pm.</b>
<b>Fri. 11<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	<b>Children's Christmas Panto – Dick Whittington (in school)</b>
<b>Thurs. 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	<b>Christmas Party Day in school.</b>
<b>Fri. 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	<b>Break up for Christmas.</b>
<b>Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> Jan.</b>	<b>TED - school closed to pupils</b>
<b>Tues. 5<sup>th</sup> Jan.</b>	<b>School opens to pupils/Spring term begins.</b>