

# NEWSLETTER

18<sup>th</sup> November 2011

## Strike Action

As you may well be aware, teaching unions and members of Unison have recently voted in favour of a day of strike action to take place on 30<sup>th</sup> November. At this stage, we do not know how many of our staff this will affect. School will make every effort to remain open but this will be dependent on enough staff being in school to ensure the health and safety of the children. We will inform you as soon as we have further information.

## Football

Our school is currently part of a new football league that is taking place over a series of Thursday evenings at Birchwood High. Two teams from our school play each week. This week, our A Team beat Gorse Covert 6-1 and the B Team drew 3-3 with Birchwood CE. Well done to them all. Thanks go to Mr Donoghue, Mr Yates (at Birchwood High) and the staff who have accompanied the teams to the games.

## Educational Visits

Following discussions with some parents recently, which I have further discussed with governors, I thought it may be appropriate to remind parents of the school's approach to Educational Visits. Our school believes that carefully planned educational visits play an important role in enhancing learning for our children and there is an expectation that each class will undertake one visit per term (excluding terms where there is a residential visit taking place). Recently, we have also expanded the use of visiting guests (e.g. Roman Soldier in Y3/4) instead of some visits. This is done when it is felt that the educational benefit can have a similar impact without the additional expense to parents of the cost of transport.

School is very aware that the costs of educational visits have increased dramatically over the past 2 years. This is mainly due to the significant increase in the cost of transport, as well as increased costs from the places that we visit. When calculating the contribution from parents towards the cost of educational visits, the school simply adds up the cost of the trip (i.e. transport, entry to the place being visited and the cost of any experts/guides or additional rooms etc that are required) and divides this by the number of children eligible to go. We then request that amount as a voluntary contribution from parents. School cannot require

parents to pay for educational visits, but visits are dependent on the vast majority of parents contributing. Of course, there are a **very small** number of parents who, without explanation, do not contribute. School covers the cost of this from its own budget – it is not an amount factored into the original calculation of a contribution amount from parents.

The governors and I are aware that the financial pressure that many families are under are especially great at this time and appreciate that many families make sacrifices to ensure that they contribute to educational visits. We are very grateful for the continued support of visits from parents and hope that we are able to continue to provide our children with these experiences.

## Thomas Risley Church/School Choir

The School Choir will be singing at the Thomas Risley Church this Sunday morning. The service will celebrate the 'Shoe Box Appeal'; following the service, all of the boxes collected will be sent away to good causes.

## Book Fair

The Book Fair will be in school next week. It will be in Yellow square (outside Mrs. Stewart's classroom), Monday - Thursday after school until 4.15pm.

On Friday we will be inviting children to come into school dressed as a book character. In the past the costumes have been a highlight of the term and we anticipate that next week's event will be no different!

## Children's Corner

This week's literacy work, printed overleaf, is by Thomas Maudesly in Miss Houghton's Y5 class.

### Happy Birthday

The following children have had birthdays in the past 2 weeks;

Harrison Conway	~11
Sean Mellor-Savage	~11
Simon Bishop	~10
Reece Demet	~ 8
Hana Saunders	~ 7
Daniel Williams	~ 7
Ebony Butterworth	~ 7
Mia Parry	~ 5



Happy Birthday to them all