

6th October 2011 Newsletter



GCSE Success and School Development

This seems a strange item on a primary school newsletter, however following the Y5 secondary transition meeting I thought back to the summer holidays when the GCSE results came out. We always search through these for the children who attended this school, to see how they did. It was most gratifying to see that they all appear to have done very well indeed, across all of the different schools. Our children at the Altrincham and Sale Grammar Schools, St. Ambrose, Wellington, Knutsford and the Independent schools all appeared to gain between nine and twelve GCSEs A – C. I couldn't find any of ours at Altrincham College of Arts for that year but this year nine children have moved on to that school and they were excited to tell me how well they were doing when we held the Y7 club. That particular school's results were very good this year and they are at the top of the Trafford non-selective league table, based on pupil progress. It is also interesting to note that one of our Governing body, Rev. Libby Lane from St. Peter's Church, Hale has also joined the Governing Body of Altrincham College of Arts.

The evidence from the GCSE results supports our aim to ensure that every child has the basic skills and knowledge to learn independently, to set themselves high standards of behaviour and attainment and to take advantage of any opportunity given to them. It also confirms the success of the programme of learning and teaching, together with the broad and skills based curriculum that is in place.

The School Vision Meeting last Thursday was very well attended and it was most encouraging to see the parental commitment to not only supporting your children but to developing the school and contributing to our priorities. This will be followed up by termly parents' meetings and we will also be inviting parent representatives to join our school development groups. Thank you very much for the supportive emails received since last week and also for parental offers of expertise.

The Chair, Vice-Chair and four other Governors attended the meeting and that, together with the staff Vision Day and the School Council's contributions means that all areas of the school community have been involved in this process and are moving forward together. Work has already started on some aspects, please look out for regular updates.



Harvest Festival – This takes place tomorrow, with the infant service at school at 9.15am and the Y2 to Y6 service at 2pm at St. Mary's. Parents/carers/family/friends are warmly invited to both. Details of suitable donations were in last week's newsletter but can I please reiterate the request for car drivers to help with the transport of the donations up to church following the infant service and adults to help with walking the children up to church (and hopefully down again) leaving at 1.30pm.

Other Bowdon Harvest Services

St. Mary's	10.45am	Sunday 9 th October (Hotpot Supper 7.45pm after choral evensong)
St. Luke's	11am	Sunday 9 th October (Bring and share lunch following the service)

Good Road Safety News (at last) - I am wary of giving good news because last time the promised road crossing support was then withdrawn. However, I spoke to the Trafford Road Safety manager today and he told me that yesterday the council agreed to place a Crossing Guard on South Downs Road, close to York Drive. This will combine the two current crossing points and make it much safer for parents/carers and their children to walk from the Hale direction. The Traffic and Travel Team are meeting with him at school before half term to discuss the ongoing issues here.



Scholastic Book Club - The deadline for orders is Friday 7th October. Please place orders online at <http://clubs-school.scholastic.co.uk/bowdon-ce>

Parents' Evenings - Next week the parents' evenings begin and therefore all Junior staff led activities that are scheduled for Monday and Thursday after school, will not take place. Performing Arts and Cre8 will continue as usual, as will the activities for the rest of the week. Upper and Lower Junior Choirs will not take place because we need to rehome School's Out for those evenings.

Please note that these meetings are ten minutes long and this first one is to check how well your child has settled in, clear up any queries regarding homework and class procedure and to see if there is anything that you can support at home. If you need to discuss a particular Special Needs issue, this will be done in a separate meeting. Please note that if you are late for or overstay your ten minute slot then this inconveniences other parents/carers who are waiting. We are happy to see parents as issues arise and would hope that they are not left to build up for official Parents' meetings.

Cross Country - The first race of the year took place on Saturday and over fifty Bowdon children took part, all running well and making a very start to the season. Well done everyone and we hope that you are looking forward to the next one on the 15th.



Lacrosse - The first Lacrosse tournament took place on Tuesday and the team came 4th, leaving them determined to train hard before the next one. They have a great Bowdon tradition to follow and are aware of the challenge that this presents. Mrs Cochrane was happy with them and especially with their excellent attitude and behaviour.

Junior Awards - We would like to particularly congratulate Stamford this week. Parents are no doubt aware that Friday's assemblies are 'Achievement' assemblies and that Merit certificates in the Juniors and Golden Awards in the Infants are presented. This term we have also introduced commendations for children displaying outstanding behaviour, attitude to learning and good manners – 'Role Model of the Week.' In the Juniors house points are added together with two points for every merit and these are totalled for a weekly house winner. Stamford have been lagging behind a little for the last couple of weeks and we encouraged them to make a special effort for this week. Merits were awarded this morning because of Harvest Festival tomorrow and Stamford won by a clear 26 points, with eleven children from that house being awarded a Merit certificate – a new record! We are very proud of them all and look forward to seeing which house will impress us next week.

P.T.A. News

The Plant Sale, held last Friday, raised £46 for the Gardening Club. All the bulbs sold, along with many others, can be purchased from the Suttons Seeds Fundraising Catalogue. Please place all orders in the Silver PTA box by Friday.

- * The "Bags for School" will be distributed shortly for the collection on Tuesday 1st November. Please collect old clothes, bedding, towels etc to recycle and raise money for the school.
- * Save your pennies !
There will be a charity cake sale, after school, on Friday 14th October. Proceeds raised will be divided equally between The Genesis Appeal and the PTA.
- * A PTA group is to begin working with the School Council to decide how money, raised by the PTA, can be used to improve the Junior Playground.
- * 41 people now 'Like' the PTA's Facebook page.
If you are on Facebook please click on 'Like' to receive the latest PTA news.