

NEWSLETTER

2nd October 2009

Ofsted

As you will all be aware, the school was inspected by Ofsted (again!) on Monday and Tuesday of this week. The school was the **first in the Local Authority to be inspected under a new framework for inspection**, despite only having been inspected two years ago and receiving an 'outstanding' judgement. The report has to be published (and shared with parents) within 15 working days, although it may be earlier than this. Until this time, the outcomes of the report have to be kept confidential. However, I am sure parents won't be surprised to hear that the inspectors were very impressed with the children and with the school.

I would like to thank all of you who took the time to return the questionnaires that were sent home at short notice – there was a very high number of responses – and all of the members of our school community who continually work with and support the school. We have a school to be very proud of.

Football

The first football matches of the year take place today. A Year 4 team and a Y5/6 team are playing away at Birchwood CE Primary School. The next planned match is at home to Gorse Covert on Friday 16th October. There will be no football practice on that day.

Internet Safety

A number of our children hold Facebook accounts and use other web based instant messaging services (NB. Facebook accounts are only supposed to be used by young people aged 14 years or older). The level and number of potential dangers children can be exposed to when using these is alarming. We will be adding some additional e-safety work to our curriculum shortly. However, parents need to be aware of the importance of making sure that children are safe if/when using these technologies. On recent training, the advice I had for parents/carers regarding this issue included:

- Ensure you are aware of all of the communication methods your child is using
- Only allow use of the internet in a shared place in the house (e.g. downstairs, as opposed to in bedrooms) so that conversations etc. can be monitored
- Ensure your child(ren) is/are aware that they must inform you if they receive contact from anybody they don't immediately recognise
- Regularly check your child(ren)'s communication records (including lists of contacts), and their mobile phone if they have one
- Parents/carers should be/quickly become familiar with the technologies that their child(ren) are using in order to be able to protect their child(ren)

Finally, please be very aware that Facebook and other contact sites contain a lot of information about your child(ren) which could potentially be useful to someone who may wish to harm them.

Turf and Feather Pub

The new manager at the Turf and Feather Pub has contacted school to ask that parents do not block **the entrance to the car park or the access point to the pub cellar**. The pub is happy for parents to use the car park, but clearly, if this is affecting the pub's normal business, then there will be pressure to close the car park to parents.

Thanks from Reception

Foundation Stage would like to thank Mrs Whitford for coming in to talk about the care of babies and visiting a baby clinic. The children were enthralled when they learned how to change nappies, weigh babies and measure length and head circumference. They had great fun practicing afterwards and went home with a super bag packed with information!



Reception children working with Mrs Whitford

Head Lice

Cases of head lice have been reported to us recently. Please check your child(ren) regularly and, if required, treat them urgently in order to try to keep cases to a minimum.

Diary Dates amendment

Please note that the Parents' Evening dates for Autumn Term 2009, as listed on our Dairy Dates for Year 2009-10 sheet should be **Wednesday 14th October and Thursday 15th October.**

'Messy Church' at Thomas Risley

Messy church is a new way of doing church for families. The idea is that families come together for a time of craft or games and then have a short family centred time of worship followed by a meal. Thomas Risley Church is trying this out on Sunday October 4th from 4.30pm, finishing no later than 6.30pm. Why not give it a try? For more details and to book a place please contact Andrew/Sally Willett on 487851 or email rev.willett@bigfoot.com

Children's Corner

This week's literacy work, printed overleaf, is by Ben Agnew in Mrs M. Robinson's Y6 class.

Happy Birthday

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

Kieran Reeves	~ 11
Reece Bloxham	~ 11
Morgan Griffiths	~ 10
Robert Carter	~ 10
Brendan Geddes	~ 10
Bethany Collard	~ 9
Jamie Wesson	~ 9
Caitlin Eley	~ 8
Danny Metcalfe	~ 5
Ben Peters	~ 5

Happy Birthday to them all!