



Newsletter

8th October 2009



Walk to School fortnight seems to have got off to a great start, despite the weather. The children really like the posters, where they colour a footprint each day to help their class to walk around Europe. The passports and stickers are a big success too. If your child has not been walking it is not too late to start. A member of staff is helping with crossing at the end of York Road and it is safe to drop your child off at the other end of York Road or on Vicarage Lane, depending on their age. At the moment drivers are being very considerate and are letting us cross but it would be even better if there were no drivers. Problems are still being caused by parked cars on Grange Road and York Road, both blocking the footpath and narrowing the road.



I have today written a very serious letter to the council about my disgust with Trafford for not acting faster on their own recommendations for safer crossing at the front of school. I have copied in several senior personnel and Graham Brady MP and hopefully we will have a rapid response. If as many of you as possible could complain about the overhanging hedges, that would help too – this can be done from the Trafford.gov.uk website. The children are very clear about the issues; it's a shame that the powers that be cannot be as sensible as them!

If anyone is interested in this problem and would like to join the **Traffic Working Party**, please join us on Thursday 5th November at 9am for a meeting. New members are always welcome – we would like to keep up the impetus on this.



Finally on this subject, a lot of children are coming to school on bikes and scooters which is great but they must not be ridden in the playgrounds at all. There are obvious Health and Safety issues with this. Bikes and scooters may be stored in the courtyard at the rear of school near to Mrs Moss's outside door. The gate is locked at 9.15am and opened again at 2.45pm and there are places around the courtyard where a bike can be locked up. If the weather is bad, there is a small shed there and they can be stored inside this. Hopefully after the Traffic group has met we can choose a cycle shed and get it into place quickly.



PTA jewellery recycling scheme – in addition to the information given last week, on collection day one bag will be chosen at random and that contributor will win an MP3 player.

Harvest Festival – It is the school Harvest Festival tomorrow. Just as a reminder, the one for Reception and Y1 will be held at school at 9.15pm with the one for Y2 upwards being held at St. Mary's church at 2pm. Friends and family are invited to the church and if you have sent a slip into school, you will be able to take your child straight home with you at the end. All other children will be walked back to school. Please ensure that your parcels contain non-perishable food; things like coffee and tea bags, biscuits, pasta, instant rice etc. go down well. If you are able to help with either the walking up to church or the taking of the parcels up to church at 10.30am in a car, we would be most grateful.



St. Mary's Harvest Festival will take place in Family Service on Sunday at 10.45am. Our parcels will be on display and as an added bonus Reverend Preece will be blessing the largest tractor that he could find.

There is a Traditional Sunday Lunch being held at the Parish Centre on Sunday 18th October. Bookings need to be in by this Sunday – please contact Jo on tel: 0161 929 1537 email: admin@bowdonchurch.org to book your place.

Samaritans' Purse – we are again participating in this scheme and leaflets are being sent out this week. This is the one where you pack a shoebox with lovely goodies for a child who is unlikely to receive other Christmas gifts. Ideas for filling these are on the leaflets.

Birds of Prey demonstration – The Friends of Denzell Gardens and the Devisdale are having a Birds of Prey demonstration on Monday 26th October (half-term) at 1.30pm at Denzell House. As a part of this occasion, with flight demonstration, raffle and refreshments, there will be a competition for the best drawing, painting or model of a bird of prey which the children should take with them. Please email janelstub@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 0161 928 3265 to reserve your place, there is a charge for entry.



Swine Flu – yesterday I attended a meeting that gave guidance about precautions for Swine Flu prevention. There are some very clear and simple instructions being given and these are being implemented in school.

- Hand washing is the single most useful method for prevention of the spread of the virus. The children have received instruction on this and it will be regularly reviewed. They should use soap and wash between the fingers and all around their hands. Proper hand washing is much more effective than gel, in fact gel is not working well because children are tending to wash their hands less and there have been problems with children getting it in their eyes.
- Children with a cold or a runny nose should always have a tissue or a handkerchief in school. Catching sneezes in a tissue and then throwing it away is very effective, whereas sneezing into your hands is not, for obvious reasons!
- Cleaning staff are wiping down doors, door handles and taps regularly. If we have several cases reported, we will also wipe down computer keyboards, toys and equipment.
- Children must not share cups or drinking bottles, each child should bring in their own.
- The authorities are no longer swabbing to confirm cases and many usual viruses are being suspected as Swine Flu. The most definite symptom and the one that occurs first, is a high temperature 38°C or over, sustained throughout the illness and at least two of: cough or shortness of breath, runny nose/sneezing, limb or joint pain, loss of appetite, diarrhoea/vomiting, sore throat, aching muscles, chills, tiredness, headache. Of course these are also symptoms of many viruses but if you feel that your child may have Swine Flu, they should not come into school. If a family member has it but the child themselves is not displaying symptoms, then they should come to school
- The National Pandemic Flu Service www.pandemicflu.direct.gov.uk Tel: 0800 1 513 100 is a point of contact. You should contact your GP if your child is under 12 months old, has underlying health problems, is getting worse after five days, or suddenly gets much worse at any time.

There is no cause for alarm in school, we have no more reports of viruses than is usual at this time of year but we would obviously like to contain those that we do have. Most suspected cases in this country are not Swine Flu at all and it is generally mild.

Unfortunately the media is alarming people with reports from a small number of very disturbing cases. We are being kept informed and will pass all information on to you.

Bowdon is recognised for Fair Play again – the high number of children in this school receiving 'player of the week', and 'fair play' awards from outside organisations has been noticed and this quality is recognised as being a feature of the school. This week the A and B lacrosse teams played in the Altrincham league. Both teams played really well and the A team is currently joint top of the league. In addition to their success on the field, we are so proud of the A team for winning the Spirit of Lacrosse trophy and getting the year's tournaments off to such a good start. Most valued player awards went to Cameron Jamie on the A team and Charlie Biddlecombe on the B team – well done!