

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Abbey Park
First & Nursery
School.
Sept. 2011



Welcome back to a new academic year at Abbey Park First & Nursery. We hope you all had a lovely summer break and managed to enjoy some of the great weather. The children have settled in to their new classes amazingly well and the new children in Reception and Nursery have been absolutely delightful.

NEW MEMBERS FOR THE PARENT COUNCIL NEEDED

Due to a number of pupils moving up to the middle school, we have some vacancies on the Parent Council. If you are interested in meeting once a term in the afternoon with a group of parents and Mr Johnson to bring about change in the school and to strengthen the parent voice; please return the slip over leaf. Please note - **we are particularly keen to recruit dads.**

APPLICATIONS FOR RECEPTION & MIDDLE SCHOOL PLACES SEPT. 2012

Applications for places at middle school and Reception are due in by the **15th January 2012**. We urge you to get all applications in to school by these dates to increase your chances of being allocated your first preference. Please note that forms can also be completed and submitted online. May we also remind parents with children wishing to start Nursery in September 2012 to ensure that their child's details have been given to the school office staff.

WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO CHAT THINGS THROUGH

It is so valuable to keep in constant contact with our parents, therefore we don't expect you to book an appointment to meet with us! All we ask is that whenever possible you wait until the end of the day, when the pupils have all safely left. If you have really important information to pass on to the class teacher first thing in the morning, please either make a note in the red home/school record or inform a member of office staff. This system frees up the teachers to begin lessons as soon as the children arrive. Don't forget our Autumn Parent/Teacher Consultations will take place the week before half term, with the late evening meetings on **Thursday 20th October.**

WELCOME TO OUR NEW SCHOOL NURSE

You will recall our School Nurse Pat Day retired at the end of the Summer Term, so we have now been allocated a new School Nurse: Sara Stainforth. Sara will be available during drop in session every fortnight on a Tuesday morning in the Snug – no booking necessary. Sara will also be attending a number of parent induction sessions over the Autumn Term to get to know the pupils and parents.

HELP NEEDED IN CLASSROOMS

The support we get from mums, dads and grandparents is invaluable; it helps enormously with reading in particular. As always we need more volunteers in class this year and hope that you or a relative may be able to give up a couple of hours a week to help out. No experience is necessary; just let your teacher know how you can support us. Please note that all parent helpers will need to undertake a CRB check through the office prior to working in the school.

LOTTERY AWARD GETS US ACTIVE!

A number of parents expressed a desire for more extra curricular activities in school. As a result we have applied for (and successfully been awarded) a Lottery Grant, which will be used for this very purpose. National sports organisation Sports Xtra will be running 4 new **free** clubs each term. We know these clubs will

MORRISONS 'LET'S GROW' VOUCHER COLLECTION

We are now collecting the Let's Grow vouchers in school, please pass them to your child's class teacher. Vouchers will enable us to purchase free materials for growing fruit and vegetables in school.

READING & HOMEWORK

It is very pleasing to see how many parents have already supported their child's learning by reading regularly at home. We can't express how important this support is; as it really does make a difference to the progress a child makes over the year. If you have any questions about homework or reading, please do not hesitate to discuss this with your child's class teacher.

MUSIC LESSONS AVAILABLE

If you wish for your child to begin playing either the guitar or a wind instrument contact the school office. Lessons take place during the school day and are available at very competitive prices.

BAGS 2 SCHOOL

If your loft or garage is piled high with unwanted clothes, textiles or bedding, simply bring them to school on Thursday 20th October as we are collecting once again for this great money making enterprise. Bags will be distributed by the PTFA nearer the date.

SAFETY ON THE DRIVE

A number of pupils continue to ride their scooters and bikes around the drive and gate area each day, so for safety reasons we request that pupils walk with them beyond the gates to avoid any accidents.

ATTENDANCE SUCCESS

Thanks to the efforts of our parents to avoid taking holidays during term times, we have achieved a 'good' OFSTED grading for our attendance – achieving a greatly improved **95.1%** for the last school year.

FREE PARENT WORKSHOPS – SUPPORTING LEARNING IN THE EARLY YEARS

Parents with pupils in Reception and Nursery are invited to attend a free induction workshop which will take place during the afternoon of Wednesday 2nd November in the school hall. The free workshop will be led by our Early Years staff and workers from Blossom Vale Children's Centre. During the session parents will be given lots of advice and resources to help support their child's learning at home. Pencil this date in your diaries!



Top Tips to Parents:

Next time you go on a long journey, get your children to

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday 27th Sept.

Monday 3rd Oct.

Friday 14th Oct.

Thursday 20th Oct.

Friday 21st Oct.

Monday 24th Oct.

Monday 31st Oct.

Wednesday 2nd Nov.

Tuesday 15th Nov.

One Big Community Day event for pupils & parents

World Book Week -events & activity day (Fri)

Harvest Assembly for friends & family at 9.00am

Parent/Teacher consultation Evening

Teacher's Training Day (school closed)

Half Term Week begins

Autumn Term B begins

EYFS Parent Induction (pm)

KS2 Topic Sharing Assembly for parents (9am)

I would like to be considered to join to Parent Council.

Name : _____ Child's name: _____ Tel: _____