

Staplegrove C of E Primary School

March 2010



Issue 7

Staplegrove C of E Primary School
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It was lovely to catch up with so many of you at Parents Evening on Tuesday and Wednesday. I hope you found the evening informative and that you are happy with the progress your child is making in their class. Teachers work harder than ever during a parents evening week and have to work very long intensive days. A big thank you must go to all of them from myself and on behalf of the parents, many of whom caught me to personally pass this message on.

Kind regards,

Kirsti Nelson

Texting service

We will shortly be using a new text messaging service to notify parents of school closure and checking pupils attendance in the first instance. This is in response to parents requests for this service following recent bad weather events whereby the school was closed due to snow. This school is able to support this service at the current time and its use will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

It is a legal requirement to notify all parents / carers who may be contacted using this service of the following statement below, please note the privacy notice has been updated to reflect this and is available on the school website and school noticeboard.

The School has a duty of care to all of their pupils, and this care comes into being everyday at the start of the school day and whilst the pupil is on school premises. In order to assist with this duty this school has made the decision to use a text messaging service to communicate more easily on a number of subjects involving their children, such as First Day Absence, Emergency Closure, Reminders of Holidays and Events.

To inform parents or designated carers of important issues the Text Messaging Service will send a standard text message to the designated mobile phone number. Apart from the contact telephone number and the pupil's first name, no other personal data will be retained by the Texting Company - Essendex.

If you require any further information please contact the School.

New section on the website

I have had a new section added on the school website called "parents." There are 5 subsections in there :

1. FOSS (Friends of Staplegrove School)
2. Tea with the Head
3. Tea Group

4. Questionnaires

5. Support for parents (including dyslexia booklet and homework guide)

I hope that the information added to this section will be of interest to you.

Tea with the Head

I spent a lovely afternoon with 6 parents on Tuesday at "Tea with the Head". I shared the autumn term questionnaire summary that will come home with this newsletter and an overview of the school development plan. We then spent time answering questions which people had not had the opportunity to ask, ranging from birthday arrangements to the star of the week and team point system. Notes from this session are on the website under the new "parents" section.

The next group is planned for Tuesday 23rd March 2010 at 2.15pm and then there will be an opportunity on a monthly basis. Please come along for a chat and a cup of tea!!

We are also going to have an evening session on Wednesday 31st March. This will be at 7.00pm in the staffroom.

Sainsbury's and Tesco tokens

It is that time of year again when we are collecting both Tesco and Sainsbury's vouchers! Please help us collect a record number this time by asking all your family and friends to collect for Staplegrave. These schemes allow us to gain extra resources that really enhance the learning at our school. The collection boxes are outside the school office.

Give it a Go!

This is a Government initiative to encourage children that are age 5-15 years old who are in receipt of free school meals to take up free out of school opportunities. If you are eligible for free school meals (even if you do not take this up) your child is entitled to up to 2 hours of out of school activities a week and 30 hours during the school holidays.

This entitlement starts from the 1st April and is really as good as it sounds. Each child in receipt of free school meals (FSM) has an allocation of £300. This can be used to pay for Scout and Guide based groups, Team Theme, after school clubs and music lessons including those that take place in school time as well as many other opportunities.

Please come into the office if you are unsure of your entitlement, even if you do not want to claim free school meals, if you are registered for free school meals your child will qualify for this free funding.

Pre-deployment service at All Saints Church, Norton Fitzwarren

Mrs Taylor and I attended this service on behalf of the school on Wednesday 24th February. It was a service to show support to 40 Commando Royal Marines who are going out to Afghanistan in the coming months. I would like to say a special thank you to Courtney Hall (Cedar class) and Andrew Batstone (Oak class) who made a special effort to attend the service on behalf of the children at Staplegrove and presented a candle and a message to 40 Commando from our school that will go out with the troops when they go.

Maths evening

I mentioned in the last newsletter that Miss Bolton is running another maths support evening after a very successful evening last term. At this meeting our school calculation booklet was shared and explained. The area that parents indicated they would like more support in is fractions, decimals and percentages. Miss Bolton is running an evening on this, on Thursday 25th March.

Please come along. you will find that she will make it far easier to understand than when we all went to school!!! If you are interested, please complete the reply slip on page 7 so we can get an idea of numbers.

Sports Relief / Cycle security marking

This year Sports relief is on Friday 19th March. We are going to participate in this but our celebrations will take place a day early on Thursday 18th March. The children can come dressed as their favourite sports personality and they will take part in a fun run in school time. A sponsorship form will be sent out next week so children can be sponsored for this event.

On Thursday 18th March we have arranged for our local PCSO's Tony Wearmouth and Claire Escott to come into School from 3.15pm to security mark bicycles. There will be a small charge of £1.50 for the secure etching which is permanent. A good time to ensure your bicycles are safe – this opportunity is also available for older brothers / sisters and parents bicycles. Please bring your bicycles, and money on the day, to the school playground from 3.15pm onwards.

FOSS chocolate bingo

Friday 26th March is a non school uniform day and children and adults can come to school wearing whatever they want for a fee of £1! On this night there will be the FOSS chocolate bingo! Doors will open for the chocolate bingo at 6.30pm and it is eyes down at 7.00pm. It is a really fun night and even better as all of the prizes are chocolate! More details will follow.

School Link Book Catalogue

We are sending out a School Link catalogue from Scholastic Books with this newsletter. It enables you to order discounted books whilst raising funds for the school. Please have a browse through this latest edition and place an order if anything takes your fancy. All orders and payment to be returned by Wednesday 17th March.

Bags for Schools

Thank you to all of you who collected your unwanted materials in the blue bags in October last year. We have just received a cheque for £200 for all of the clothing, fabrics and soft furnishings we collected. The next collection is booked for Thursday 22 April and bags will be sent home before the Easter holidays, hopefully during the week beginning 22 March, a good time to have a spring clean!

Mothers Day Workshop

A reminder that there is a Mothers Day workshop on Saturday 13 March between 2.00- 4.30pm run by Mrs Nelson and Mrs Taylor. If you are interested please return your permission slip (sent home last week) to the school office.

Easter Celebrations

We will be running an Easter Bonnet Parade in School on Thursday 1 April as in previous years (see pictures on the school website). Children will parade in their hats and prizes will be given for the best in each class, parents are welcome to attend the assembly at 10.10am.

There will be a collective worship in school to recognise Palm Sunday on Monday 29 March at 10.10am and on Tuesday 30 March at 10.10am to remember the Last Supper. The whole school will go up St Johns Church on Wednesday 31 March at 9.30am for Easter worship, parents are welcome to join in with all these services.

Questionnaires

At the end of last term we sent a questionnaire home to find out your views. This is really important and does impact on our school development plan. A copy of the summary of results is contained on the next page. I hope you find it interesting. Thank you to everybody who completed this and the one that came round this term. A summary of this one will be circulated at a later date when all returns have been received.

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Autumn Term Questionnaire 2009

We had 55 replies to this questionnaire which came from a cross section of the classes.

	Questions asked	
1	My child enjoys school	100% agreed or strongly agreed
2	The school keeps my child safe	100% agreed or strongly agreed
3	The school informs me about my child's progress	100% agreed or strongly agreed
4	My child is making enough progress at this school	95% agreed or strongly agreed
5	The teaching is good at this school	98% agreed or strongly agreed
6	The school helps me to support my child's learning	100% agreed or strongly agreed
7	The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle	100% agreed or strongly agreed
8	The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future (for example, changing year group, changing school, and for children who are finishing school, entering further or higher education, or entering employment)	98% agreed or strongly agreed
9	The school meets my child's particular needs	95% agreed or strongly agreed
10	The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	100% agreed or strongly agreed
11	The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns	96% agreed or strongly agreed
12	The school is led and managed effectively	100% agreed or strongly agreed
13	Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school	96% agreed or strongly agreed

Outcomes

Question 4

All children are set a target for reading, writing and mathematics at the beginning of the academic year of approximately 2 sublevels. The class teachers discuss these with myself in September and then meet at a termly Pupil Progress Meeting (PPM) to review progress and ensure each child is making appropriate progress. Any actions will be reported to parents at parents evening or be put into an Individual Education Plan (IEP)

Question 9

It seemed from the questionnaire responses that it was particularly parents of children with additional needs that felt that the school did not fully meet their child's needs. As a school we have redeveloped our very able policy and SEN procedures. These are available on the school website. IEPs should now come home termly and you will be offered extra time at parents evening to discuss this. We have a clear procedure for identifying our very able children and they should be receiving differentiated work to ensure they are sufficiently stretched.

Question 11

As a school we do listen carefully to all views and concerns that you might have. Obviously it is not always possible to accommodate all new ideas but your input is always carefully considered. I have introduced a "Tea with the Head" session, once a month on a Tuesday to give you opportunities to hear the future plans for our school and to ask any questions. We will also be running an evening one as well. If there is every anything you are not sure of, please feel free to come in and see me!!

Calculations Evening Thursday 25 March at 6.30pm

I / we would like to attend the Maths Evening run by Miss Bolton.

Parent's / Carer Name :.....

Parent's / Carer Name :.....

Child's Name :..... Class :.....