

St Botolph's C of E (c) Primary School

Newsletter January 2009

www.stbotolphsprimary.co.uk

OFSTED

Ofsted's judgements were a very fair and honest recognition of where the school was at the time of their visit. They acknowledged how far the school had come in the past twelve months and noted many positive aspects that we are all very proud of. The staff worked tirelessly, the children were brilliant and the inspectors ploughed through mountains of paperwork and documentation. A significant judgement that they made was that the school has a 'Good capacity to improve'.

They were confident that the school has all the structures and procedures in place to move forward and recognised that:

'Teaching is good, at times better because tasks set challenge, motivate and enthuse the pupils'.

'Pupils contribute much to the school. They are confident, polite and well behaved individuals who enjoy school. They leave school appropriately prepared for the future'.

'Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good. Pupils behave well and have positive attitudes to their work'.

'Academic guidance is good'.

'The Head teacher provides very strong, effective and dynamic leadership'.

We are now awaiting our SIAS Church Inspection which is booked for the 11th and 12th of February 2009. This inspection is triggered by an Ofsted inspection and has to take place within 10 weeks of the section 52 inspection. The inspector will report on the teaching of Religious Education, the Christian Ethos of the school, our Acts of Worship and the Leadership and Management of the school as a Christian organisation. We are optimistic of receiving another favourable report. A full copy of the report will be sent home once we receive it in school.

Autumn term - 100% Attendance

We have introduced a certificate for children who manage to maintain 100% attendance for a whole term. It was with immense pleasure that I gave out over 100 certificates to children for their attendance over the course of the autumn term. Well done to all of them, and to you their parents, who support their attendance at school.

School Security

Security is paramount and it is vital that we do all we can to ensure that our children are safe at school. We are vulnerable during 'Morning Challenge' time when doors around the school are open. It has been noted that one or two parents when leaving the school in the morning are opening doors that have already been locked. This way, doors remain unlocked unless spotted by a member of staff. To avoid our school being exposed and running the risk of 'unwanted' visitors entering the school, could any parent leaving the school late in the morning please do so only via the main doors at the front of the school at reception.

Friends of St Botolph's - Huge appreciation goes as always to our volunteer friends who plan and work to raise funds for the school. Recently, they have donated £1000 towards the purchase of new reading books for the school and £465.75 for new watercolour palettes. A big thank you from all of us.

Green Eco Award - The school council have been working very hard over the autumn term to monitor our energy consumption, turn off lights, plan for increasing sustainability and draw up an action plan for the future. They were quite rightly very proud when we were awarded the 'Bronze' award. Their next challenge is to work towards our 'Silver' and ultimately the 'Gold' award. We're going for Green as they say!

Reminder! - Could all parents please park considerately. The 'abandoning' of cars around the school site and in the grounds of Orton Hall Hotel is gaining us a bad reputation with our neighbours and the general public.

Parents Evening

Parents Evenings are being held on Tuesday 10th February (5.00pm – 8.00pm) and Thursday 12th February (3.30pm – 6.00pm). If you have not yet managed to make an appointment please see your class teacher.

Attendance January 2009

Key Stage 1			Key Stage 2		
Miss Evans	Reception	96.14%	Miss Noble	Year 3	95.88%
Mr Balaam	Reception	97.82%	Miss Murrell	Year 3	96.67%
Mrs Belcher /Miss Regis	Year 1	96.34%	Miss Brittain	Year 4	96.74%
Mrs Greene/MrsWilliams	Year 1	99.06%	Mrs Cronin	Year 4	96.11%
Mr File	Year 2	96.96%	Mrs Richardson	Year 5	95.64%
Mrs Fox/Mrs Wickham	Year 2	92.25%	Miss Hicks	Year 5	94.34%
			Mr Binmore	Year 6	95.76%
			Mrs McCay	Year 6	93.79%

Christmas Fair

Many thanks to all staff, children and parents who contributed towards making our Christmas fair such a huge success. The children in Year 6 worked especially hard to bring it all together and ensure that stalls were organised and staffed. The grand profit of £1295.03 has been put towards the cost of an overhead projector and lap top for our school hall. Thank you to all parents and friends of the school who contributed towards prizes and supported the fair.

School Garden

A very big **THANK YOU** to everyone in Years 3 – 6 who came along and helped out at the weekly gardening clubs in the Autumn Term. Autumn is usually a time of ripening, harvest and putting the garden to bed for the winter. For the St Botolph's gardening club it was a time of filling the compost bin with fallen leaves, shifting soil into our new raised beds, moving bricks, sweeping paths and a lot of muddy feet!!! We have managed to plant a few things: garlic, broad beans, winter lettuces, strawberries and autumn fruiting raspberries, with lots more to come in the spring.

Thanks also go to 11 volunteers from Peterborough City Council and kind donations from Ikea. With their help we have been able to finish the outside classroom area at the top of the garden, build several benches and raised beds so that the garden is finally beginning to take shape. After half term we will be restarting the Friday gardening club – if your child wishes to join the club then please ask them to speak to Mrs Cronin in Y4. They will need to bring a pair of wellies into school and any old gloves would be useful.



Thank you
Bryony Farrow – Parent Governor

Coffee Morning – there will be a coffee morning held in the Activity Room on the 4th February 9.00am – 10.30am.

The subject that will be discussed is 'The Role of the Special Needs Co-ordinator'. Everyone is welcome and refreshments are provided free of charge.

Diary Dates:

Friday 30 th January	Y3 Open Morning 9.00am – 11.00am
Wednesday 4 th February	1BR Class Assembly
Wednesday 4 th February	Coffee Morning Activity Room 9.00am
Friday 6 th February	Y4 Open Morning 9.00am – 11.00am
Tuesday 10 th February	Parent Consultation Evening 5.00pm – 8.00pm
Wednesday 11 th February	Church OFSTED
Thursday 12 th February	Church OFSTED
Thursday 12 th February	Parent Consultation Evening 3.30pm – 6.00pm
Friday 13 th February	Break up for Half Term
Monday 23 rd February	Return to school
Friday 27 th February	Y2 Open Morning 9.00am – 11.00am
Friday 27 th February	Y3 to Cadburys World
Tuesday 3 rd March	Y4 Tudor Day
Thursday 5 th March	Friends Uniform Shop In Hall 3.00pm