

St Botolph's C of E Primary School

March Newsletter 2010

Email: office@st-botolphs.peterborough.sch.uk

Website:

Targets – Supporting at Home

We are constantly trying to improve liaison between school and home. You have told us that you want to be able to help your children at home more but you also need more information about how your child is doing and what they need to work on in order to improve further. To hopefully help, we are going to introduce 'Target Cards' after the Easter break. These will form a home-school link and hopefully provide the information that will enable you to become better informed. Look out for more information soon.

Maths Curriculum Information Evening

Thursday 6th May 2010

6pm

Come along to learn how we teach mathematics in school today

Chicken Update!

We are the proud parents of 7 baby chicks. The children have carefully nurtured the eggs and eagerly awaited the arrival of our new chicks. We shall be keeping the females for our school coop. The males will be returned to the farm who kindly donated the eggs.



Oundle Festival

I am pleased to announce that we had a great deal of success at the Oundle Festival again this year. Maddy Wallace and Charlotte Rodgers were both highly commended in the Poetry section and Freya Larter was awarded first Prize for her poem in the years 3/4 category and Anna Johnson was also awarded first prize for her poem in the years 5/6 category and third prize in the story writing section. Our warmest congratulations go to all the girls. Well done - we are proud of you!

Mufti Day Friday 26th March

This Friday, children will be able to come to school wearing their own clothes in return for a £1 donation which will be used to purchase various gifts and prizes to make our summer fair on Saturday 26th June as exciting and fun as possible for the whole family. This year we are trying to raise funds to purchase new sound equipment for the school hall. Please support us by providing a small donation of £1.

School Uniform

The governors have asked me to remind you that school jumpers should be navy blue. One or two children are starting to wear black or grey jumpers to school. We are also increasingly seeing an array of coloured socks including fluorescent colours. Socks should be grey, blue or white. Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Do you have a spare hour?

We are very keen to make use of the area out the back of the Reception classes that used to house an outdoor swimming pool many years ago. This piece of land is standing redundant and we desperately would love to turn it into a wildlife area with a pond and possibly ducks! Could you please spare an hour or two on Saturday 27th March 1.00pm – 5.00pm. Please bring spades, forks, pick axes etc. Many hands make light work!

Shoes for Kosovo

This week I have received a personal 'thank you' from the chairperson of the Minister Rotary Club in Peterborough, to all of you who have brought in shoes for Kosovo. You have filled nearly 6 boxes with unwanted shoes. These are now in the process of being packed up ready for transportation via lorries to Kosovo where they are most needed. The lorry is due to leave at the end of March. Therefore, we do not require any more shoes after the end of this term. The Rotary Club have asked me to pass on their appreciation for all your support. 'Well done' everyone!

Car Boot Sale

Saturday 17th April 2010 1pm – 4pm KS2 Playground
Pitches £5 contact: Lynsey on 07736644553 to book

Football Tournament

On Thursday 4th March Mr Balaam's football team went to Orton Longueville School to play in a football tournament. The matches were 9 minutes long and it was 6 a side. We got split into 2 teams a red and a blue team. The red team consisted of Amy Gore, Rhys Leggett, Dillon Makwana, Ryan Beck, Ewan Cann, Robbie Handley and Milos Drobac.

The first match for the red team was against Leighton. It was a really close match, until Leighton had a great shot saved by Ewan Cann, but a Leighton player was ready at the goal line to tap it in. So the final score was 1-0. The next match was against Nene Valley, they were a very good side. Unfortunately as soon as they scored 1 goal another 1 followed until it was 2-0. St Botolph's made it really hard for Nene valley, in the 2nd half because we passed it more. Then Rhys took a great shot from the half way line and scored making the score 2-1. But unfortunately Nene valley scored 2 more so the final score was 4-1. However Ewan Cann made some fantastic saves which really helped us.

The final game was against St Botolph's blue. We created quite a few chances using Rhys's long throw, but unfortunately we were not able to take those chances. Their defence was completely rock solid. St Botolph's blue kept scoring; the good thing is that Ewan made some more great saves as usual. So the final score was 3-0 to St Botolph's blue meaning St Botolph's red came 4th. But we couldn't have played without Mr Balaam, Miss Russell and Bryony who were our managers, and the main thing is that we all had fun.

Written by Amy Gore 5JM

Sponsorship required

Our school fete is vast approaching and the Friends are actively working towards making this the most successful fete yet. We are hoping to raise enough money to replace and update the schools' current PA system in the Hall. If you know of any businesses that we can approach for sponsorship, or able to help yourselves in this way, we will be extremely grateful. In return the Friends offer generous advertising space both within our fete brochure and on the day. If you can help contact Lynsey on 07736644553.

Hot Meals Return

Last month I was delighted to be able to inform you that eventually we are to return to hot meals. I am now able to let you know that we are aiming for Tuesday 4th May as 'the day'! We are now in the process of giving the kitchen a spring clean and seeking advice from Environmental Health to ensure that it fulfils all statutory requirements. We are currently in discussion with our hot meals provider. We are aiming for a big launch with as many children as possible having a hot lunch. We strongly believe that we will be able to offer a choice of meal for all children regardless of what time they come in for lunch. The menu choice will be exciting, refreshing and appealing to children. As soon as we are able we will be publishing menus. If you are in receipt of Free School Meals remember to renew your applications to make sure you don't miss out.

Dance Festival at Orton Longueville School

Last week year 5 and year 4 children took part in a dance festival up at Orton Longueville school. The children enjoyed taking part and performing dances to the 'Pirates of the Carribean' and 'Slum dog Millionaire'. They did really well and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They were a real credit to the school.

Diary Dates:

Friday 26 th March	Mufti Day
Friday 26 th March	Last Day of Term
Tuesday 13 th April	First Day of Summer Term
Wednesday 14 th April	4NN Swimming
Thursday 15 th April	Y5 Artists Session
Saturday 17 th April	Car Boot Sale 1.00pm – 4.00pm
Tuesday 20 th April	Uniform Shop 2.45pm – 3.30pm
Wednesday 21 st April	4NN Swimming
Thursday 22 nd April	Maths Curriculum Evening
Friday 23 rd April	Y4 Artists Session
Tuesday 27 th April	5JM Class Assembly
Wednesday 28 th April	3BS Swimming
Thursday 29 th April	Photograph Day

Dear Parents/Carers

Parental Survey 2009

All parents were invited to take part in the Annual Parent/Carer survey in October 2009. Questions were made available to our Parents over the course of the two evenings.

125 respondents completed the survey.

The survey covered many aspects of school life such as children progress, safety, wellbeing and welfare conditions, communication between school and parents or carers, development opportunities, leadership and the future.

Parental Survey 2009 – Key Objectives

- Improve management and leadership by giving school **vital information for use in managing/teaching children.**
- Improve the way strategy is developed and change is managed in the future by **engaging parents/carers in what is happening.**
- Identify the **key drivers of parents/carers perceptions.**
- Identify how St Botolph's School becomes a school **of choice** and assess **how parents/carers' children feel they fit** within the school.
- **Celebrate success** and recognise what St Botolph's School does well in the eyes of parents/carers.
- Drive action on areas that will **improve the performance/standard of the school.**

Results:

Parental Survey			
		% Strongly Agree	% Disagree
Q1	My child enjoys school	98%	1%
Q2	My child is making good progress at school	95%	3%
Q3	I feel that my child is safe and well cared for at school	98%	1%
Q4	Behaviour in school in good	94%	2%
Q5	The school is well led and managed	94%	3%
Q6	The school takes account of children's view	85%	3%
Q7	The school forms highly positive relationships with parents	95%	3%
Q8	There are clear and accessible channels for parents to communicate with the school	94%	2%
Q9	The school regularly seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	80%	13%
Q10	The school keeps me informed about my child's progress and sets targets for improvement	94%	4%
Q11	There are plenty of opportunities for clubs and out of school activities	71%	19%
Q12	My child has sufficient homework each week	94%	5%

Things the school is doing well – You told us:-

- We are improving standards with some very good teaching and support staff.
- Children enjoy coming to school.
- Parental involvement is high.

- There is good communication and we keep parents informed through parent's sessions and ParentMail.
- Children feel safe and secure at school.
- The level of discipline and behaviour is excellent.
- My child is happy and enjoys school so much he would like to be there at weekends.
- The education of the children and learning is fantastic.
- The children all seem happy and proud to be from St Botolph's.
- Morning challenge involves parents and welcomes children into school.
- There is a positive relationship between the children and the teachers. The children are confident and are able to speak openly.
- School encourages good behaviour and develops confidence in our children.
- The school looks clean and bright, the displays are lovely.
- There is a strong leadership and management.
- Acknowledgement of achievements is good.
- Being a Church of England school and developing Christian values is on the rise.
- The Open Sessions are very interesting and great fun.
- Promoting older children to 'take care' of younger peers is a good thing.
- School treats children fairly.
- School provides a positive, welcoming environment.
- Breakfast and After School club is excellent.

Things to Develop:-

The two main areas that we clearly need to improve are:

- i) Seeking the views of parents/carers regularly and
- ii) Increase the number of out of school opportunities.

We have tried to increase the number of reviews and questionnaires especially when we have introduced something new. We are keen to hear your views and suggestions. On one occasion a parent expressed the need to be kept up to date with their child's progress and wanted to know how to help at home. As a result of this we are shortly to introduce home/school target cards. Look out for these after Easter. Please let us know how we can improve our practice of seeking your views.

We fully appreciate how much children enjoy the opportunity to take part in activities after school but we are limited by both space and adults to run them. When opportunities arise we grab them but that does mean that we are currently unable to offer a club that runs consistently for the whole year. We always look out for more providers. If you have any suggestions that may help or know of any providers, then please get in touch with the school office and leave details.

Finally, can I personally thank all those who completed a questionnaire and left comments. It is important to us that we listen to your views and take all reasonable steps to act on them. We all want the very best for our children and make St Botolph's into the best school we can. We are in a partnership together. Please be assured of our commitment to the wellbeing and achievement of all our children.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J S Daniels
Headteacher