

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

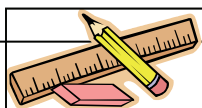
Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Friends

DATE: 25th April 2008

CONGRATULATIONS to the parents who attended our Adult Maths Course in school. I am pleased to let you know they have all gained a Level 1 OCR in Maths. This is a nationally recognised qualification.

The parents enjoyed the classes so much they have already enrolled to work towards the Level 2.

One of the many positive comments received from the parents is they now feel more confident when helping their children with their Maths.



BLAYDON BRICK PROJECT

Neil Woods, from Blaydon Arts Group, telephoned to thank the parents and children who took part in the above project. Neil complimented the children on their enthusiasm and interest in the project.

The children and parents learned about the history of the local brickworks and how the environment has changed over the years.

The school was presented with three digital cameras to thank the children for their participation in the event.

The Blaydon Arts Group are also arranging a litter pick in the near future. The school has agreed to take part in the litter pick. I will give you more details as soon as I have them.

CHANGE OF UNIFORM SUPPLIER

We are changing our uniform supplier to a company who will be more flexible for parents ordering uniform, as the uniform is ordered direct from the supplier. There will be no change in the cost of the uniform, however, this company embroiders the child's name, in the appropriate colour, on each of the items, which will help reduce items being lost in school. Parents will have to ensure the correct size is ordered as, once the items are embroidered with the child's name, they cannot be exchanged.

I have arranged a meeting for parents to be held in the Infant Hall on Tuesday, 29th April for parents to view and try uniform and for orders to be placed. Order forms will be available to place orders. Payment must be made when orders are placed, however, the school will keep a supply of order forms.

Please be assured that we are constantly trying to improve the service we give parents.

KINGSWOOD VISIT

This afternoon our Year 6 children are leaving school for their residential visit to Kingswood Activity Centre. I am sure it goes without saying that they will have a wonderful weekend. Let's hope the weather stays fine.

I am sure you would all like to thank Miss Ford and Miss Donnelly for supervising the children on their visit!



SATS MEETING FOR YEAR 6 PARENTS

We are holding a meeting for Year 6 parents on Thursday, 1st May at 6.00pm to discuss the arrangements for this year's SATS. Parents will have the opportunity to look at past SATS papers and ask questions. Parents will also receive information on how to help the children cope with these tests.

PARENTS' MEETING

Following the Parents' meeting on Wednesday evening I would like to draw your attention to a few of the points that were raised at the meeting.

Several parents expressed concern about parking on the back lane before and after school. This is a health and safety concern for the school. Can I remind parents dropping children off at school not to park in the back lane.

We intend to work with the Local Authority to produce a School Travel Plan to help to address road safety concerns.

Another issue raised related to a point previously highlighted. There are still a small number of parents using inappropriate language on the school yard. Can I please remind you that the use of bad language not only offends the parents but sets a bad example for the children in school.

Finally, a number of parents have expressed concerns that, despite having signs displayed around school, some parents are still insisting on bringing dogs onto the school premises (including the ramps leading up to the main entrances). This is a major Health and Safety concern.

Please can I ask for your co-operation in respect of the issues raised above.

PARENTS' FORUM

Further to the letter from Mrs McKay (Chair of the IEB) we have had several parents volunteer for the above forum.

Commencing Friday, 2nd May these parents will be available in the School Library from 8.55am until 9.30am to discuss any concerns or issues you may have.

At the initial meeting all of the parents who expressed an initial interest will be available. In the following weeks the intention is to set up a rota system to ensure that the forum will take place each Friday between 8.55am and 9.30am.

All matters discussed at the Forum will be treated confidentially.

Can I please make clear that the forum is being set up to complement the communication systems already in place in school and not to replace them. Concerns regarding individual children and staff should always be referred to either myself or a member of the school staff.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

This week's attendance figures are:

Reception— 92.4%, 1B— 98.2%, 2L-96.9%, 3D- 94.5%, 4O— 95.8%, 5JC—96.6%, 5KC— 95.8%, 6D— 97.2% and 6F— 89.8%

The attendance prize was won by Miss Benison's class. **Our whole school attendance is 95.2% which is above our school target of 95% for the first time this year!**

A POLITE REMINDER

Just to remind parents that the cost of a school dinner has increased. The cost per day is now £1.75 (£8.75 per week). Can parents please ensure children have sufficient funds on their accounts to pay for school meals.



AND FINALLY

I hope you all had a good holiday and are pleased to be back into the school routine!

Have a wonderful weekend.

PAULA BAILEY
Head Teacher