

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 MAY 2010

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good news!

1. A VERY BIG THANKS

You may have noticed our new entrance 'Welcome' in the foyer. It has been designed and painted by Mrs. Julia Hill, mum of Tulsi in Year 5. It is a wonderful piece of art and very worthwhile and appropriate for our entrance. It shows the very essence of our school – part of our local community, including our church, and in Torbay with its beauty. Pop in and admire!

2. WEMBORTHY YEAR 5 2010

Many congratulations to the children who went on this visit. All reports back tell the same story, that it was the most successful and happy visit ever. The children were a credit to the school and their families. Well done! Thanks go to all the staff for all their hard work that helped to make the trip such a success.

3. YEAR 6

I've had very complimentary comments about the excellent behaviour on their visits out of school, particularly at the Johnny Ball Maths and Science event at St Cuthbert Mayne School last term. Well done!

4. YEAR 5 AND 6 GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM

Well done to the girls' team for playing two finals games at Plainmoor. They played Roselands twice. Despite losing 4-nil in the first game (for the League champions final) they came back to draw 1-1 in the Cup Final. In fact they were very close to winning this match, having much more possession and leading 1-0 until the very end of the match. Their determination to put the first result behind them was very impressive.

5. 'LETS GET COOKING'

This club continues to flourish. They are learning the basic, but vital, skills of cookery and different foods. Many parents enjoyed the community Curry event at the end of last term, prepared by 2CH and 2TH. I certainly did!

6. FAMILY LEARNING GROUP

It was a delight to be present to see the celebration of the work from the Family Learning Literacy group last Friday. The work produced by the group was outstanding – a view shared by Councillor Phillips, who made the presentations. Well done to everybody involved.

7. SUMMER WEATHER

As we are enjoying the hot weather at the moment a few important reminders for you:

- All children need a baseball cap or sun hat to wear during the day. Please ensure all hats and caps are clearly labelled with your child's name.
- A high factor sunscreen should be applied to your child before they come to school each day. We are not able to administer sun cream to children but if your child is particularly sensitive to the sun you can send some, named, in their bag for them to re-apply before lunchtime break. We are not allowed to let children share sun cream, please ensure they know this.
- It is essential for healthy bodies and minds that children have access to water frequently during the day. We encourage the children to bring a filled water bottle, with a sports top, so that they can drink regularly. Water only please! This is particularly important during the hot weather. Please label the bottle and ensure that it is cleaned on a daily basis.

8. BIKE SHED.

Our first applicants for parking are being processed so I am not yet in a position to let parents know about scooter parking.

9. BIKE SHED – A REQUEST

I'd be very grateful if parents would ensure the safety of children by not letting them climb on the structure. Thank you.

10. UPGRADE – THIRD PHASE.

We are hoping that our plans for further upgrade of the buildings will still be able to be completed this year. We have a long list but at the moment are out to tender. Hopefully we won't be subject to cuts in this year's project.

We have been fortunate to have received two offers of grants for playground activities – from Chance to Shine (cricket) and our local Lions Club. Many thanks to both organisations.

11. 'MY TIME'

This is a funded project aiming at giving children whose families find difficulties in providing some club or activities experience for their children. We have been allocated some funding and have to prioritise within that. The basic requirement is that it is eligible for families who receive free school meals for their children and only that group. Funding is limited for each child and could include things like Breakfast Club, After School Club, major youth organisations (St John Ambulance, Red Cross, Scouts, Guides etc), sports clubs. There is a maximum allocation of £300 for each child that can't be overspent and the organisation has to be paid directly from the budget so there is not much work for parents. Parents do, however, have to get the organisation to complete a form and send it back to school, together with the child's details. If you are interested, please see me.

12. PARENT AND CHILD HOMEWORK CLUB

Do you want time and space to work with your child with their homework?

Do you want to support your child but are not sure what to do for the best?

These – and other questions could be solved by joining this new group, which starts after school this Wednesday.

There is very strong evidence that tells us that getting children into good habits of learning at primary age will lead to greater success at school, including more and better qualifications.

With our economic situation as it is, those best qualified will get the best jobs. We owe it to our children to give them the very best start – so this group could be a real boost to the message they need to get – that education is vital, even more vital now, for a successful life.

13. MESSAGE FROM JO & STU CHILDCARE

We still have vacancies at our After School Club if you are interested or just want to look around please pop in and see us. Parents who claim Working Family Tax Credits may be able to claim up to 80% of their childcare bill. (Please call Jo & Stu Childcare directly on: 01803 328913)

14. UNIFORM

Thank you to all parents who make the effort to send their child to school in the correct uniform. There are still some children who are not consistently wearing the correct items, please ensure this is corrected as soon as possible. Should you need a reminder of the uniform, booklets are available from the school office.

15. HEADLICE

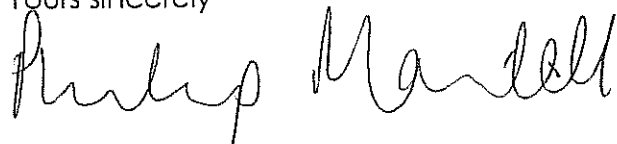
Please can all parents take the opportunity of half term to clear their child of headlice. If you are having a real struggle with headlice please come and talk to the school nurse who may have some suggestions how to help, she is usually available on a Monday after school for a drop in session, if she is unavailable for any reason please leave a message at the school office for her to contact you.

16. M & M PRODUCTIONS: THE WIZARD OF OZ

We have arranged for the children to experience a live drama production with a visit from a travelling theatre company 'M&M Productions'. They will be performing 'The Wizard of Oz' for all the children on Monday 7th June during the school day. The company is well known to us and has a good record of producing highly entertaining shows.

There will be no charge to parents for this event but if you would like to make a donation to the school fund any contributions are very gratefully received.

Yours sincerely



Philip Mantell
Headteacher

