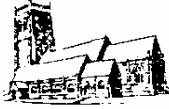


ST MARYCHURCH C.E. PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Our Christian values:

Joy

Kindness

Love

Peace

'Doing our very best and caring for each other'

NEWSLETTER END OF SPRING TERM 2010

31st March 2010

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the Holy Week and lead up to Easter, the important time of the Church's year, I would like to share some of the very positive messages we feel are helping the school move forward in a time of ever increasing expectations. There is a lot to celebrate about the work and achievement of this school.

1. Nursery Developments

We are very pleased with the numbers purchasing hours over the 15 hours a week we can already offer. The Nursery lunchtime has been a great success and we are almost full to capacity. We can still take children for next term and will be looking to offer places for September. Please spread the word!

2. Choir Performance at the Schools' Music Prom

Many parents supported this lovely event. We were all very proud of the Choir's performance of Abba songs. They were brilliant. Also their costumes were wonderful. Many thanks too for the effort that went into providing authentic costumes!

3. Guitar Lessons

We recently had our first performance from Mr. Bentley's group. It was lovely to hear them perform. We have some potentially very good guitarists

4. Sport

Our football teams continue to do very well.

Boys

The Y5/6 Boys' could win their league and cup competitions having won all except one match.

The Y3/4 Boys' team play a quarter final match this week.

Girls

The Y5/6 Girls' Team could also win their league and cup competitions, and are unbeaten.

The Y3/4 Girls' Team played their first matches in a tournament here recently and did well.



5. Ofsted Monitoring Report/Parent Groups

We have had some very positive feedback from the HMI's report – written as a letter. There is so much going on to keep the objective of continuously raising standards. With that in mind we are very grateful to the **Parents group**, working with Mrs. Bond, acting as a liaison between parents and the school. This is very important work because we care about listening. The group is very keen that they continuously support the good news coming out of the school, from children, parents and staff. We often only hear the moans and groans and don't receive the positive comments. In my experience there is such a lot happening here at present that the community should be very proud of us and what we're doing together.

One example is the **Family Literacy group** which is being very successful. It is continuing next term and would welcome new members. They are a very friendly group with an enthusiastic tutor, Rita Baker. Please contact Mrs. Hetherington for further details.

6. Coffee Afternoons/Text Messaging Service

Thank you to all parents and friends who supported the Coffee Afternoons. We have had very good feedback about the text messaging service (which we used for an urgent appeal for help making teas and coffees) – and from our point of view it managed to get us some much needed help at the Upper Juniors afternoon.

The Text Message service will not replace newsletters etc. it will be a reminder and instant news service.

7. Friends' Association

The Friends' Association has raised several thousands of pounds for school resources in the past year. It does a lot to buy extra resources for the benefit of every child. However, they do need a boost of support as there is a small but very keen group.

We need as much support as possible as we set targets to support two major efforts:-

1. An outdoor learning area, called a Forest School, to be located in our woodland area, using the natural environment we have.
2. To add to the Reading scheme books in the school.

The Friends Association also supports many smaller events – such as Christmas parties. I'm very grateful for all the hard work that went into the Discos last Friday. Thank you.

If you would like to join the Friends Committee or can offer help please speak to Mrs. Hetherington.

8. New Clubs

Despite the wet weather the new clubs are doing very well. The Infant and Lower Junior Football Clubs are growing and likely to carry on next term.

The Torquay Utd. Community Coaching course enjoyed a recent trip to Plainmoor – but not the result.

The Cheerleading Club is much enjoyed by the children – and Premier Sport leader.

If your child would like to join the ASC Y3/4 or Y1/2 Soccer Clubs or the KS2 Cheerleading Club, which all hope to continue next term, **please ask at the school office for an application form.**

Cricket Club for Year 5 and 6 will start soon after we start back for the summer term.

9. More Thanks!

Thank you for those children and parents who supported the Sport Relief 'Shirt of Hurt' day. I was glad to remove my Portsmouth shirt, but we did raise £62.92 so it was well worth it. Thank you. My comfort is that I haven't stopped smiling since my team, Southampton, won a cup final at Wembley Stadium on Sunday!

10. Parking

Only one moan! Please do not park in Petitor Mews, opposite our front entrance. It is a private road and for residents only. We've had a number of complaints from residents and we do need to keep on friendly terms with our neighbours.

Also, we've had complaints from residents from Hartop Road that on several occasions residents have been unable to leave or enter their home due to people parking on the pavement and too close to the entrance of their property. Please park safely and consider others.

Please use Chilcote Close Car Park -Torbay Council allows our parents to use the Chilcote Close Car Park, provided the following terms and conditions are met:

Free parking will only be provided for parents and guardians of children attending St Marychurch CE Primary & Nursery School, between 8.40 am and 9.10 am and between 3.00 pm and 3.30 pm on school days, provided a valid permit is displayed in the windscreen of the vehicle. If parents need a longer period, i.e. to talk with teachers or other parents, they must purchase a ticket from the machine. Failure to comply with these arrangements will result in an excess charge notice being served.

Permits can be obtained from the school office.

11. Visitors from Switzerland

Next term we hope to have two teachers from Switzerland with us for several weeks. They are studying at the University of Zurich. We are hoping to continue this link with the University, which I have developed before at my previous school.

12. Bike Parking

This is nearly finished. The arrangements, as previously advertised, will be re-circulated next term.

13. School Uniform

Thank you to the majority who continue to adopt the school uniform policy so thoroughly. However, we have noticed one or two slippages such as trainers and boots – which should not be worn in school. Please use the holidays as a time to ensure your child's uniform is complete.

14. School Events

A school calendar was sent out with the recent March Newsletter. You can always also find these dates on our school website www.st-marychurch-primary.org.uk

15. May Day Service

Due to the Bank Holiday weekend this traditional annual service will be held on Tuesday, 4th May at Church. The children will all meet in school in the morning (bringing a small bunch of flowers) and process to church for the service which involves crowning of the May Queen. After returning to school there will be Maypole Dancing by our Year 6 pupils.

The last day of term is this Thursday, 1st April. May I wish you a very happy Easter break and I look forward to seeing you all when the **Summer Term begins on Monday, 19th April.**

Yours sincerely,

Philip Mantell
Headteacher

