

# St Botolph's Primary School

## February Newsletter 2009

[www.stbotolphsprimary.co.uk](http://www.stbotolphsprimary.co.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers

The unusually bad weather over the past two - three weeks has highlighted the need for us to update our communication systems. Along with the Governing Body, we have for some time now been considering ways in which we can increase our efficiency at communicating with you. Up to now we rely on letters being sent home, our web site, making contact via the phone or the local radio stations publishing any school closure. We have been seeking advice and looking at various electronic means of communicating either via E-mail or a Text Messaging Service. I know that some schools already use these means to pass on important information to their parents. If you have any thoughts/comments which will help with our decision then I shall be very pleased to receive them. We hope to have a new and improved system of communicating with yourselves in place ready for this coming September 2009 at the latest.

Communication is the key to successfully working together, and I would like to share with you the reasoning behind decisions made to open or close the school through the bad weather. The three criteria influencing decisions are: the condition of the building (i.e. heating etc), the safety of the site and adequate provision for supervising your children. If one or more of these criteria cannot be met then I am duty bound, in consultation with the Chair of Governors, to close the school. I have to applaud my staff for their dedication in travelling to and from school through the most difficult of circumstances on several occasions. I would also like to emphasise that even if staff are unable to spend time in school they are writing reports or planning future units of work. I am sure you will join with me in hoping we have now seen the last of the snow and ice for now!

As you know we are working hard to embed the use of Information Technology throughout the curriculum, which means we need technology in addition to computers. The 'Friends of St Botolphs' has kindly donated some of the money you all work hard to raise in order for us to buy a laptop and ceiling mounted projector for our main hall. This will be used daily to enhance our Worship assemblies and class assemblies and any other event that takes place in the hall. In addition we have been able to use funds raised at our Christmas fair towards the purchase of several digital video cameras. This means that pupils will be able to make and keep records of their work in English, Drama, PE to name but a few. The aim is that your children will be using these themselves. A BIG THANK YOU TO THE 'FRIENDS OF ST BOTOLPHS', AND TO ALL OF YOU WHO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS RAISING FUNDS.

### Diocese of Ely Section 25 Church Inspection

During the week prior to our half-term break the school was inspected under the Diocese of Ely Section 25. Such an inspection always follows an Ofsted within a required set number of working weeks. We are thrilled and very proud to report that we received a resounding 'Good' with many 'Excellent' features. Once I have the formal written report I shall forward a copy to you all.

**Dogs on School Premises - Can we please remind all parents and carers that dogs should not be brought onto the school premises or any part of the school grounds. This is for Health and Safety reasons.**



### **Policies that have been recently updated:**

Worship, SEN, Intervention and Physical Restraint, Gifted and Talented and Sex and Relationships

### Half-Term Break - In

Very sadly I have to report that over the half-term break we received considerable vandalism to the school property. The sounding of the alarm raised the signal and my caretaker was on site within minutes. Any damage or theft at the school is clearly upsetting and destroys both pupils' and staffs' efforts and incurs cost to the school despite having insurance cover. The money lost due to this mindless act will have to be taken out of the school budget from money set aside to buy resources for the children. The police were informed and crime investigators took fingerprints etc at the time. If you should hear of anything that may help then we would be most grateful.

**Sainsbury and Tesco Vouchers – we are once again asking you to collect vouchers from Sainsburys and Tescos when you do your shopping. Last year was a huge success and enabled us to order many items to support our PE and IT curriculums.**

**Coffee Morning – the next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> march in the Activity Room 9.00am – 10.30am. Everyone is welcome, including toddlers (please note that we do not have a crèche) and will be able to join us for a free drink. The subject for this coffee morning will be 'Supporting Your Child With Writing'.**

## Curriculum Review

One of the areas that our recent Ofsted inspection asked us to continue to develop and build on was our curriculum. To ensure that it continues to allow for increased creativity and diversity making it appropriate and relevant for our children. I was clearly delighted to be asked by the local education authority to represent the Peterborough Primary Head teachers at a regional conference to participate in the consultation process of the new government proposed Primary Review of its' curriculum. The DCSF meeting led by QCA was very informative and exciting. We are being encouraged by the government to design a curriculum that is appropriate and pertinent for the future needs of our children. A 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum that teaches the 'Key Skills' needed for our children today and to equip them for a future world that we cannot begin to comprehend. An exciting future for all our children! At St Botolph's we have begun this journey with many year groups exploring 'themes' which are planned to engage and enthuse the children. We no longer teach discreetly, subjects such as Geography or History, but those skills needed as an Historian etc, are woven into the curriculum. For example: the Year 3 classes have been studying 'Chocolate' as their theme for this spring term. They have been using literacy skills to write letters, persuade and write reports; scientific skills of enquiry into the property of materials, using both geography and history skills to explore the history of chocolate, discovering the philosophy and ethical basis of using Fair Trade and using design skills to plan and make new wrappings for future chocolate bars! Technology is used to support and underpin all areas of study. We will continue to review our curriculum.

### Attendance February 2009

Key Stage 1			Key Stage 2		
Miss Evans	Reception	88.18%	Miss Noble	Year 3	95.61%
Mr Balaam	Reception	95.65%	Miss Murrell	Year 3	95.91%
Mrs Belcher /Miss Regis	Year 1	93.71%	Miss Brittain	Year 4	97.08%
Mrs Greene/MrsWilliams	Year 1	95.45%	Mrs Cronin	Year 4	93.02%
Mr File	Year 2	95.15%	Mrs Richardson	Year 5	96.83%
Mrs Fox/Mrs Wickham	Year 2	91.52%	Miss Hicks	Year 5	90.56%
			Mr Binmore	Year 6	94.91%
			Mrs McCay	Year 6	97.14%

### **Diary Dates:**

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Book Fair 3.15pm – 4.00pm
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 4 Tudor Day
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Coffee Morning in Activity Room 9.00am – 10.30am
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	4JC Class Assembly 9.10am
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Uniform Shop in Hall 3.00pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Fair 3.15pm – 4.00pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Dress up Day (Book Characters) to celebrate World Book Day
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Fair 3.15pm – 4.00pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Start of Kick Off Sponsored Event
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	2FW Class Assembly 9.10am
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Y1 Parents Open Morning 8.45am – 11.00am
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Fair 3.15pm – 4.00pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	4VB Swimming
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 Parents Open Morning 8.45am – 11.00am
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	4VB Swimming
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Choir at the Cresset
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Safety Challenge Day – Y6 pupils
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Discos KS1 5.00pm – 6.00 KS2 6.30pm – 8.00pm

**World Book Day** we are celebrating World Book Day on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March and children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character on this day. We have a week of activities based around books and reading planned and this will culminate in a special assembly to be held on the Friday. Children will also receive a book token that can be used to purchase one of a special collection of books for a pound.