

**Own clothes day tomorrow  
- £1 per child for the British  
Heart Foundation**



22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010

# Newsletter

Well here we are with the last newsletter of the year and what a fantastic year it has been, finishing with a flourish of Leavers' events that suitably demonstrate the character and many accomplishments of our super Year Six.

At this stage of the year and as I am about to begin my substantive Headship in September, I would like to reiterate my commitment to the whole school community. The success of this school is a result of the partnerships and supportive relationships between all members – children, staff, parents, Governors, churches, local authority and the local community.

- ✓ The staff here 'go the extra mile' and it has been heartening to note the parental recognition of this fact in the questionnaires.
- ✓ Our churches give us an incredible amount of support and we relish our strengthening relationship with them.
- ✓ Although some parents do not perceive the Governors as being visibly involved with the school, I can assure you that they provide the backbone of the school. There are six Governors' committees who meet regularly and communicate by email and telephone in between, approving all main decisions, analysing data and standards, governing the finances, dealing with personnel and appointment of staff, monitoring the Head teacher to name but a few. The main Governors' meetings then ratify the decisions made, approve policies and guide strategic planning. In addition, at least one Governor attends every major function, PTA events, concerts, Sports Day, meetings etc. It is a major commitment, undertaken without remuneration and occasionally requiring great strength of character. They have received criticism in the past year and a half for not communicating with parents; as you can imagine, their hands were tied and they simply could not give parents the information that they requested due to legal restrictions. I can assure you that they can not be faulted in their desire for wanting the very best for this school, its staff and pupils. They have been instrumental in the progress that the school has made during this transition period.
- ✓ We are aware of the amount of support given to the school by parents and do not take it for granted. There was a fantastic response to my request for parents to help walk up to church yesterday and you were much appreciated, especially as we squeezed past several areas restricted by builders. Restrictions placed upon parents by work commitments are increasing and we are thankful for the support that working parents give to the school by giving up their time and money to raise funds and help with social events for the PTA and to support school trips. We note the enormous contribution made by a group of parents who support everything – curriculum, trips, walking to church, clubs in school, PTA etc. This is a valuable resource for us and there is no doubt that we could not provide the variety and quality of 'extras' without them.
- ✓ The local authority and the diocese are 'behind the scenes' but they provide an enormous network of training, information and support for the school.
- ✓ The local community provide support, expert advice and security for the school. The immediate neighbours are often inconvenienced and although they occasionally become frustrated, particularly with parking problems; on the whole they are extremely patient with us.
- ✓ Finally the children, who give us so much every day. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing a child doing their very best, with good manners, treating each other with kindness, loving learning and achieving success; day in and day out. We expect this and much more – they do not disappoint us!





**A better photograph of Y5 at the Hallé (thank you Mr King) – they are centre, front.**

### **Parent and Pupil Questionnaires**

Thank you for your responses, we are obviously delighted with the amount of positive comments and the approval of some new initiatives. The ideas for development are also interesting and they will be followed up by workshop/discussion groups involving staff/pupils/parents/Governors (as appropriate) in the autumn for the main areas mentioned (e.g. uniform). It is interesting to note that several of the issues raised by

individuals show us that certain information is not reaching parents and that we need to continue with our drive to improve communication, so that all parents can fully understand the depth of the curriculum and the meticulousness of the planning, assessment and pupil tracking taking place.

### **Parental Sporting Showdown**

Hard fought matches between our parents and teams from the Bollin School took place last week in football and rounders. Everyone had lots of (competitive!) fun and we would hope to repeat and possibly develop this relationship next year. The Bollin parents won one rounders match  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 and Bowdon won one 7 to 5. The Bollin won the football match 4 – 2. Thank you to Mr McCarthy and Mrs Cochrane for organising/refereeing and umpiring the matches.

### **Holidays 2010 – 2011**

When we set the holiday dates the SATs had been moved to June but the new government has moved them back to May again. We have looked at changing the holidays even at this late stage but this would mean us finishing right at the end of July, which is too late. We are therefore leaving the holidays as they are but will look to reinstate the two week spring holiday for 2011 – 12. Please note that we can not give permission for holiday absences where it is felt that the total absence (including illness) may exceed 20 sessions (10 days) and only then in circumstances where a parent/carer cannot take holidays from work during school holidays. Permission cannot be give just because it is cheaper or you are travelling in a group. When making a decision we look at the pupil's attendance over the current and previous year.



### **Extra teacher training day**

Please note that the Government has set an extra teacher training day for curriculum planning and we have decided to add this to the autumn half term holiday. Therefore the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November will both be training days and there will be no school for the children on those days.

### **100% Attendance**

Twenty two pupils have achieved 100% attendance this year, well done!

**We hope that everyone has a wonderful summer.  
Good luck to Year Six (don't forget us!)  
We will see everyone else on September 6<sup>th</sup>.**