

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Abbey Park First
& Nursery
School.
November 2010



**WORKING TOGETHER
LEARNING FOR LIFE.**

November has certainly made us feel wintery and the weather is set to stay cold. The first half of Autumn Term B has been jam-packed with activities again and Christmas is quickly approaching. We are all looking forward to the many wonderful events happening 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 if they are requesting a place.

LATE ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

We are experiencing a higher than average number of pupils arriving late in the morning. Please make sure that all pupils are in school for 8.45am and the taking of the register at 8.50am. The registration period, before first lesson starts is a very important time for our pupils, as they are introduced to the learning for the day.

CHRISTMAS FAIR SUCCESS

My thanks go out to all the members of the PTFA (Friend's) Committee and staff who worked hard to make the Christmas Fair a great success on Friday. The event was really well attended and feed-back from the families who supported the event was very positive.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – SHOE BOX APPEAL

We received 41 boxes for the charity, which have now been sent off to children living in poverty and difficult circumstances all around the world. This was a very successful charity event which 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.

WEATHER WATCHING

The MET Office are warning of more freezing weather and snow this week so we are preparing ourselves for the possibility of school closure. Obviously we will do our best to not close in the event of snow, but for reasons of safety may be forced to do so. Please note that school closure is decided upon jointly by the Head teachers of the local cluster of schools.

We will endeavor to inform parents as soon as possible in the likelihood of closure and will make first contact via our texting system; so please inform the office of any changes in mobile numbers. Information about school closures will also be made available on the main local radio stations and Worcester County Council's website.

POPPY APPEAL

Many thanks to all our children and families who brought in money for this year's poppy collection, we raised over £40 for this very important charity.

POND MAKE-OVER

Thanks to a generous donation from our wonderful PTFA (Friends) organisation, we have been able to fit a safety cover on the pond in the wild-life area at the rear of the school. We have also had a new section of fencing erected, which has extended the Early Years outdoor play spaces –many thanks to parent- Dave Fryer for working so hard on the project.

Furthermore, we are pleased to welcome a team from the Prince's Trust in to school this week who will give the area a general make-over! These improvements will enable our pupils to use this area safely for activities such as pond-dipping and vegetable growing.

CHRISTINGLE & RECEPTION PLAY

Our two Christmas performances this year are set once again to wow the audiences. The Christingle Service will take place on Wednesday 8th December at 10am in the Abbey and the Reception play: Tilly and Toby's Drum will take place on Thursday 9th December at 1pm, in the hall. We invite parents and families to join us.

CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Due to the great success of last year's workshops we are holding a similar day for all classes this week. Steve Grainger will be improving our children's balancing, juggling and spinning skills this Friday in the hall and completely free!

NEW COMPUTERS IN THE ICT SUITE

We are very pleased to have 10 new workstations in the ICT suite. Pupils and teachers have already reported that they are much faster, which will make a real difference to ICT lessons. Many thanks to parent - Dan Parvin who kindly gave up his free time to help install the new workstations.

PICKING UP CHILDREN

Please be aware that the school policy is not to release pupils at home time to a friend or relative who is not listed as a contact in the main file. This procedure is the only way we can ensure all of our pupils get home safely and with the correct person.

If you wish to add somebody to your child's contact list please speak to the admin staff or send in a signed note with the relevant details.

ATTENDANCE

Despite our efforts to improve attendance since our OFSTED inspection, attendance remained lower than expected at **94.3%** for the first half of the Autumn Term.

GUITAR LESSONS

There are currently places available for pupils who wish to begin guitar lessons. Local musician Tim Roberts offers lessons during school at very competitive prices. If you require any further information please contact Tim on 01386 556803.

FAMILY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The school is looking to run a series of parent workshops called 'Managing Feelings When Families Separate'. Sessions will be led by Family Support Worker- Neil Grimshaw. Please contact Mr Johnson if you are interested in attending a session.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday 8th Dec.	Christingle Service – 10am in the Abbey.
Thursday 9th Dec.	Reception play at 1.30pm.
Friday 10th Dec.	Christmas Panto in school
Tuesday 14th Dec.	Christmas Party Day
Friday 17th Dec.	Break up for Christmas
Tuesday 4th Jan.	Teachers' Training Day (school closed to pupils)
Wednesday 5th Jan.	Spring term begins