

# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Abbey Park  
First & Nursery  
School.  
October 2009



**WORKING TOGETHER  
LEARNING FOR LIFE.**

The first half term of the year is drawing to a close and it has certainly been jam packed with activities. The children have made a fantastic start to the new academic year particularly our new children in Reception and Nursery, they have all settled in well to their new classes.

## **APPLICATIONS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND RECEPTION PLACES**

Applications for places at middle school are due in by 6<sup>th</sup> November and applications for Reception places 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.

## **HOLIDAY LEAVE REQUESTS**

Keeping a good attendance record as a school is very important and is one of the key areas OFSTED judge a school on. The school is therefore only able to authorise holiday leave under exceptional circumstances (details of these are available on request). All schools in the Pershore area are currently reviewing their policy on holiday leave and it is likely that requests will not be authorised. If you believe you have exceptional circumstances, which make it difficult to take holidays during school closure, you must make an appointment to see Mr Johnson before booking and at least four weeks before you plan to go away. Whilst we appreciate that family holidays are expensive during school holidays, we ask for your continued support in ensuring that our attendance figures remain healthy.

## **WRIST BAND WARNING**

A growing number of pupils have been coming to school wearing colourful rubber wrist bands. These wrist bands have a sinister hidden meaning and therefore the school is recommending that they are not worn. If a child comes to school wearing a band the class teacher will ask them to remove it and will return it to the parent at the end of the day.

## **EARLY MORNING LINES**

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.

## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS ENTITLEMENT**

Families claiming the following support are entitled to claim for free school meals:

- Income Support
- Job Seekers Allowance
- Employment & Support Allowance
- Immigration & Asylum Support
- Child Tax Credit (under £16,040 income)
- State Pension Credit

Please contact the school office or Worcester County Council if you have any questions regarding eligibility or how to apply. All applications before December 09 will ensure the school receives its necessary funding, so please act now.

### THANKS FOR YOUR FUNDRAISING

Thanks to the 'Friends' and all our parents for their support, £300 was raised by the Bags 2 School activity. Also, many thanks to the Parent Council for their coffee morning last month which raised £173 for the Macmillan Charity. We are hoping to repeat both events later in the year, so go and get those bags out of the loft!

### 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 2 sessions during the Autumn Term: 16<sup>th</sup> November and 7<sup>th</sup> December, between 8.45 and 9.15am.

### FOREST SCHOOL AREA

May we remind all parents not to allow their children to play in the Forest School Area at the start or end of the school day. Sometimes the staff leave materials and activities out, which will be used the following day. We would hate for anything to get damaged, or for there to be any accidents, particularly with some of our younger children. We are looking to erect a fence in the near future, but ask for your support in the mean time.

### GOOD BYE MRS JEAN CLARKE & GOOD LUCK MRS CATH CAINE

We are sad to have to say good bye to our great lunch-time assistant Jean Clarke. Jean is taking retirement and will be leaving at the end of this week, Thursday will be her last day after many dedicated years. She will be greatly missed by pupils and staff.  
Mrs Cath Caine will also be leaving us for a short time this week, she is due to have baby number 2 in November. We all wish her and the family the best of luck and look forward to meeting the new baby soon. Mrs Witts will be working full time in Reception in the near future.

### LETTERS, MONEY AND CORRESPONDENCE

To ease the congestion at the main office before and after school, please ensure that all letters, slips and money goes directly to your child's class teacher. Also remember to put correspondence in a named envelope, this way the sorting process is much easier for the office staff.

### KIND HARVEST GIFTS

Many thanks to all parents who sent in tins and packets of food for our Harvest Assembly last week. We had an enormous amount of food, which was taken by our year 4 pupils to The Almonry and Roland Rutter Court. The elderly residents were very appreciative and thoroughly enjoyed being serenaded by the children.

### PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

We had a great turn out this week to our meetings, but urge any parents who were unable to attend to make arrangements with the class teacher to meet as soon as possible. The meetings are very important and will enable you to not only see the progress your child has made, but also identify targets for the future. We hope our new parent record sheet has been a useful resource, copies will be sent home soon.

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

<b>Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct.</b>	<b>Teachers' Training Day – school closed to pupils/ half term break starts.</b>
<b>Mon. 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov.</b>	<b>Autumn Term B starts</b>
<b>Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> Nov.</b>	<b>Non- uniform day/School photos (bring a bottle)</b>
<b>Fri. 13<sup>th</sup> Nov.</b>	<b>Freaky Friday Fair – 'Friends' event 6.00-7.30pm.</b>
<b>Thurs. 26<sup>th</sup> Nov.</b>	<b>Life 4 Living – Healthy lifestyles fair for parents and pupils – 2.30-4.30pm (school hall).</b>
<b>Tues. 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	<b>Christingle Service for parents &amp; family – 10.00am in the Abbey.</b>
<b>Thurs. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	<b>Reception Play for parents – 1.30pm.</b>
<b>Fri. 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	<b>Break up for Christmas.</b>