

Staplegrove C of E Primary School

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Issue 5

Staplegrove C of E Primary School
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Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the holidays..... even if we did only manage one day before closing for the snow!

I hope you all had a lovely break and are starting the new year feeling refreshed!

I look forward to catching up with you over the coming term!!

Kind regards,

Kirsti Nelson

Headteacher

Thank you to staff

I know Christmas now seems a distant memory but I would just like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of our staff for making it a brilliant one in school! We always aim to give our children really good experiences that they will remember for a lifetime. School plays, Christmas lunches, Father Christmas visits, parties, special events and visits do not just happen. They take a huge amount of planning and organising which takes time and staff that are prepared to give the extra to enable these things to happen.

All staff at our school give 100% to make your children's time at school as exciting as possible. Obviously, on occasions we cannot please all people, all of the times and occasionally we can make mistakes (after all, we are only human!) We are always open to suggestions and to look at ways of making our service even better but on occasions, particularly over Christmas, some staff received some quite aggressive communication from parents.

Please can I ask that when you approach our staff, that you remember, they really are doing the best job possible. They all work very hard for the benefit of the school and your children and they deserve to be treated respectfully even if you are feeling unhappy.

SENCO role

As most of you know, I have been the Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) at Staplegrove for the past 8 years. I have managed to maintain this role along with being Headteacher but have now decided that I need to relinquish the role in order to focus on other areas of development within the school.

We have decided that Annette Law will take on the majority of this role as from January 2010. Mrs Law is an excellent teacher with much experience of working with children who have additional needs and I know she will be brilliant in this new role.

Donna Huddy who has been teaching a day in Oak and Beech class will take over as class partner teacher in Beech so the class will now be taught Wednesday and Thursday by Mrs Huddy and the rest of the week by Mrs Law. These 2 teachers

have already worked closely together and their teaching talents definitely compliment each other.

Oak class will be benefiting from having our Graduate Trainee teacher, Miss Emma Williamson working with Mrs Hill this term and she will cover the class in Mrs Hill's management time. An advert has been placed to cover Mrs Hill's maternity cover and I will let you know arrangements when they are decided.

Severe weather advice

I am writing this from home as the school is currently shut due to the snow so unfortunately this reminder is a little late!

It is still important to clarify the procedures we follow in case it happens again this term!

The decision to shut the school is made as soon as possible. I endeavour to get into school but opening the school depends on how many teachers are able to get in safely to supervise, how safe the site is and the weather conditions themselves. Our aim is to open if possible and this decision has to be made on a day to day basis.

Each school has to make its own decision hence all announcements coming at different times.

When the decision is made, both BBC Somerset Sound and Heart FM are contacted so the information is read out on the radio. It will also appear on their websites however this can be slow as the sites do crash (as this morning!) We will leave a "snow message" on the school phone informing you of the decision to close the school and if possible we will aim to get a message put on the school website.

Outdoor play

We would like to take the opportunity of using our outside space more extensively. We are very lucky to have our own large field within our school site and we are only really taking advantage of this in the summer. From next week, we would like children to have the choice of using the field as well as the playground during morning play initially. This should give the children more space to run around or find a quiet space for a game.

For this reason, we would like to request that children bring a pair of wellies (or suitable pair of outside shoes that can be changed into) into school. These need to be in a plastic bag and labelled.

Christmas giving

A big thank you for all of the charitable giving you have given over the Christmas period. After each of our Christmas shows, a collection was made for the Open Door charity (for homeless people in Taunton) and we raised £210.59.

At our school Christingle service, the children returned their Christingle collection pots and this raised £170.50 for the Children's Society.

Dress code reminder

The children at our school always stand out as looking smart when we attend any event or trip. This is because we have a pride in our school and have high expectations of each other.

It is really important that the children have a smart uniform and appearance. This means that children should have suitable black shoes for school and the wearing of trainers is not permitted.

Children are allowed to wear a sensible watch and have a plain stud earring if they so wish.

We ask that children will have a sensible haircut for school and that girls tie their hair back with a simple blue or black hairband. I understand that boys like to have tram lines in their hair but we encourage parents not to have these done if possible.

Thank you for your support.

School Link – Book Orders

Today School Link catalogues will be going home, this offers you the chance to order books at bargain prices and at the same time raises funds for the School. You can either order direct online or return your orders to the School Office. If you return the order to School then you will not have to pay postage and packing! Please return any orders to the School Office by Wednesday 20th January.

Money for nothing!

If you are an internet shopper please can I ask you to use this “skill” to make money for our school. There is website called www.easyfundraising.org.uk which will make donations to schools if people access other sites through them. There is no additional cost to your purchases and all of the main companies are supporting this including Next, M and S, Comet, Amazon, Direct Line to name but a few. There are hundreds of companies registered. All you need to do is type in the site above, search for the cause which is “Staplegrave Primary School” and then access your usual shopping site. For each purchase completed like this, they will send a cash donation to the school!!

Cycling Club

Go Ride Cycle Clubs for Year 5 and 6 children at Ladymead School are starting this term, run by Tone Sports Partnership. It is hoping the Club will run on a Wednesday from 4-5pm, activities on offer will include cyclo cross/track, bike handling, time trials, team pursuit races and more. For more information please see the poster on the school noticeboard for contact details.