



Newsletter

15th October 2009



It appears that the rumours are flying again and there is a bizarre notion that we are going to combine the three Year 2 classes into two. We can assure you that this would never happen; it would give us classes of 45, which will not fit into the classrooms for a start! This has never even been suggested, would not be considered and there are no plans to change – Year 2 will continue up the school as three classes.

Sporting Events – there has been a huge amount of sporting activity taking place recently. In Junior assembly yesterday we heard reports from five different teams. Everyone is playing well and doing their best. The cross country team did really well in their first race and of particular note was James Bottomley, who came second out of over a hundred runners. Well done to James and to everyone else who is participating with such enthusiasm and ability.

Harvest Festival – What a fantastic day we had last Friday. The Harvest Festival services were memorable for several reasons. Firstly, the prayers and poems created by the children showed the high standard of thinking and reflecting that goes on in this school. They really were exceptional and the ones selected were only a few of the many composed. The younger children sang beautifully and the work in the classrooms has shown that they too have an excellent level of understanding about looking after those who are not as fortunate as us and celebrating the hard work of the food producers – in addition to thanking God for our good fortune. Thank you very much to the Reverends Lane and Preece who led two lovely services. Finally there were the well thought out and generous Harvest donations from the parents and children. It was obvious that many people had taken a lot of trouble over putting together the parcels and had included exactly the right balance of goods. It was heart-warming to see and in addition to praising the children, I would also like to say well done to the parents and carers, who perfectly demonstrated the ethos of this school.



Walk to School Fortnight – this is still going well, with many children walking to school. There is great competition between classes to see who has reached Poland or Italy. We'll have to see if anyone has walked the way around Europe by Friday!

Kingswood – As we are within a week of departure, the medical forms should now be brought into school. Without the form we are not able to take the child.



After School Activities – As we move towards Winter, there are going to be occasions when sporting activities can not take place. Please be aware of this and have childcare arrangements on standby. As we are having increasing numbers of children wanting to telephone home, we are going to ask that parents check the answer phone instead. We will make the decision about after school activities by 2pm and so if the weather is bad, parents/carers should telephone after this time to check whether the activity is taking place.

Lower Junior choir will not take place next week because I will be in Kingswood with Y5. I apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause.

Hockey safety – whilst hockey team training is Junior Hockey, the ball used in this training is a regulation hard ball and it could cause a nasty injury. The children have been told that they must wear a mouth guard and shin pads but unfortunately several of them have disregarded this instruction. We are therefore going to enforce the



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rule by saying that if a child does not have either shin pads or a mouth guard, they will not be permitted to participate in the training session and will have to sit out.

PTA jewellery recycling scheme – don't forget that collection day is next Wednesday 21st October.



Samaritans' Purse – The collection date for filled shoeboxes is 9th November.



Pyjama Day – Friday 23rd October is an Own Clothes Day with a difference, a Pyjama Day. The children may wear pyjamas, slippers and a dressing gown for school, although they should bring outdoor shoes for playtimes, with the collection (£1 per child) going to Manchester Children's Hospital. We have deviated from our usual charity support schedule as this appeal seemed appropriate; the hospital serves our children locally and we know that several of our children and their younger siblings have benefited from its services.

The hospital is now on a new site and is very up to date but they are always seeking funding to enable them to buy the very best equipment and to carry out valuable research.

Absence notification – We have decided to check the whereabouts of any children who have not registered at school and we have not received notification of absence. This is not to try to catch anyone out but because we are aware that some children travel to school alone and we need to be sure that they have not gone astray. Therefore, can I please ask you to telephone school before 9.30am and let us know that your child is going to be absent that day. Once you have done this, you do not need to inform us each day, your child should just bring in a note explaining the absence on their return.

Wellington Quiz – two Y6 teams took part in the Wellington Quiz last week. They both did really well and interestingly only didn't win because they did not know the answers to the questions on soaps. We feel that is a compliment because our children have much better things to do than watch soaps!

More past pupil success – news from Jack Richardson, remembered as an extremely talented pianist who is now in Y8. He has been selected from many to star in the second series of Survivors 2, where he plays the lost son of one of the main characters. What a fantastic achievement, we are looking forward to watching him.

School Success – the reporting of school performance is changing and will not now be dependent upon a level gained in Y6 but will represent the progress made by pupils from the day that they start school. The school will be evaluated against others with similar profiles, looking at the progress of the average point score for each child, with the overall figure being called the Contextual Value Added total.



We are pleased to report that our results for both in 2009 are significantly above what would usually be expected, putting us into the top 10% of schools nationally. During the self-evaluation process, we are asked to give reasons for this and can put it down to high standards of teaching, teacher/parent partnership, enthusiasm and application of the pupils and the ethos of the school. The data produced forms a crucial part of our pupil tracking information and will be used throughout the next year to inform planning decisions.