

# St Botolphs Primary School Newsletter September 2008

## Happy New Year!

We have had an excellent start to the new school year. It has been a very quiet and calm start to the new school year with all children not only looking very smart in their school uniform, but also settling down to their new classes and teachers. We welcomed two new teachers to our school at the beginning of term. Miss Brittain who is teaching a year 4 class and Miss Evans who is working with our very youngest children in Reception. The children have made both new teachers very welcome and I know that they join a very dedicated team of staff who work incredibly hard to ensure that all our children at St Botolph's make the very best progress that they can and have good experiences of school. 56 children have started school for the first time in the Reception class and, to date, we have had 5 additional children take up places across the school with many more enquiries weekly. We are very nearly full in all year groups. This reflects on the increasing success of our school and its reputation within the local area.

## Holiday Refurbishments

*Over the school holiday, long awaited new carpets were fitted to all the classrooms in Key Stage 1, with some additional chairs purchased for many classrooms across the school. New toilets were also installed for the year 4 classrooms. This continues a programme of refurbishment for our school toilets that started last year in year 3. New, easy access to the Reception classes' outdoor area was completed with some smart paving blocks to ensure that the area is safe and slopes at a reasonable gradient. The old ICT suite was converted over the holiday into two new rooms. The ICT suite was not being used effectively once we made the decision to invest in laptops for the children to use to support the curriculum. This room has now been divided up to create a room for staff to prepare and plan lessons and a separate meeting room that the school lacked. The Governors ensure that any spending of resources fits within our school spending plans and meets the needs of the school and our children.*



## Harvest Gifts

Many thanks to all those parents whom very kindly donated harvest gifts last week. We had a lovely response to our appeal and all the produce was left at St Holy Trinity Church on the Friday. These will be taken down to the centre of Peterborough and donated to the needy and homeless.

## Car Parking

I seem to have inherited a long-standing difficulty with the lack of parking space on the school property. It has been brought to my attention on many occasions that the inconsiderate parking of a very few is making it difficult if not dangerous for our children. This was brought to a head right at the very end of the summer term when one of our children was very nearly knocked down by a car driver trying to leave the school grounds and not following the correct route. The governors were very keen for me to assess the situation and two PCSO's were positioned outside the school to observe and report back. They were amazed at the congestion that occurred at 3.15pm each day.

They had very little advice to give apart from reminding everyone to be patient and follow the directed routes and not try to take short cuts across the grass. I am confident that we all would hate the local news headlines to one-day report on an accident involving a child at St Botolph's.

Could I also please ask those parents who use the facility at Orton Hall to also park courteously and not on their yellow lines

If we were to lose that facility then there would be even more congestion at the front of the school. Thank you.

## Grandparents Day



It's a joy to be able to open our doors this Friday to invite all our 'Grandparents' to spend some time with us. They will be able to have a short tour of the school followed by spending some time in their grandchild's classroom. They will then move to the hall and stay with their grandchild whilst they enjoy a coffee or tea. Squash will be provided for the children. We will have a selection of cakes on sale in the hall to

be enjoyed with the refreshments. We will be asking for a donation on this occasion and all monies received will be sent directly to support the work of Macmillan Nurses. We would really appreciate the offer of some cakes. If you feel you could support this event and are able to make some cakes then please leave them at the school office in the morning.



## SAT's Results

**We had some very good results this year. The best results for our yr 6 and yr 2 children for the past 3 years. We did send some of our y6 Writing papers back for remarking and they have as yet not been returned, but we are confident that the school will be matching National standards and exceeding them in some areas for 2008. Well done all our children who sat these National tests this summer.**

### Kidz Biz Club

**We are very happy that at the beginning of the term we opened our new out of school club 'Kidz Biz'. It operates for breakfast before school from 7.45am and after school until 5.30pm. There are still a few spaces left so if you are interested please contact the school office for a Kidz Biz pack**

**Parents – please refrain from standing too close to the Y3 classrooms at 3.15 – this avoids disturbing the classes.**

#### Diary Dates

Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Grandparents Day and Macmillan Coffee morning
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Hilltop Residential Trip leaves
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	4JC Swimming
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Hilltop Residential Trip returns
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	4JC swimming
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 3 Flag Fen Trip
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Y6 Open Morning
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	4JC swimming
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual and family photos
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Y5 Parents Open Morning
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Y6 Evacuation Day
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Parent Consultations
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	4JC swimming
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parents Consultations
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception Parents Open Morning
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Break up for half term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Return to school

**Packed Lunches – please note that we are a 'nut free school'. Packed lunches should be free of any product containing nuts eg peanut butter. We have a number of children who have allergies and therefore all these products must be avoided.**

**Uniform Shop** – the next uniform shop will be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 3.00pm – 3.30pm

