

St Botolph's Church of England Primary school

October Newsletter 2009

www.office@st-botolphs.peterborough.sch.uk

A New Curriculum at St Botolphs

One of the actions from our Ofsted last December was to look at our curriculum and try to make it more creative and cross curricular. Our focus over the past two years has been to ensure that we deliver the highest quality lessons at all times with maximum progress achieved by all our pupils but we feel that from this September we are ready to make changes to the curriculum to make it more accessible for all children. As a staff we have spent a great deal of time discussing the benefits of a more creative approach to our teaching without jeopardising excellence. We believe that by introducing a 'Thematic' approach we will be enhancing children's experiences whilst continuing to drive standards higher. Your termly news letter from your child's teachers will have outlined the 'Theme' for this term. Look at our school web site to view the topics/themes for all year groups for this school year – these can be found in the curriculum tab. Please take time to ask your son/daughter about the work they are covering this year and if they are enjoying the new curriculum. The school council will be shortly asking all children a series of questions asking their views on numerous things including the new curriculum. If you have any queries for us please contact your child's teacher in the first instance.

Parent Mail

Thank you to all those parents who responded to our questionnaire regarding the new Parent Mail system that we introduced back at the end of the summer term. We have received 100 responses to date. Everyone is saying that the system is really good at keeping parents informed and up to date with what is happening in school. However, there is no regular day for letters to be forwarded to you via parent mail, so, therefore it does rely on you opening your emails daily. Several of you agreed that it would be a good idea to keep some 'response' forms in the main foyer. This avoids the need to print off a reply slip at home or is very handy if you do not have a printer or no ink! If you have the internet at home and would like to receive letters via email then please give the details of your email address to the school office. If you have already given us your email address but are not receiving emails from us then please get in touch with the office.

Harvest



We were extremely pleased with the amount of harvest gifts that the children brought to school for our Harvest assemblies. All the gifts were taken over to the Holy Trinity Church by the older children during the morning as they celebrated Harvest Festival at church. Other year groups had their own special assembly in school led by The Rev Adam Dunning. The Church has since distributed the gifts of food and produce to St Theresa's. We received a lovely letter from the centre manager at St Theresa's thanking us for our generosity and kindness pointing out the significant difference the gifts will make to the lives of so many.

Land Ahoy!

As part of the year 4 pupils topic this term on Pirates the children took their 'Pirate Ships' over to Orton Mere to see if they sank or floated. The children had a great time seeing whose boat sailed the furthest or which design withstood the cannon balls and storm force winds! It was great fun but hugely educational as well.

Kid's Shoes for Kosovo

We have been overwhelmed with the response to our appeal for shoes for Kosovo. The box in the main foyer is overflowing with shoes and very shortly they will be collected by the Rotary club to be boxed up and shipped out to children in Kosovo. Thank you very much for your support.



Brightly coloured plastic wrist bands

One or two children have started to wear brightly coloured thin plastic wrist bands to school. They seem to be easily obtainable but they appear to have connotations that are, I believe, totally inappropriate for primary aged children. The wearing of jewellery of any kind is not allowed in school except in exceptional circumstances. These bands should not be worn to school and any pupil seen wearing them or bringing them to school will be asked to hand them into their class teacher for safe keeping. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Young Leaders

At St Botolphs we value the input from children and feel very strongly that they should have a 'voice' and be consulted over many things in school from whether they enjoy school, feel safe or feel listened to. As part of our drive to include children in the leadership of the school, we have recently started to train up some youngsters into 'leadership'. As well as our proactive School Council that meet fortnightly and represent the views of all children, we have introduced an Eco Council who will lead the schools progress towards increased sustainability and the Eco Status; and a Learning Council who will look at learning across the school. Their first job has been to look at the classrooms across the school with myself and my senior staff to tell us what they thought about our learning environment. They were brilliant and very complimentary although definitely knew what was good practice!

Poppies – Poppies will be on sale from November 2nd for a suggested donation of 20p per poppy – thank you



Diary Dates

Friday 23 rd October	Break up for half term
Monday 2 nd November	Return to school
Monday 2 nd November	Y6 Evacuation Day
Tuesday 3 rd November	Uniform Shop 2.45pm – 3.30pm in Hall
Wednesday 4 th November	Parents Coffee Morning in Mr Binmore's room 8.50am – 10.00am
Wednesday 4 th November	5JM Swimming 9.45am – 11.30am
Wednesday 4 th November	Peterborough City Football Club Competition – 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Wednesday 11 th November	5JM Swimming 9.45am – 11.30am
Thursday 12 th November	3JC Class Assembly
Wednesday 18 th November	5JM Swimming 9.45am – 11.30am
Thursday 19 th November	4NN Class Assembly
Friday 20 th November	Children In Need Day
Friday 20 th November	Y3 Open Session 1.30pm – 3.00pm
Tuesday 24 th November	Yrs1/2 Play – pm
Wednesday 25 th November	Y3 trip to Cadburys World
Wednesday 25 th November	5JM Swimming 9.45am – 11.30am
Wednesday 25 th November	Yrs1/2 Play - pm
Thursday 26 th November	Y5 Open Session – 1.30pm – 3.0pm
Friday 27 th November	Y6 Open Session – 1.30pm – 3.00pm