



HOLYWELL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Worcestershire County Council

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BB/TW

31st March 2010

Dear Parents/Carers

NEWSLETTER

Another busy term - it doesn't seem five minutes since the beginning of term and the snow!

The term has been full of exciting activities for the children to enjoy. There have been visits to the local library, walks around the school grounds, multicultural week involving African Drumming and Indian Dancing and fun with Baggy Bird to mention but a few.

Multicultural Week

The children learnt about Africa and India during this week and either took part in African drumming or Indian Dancing. The whole school enjoyed an assembly taken by the expert in drumming. Walking around the school I observed lots of independent work going on from painting to writing fact leaflets about these countries. The children's awareness of different cultures has definitely grown from this week. Thanks to Mrs Rogers and Mrs O'Connor for organising the week.

Eco Committee

The Eco - Committee attended a meeting at Waseley Hills High School with other pyramid schools to talk about what our schools have done recently and to meet with an artist to plan a community project which should be displayed in Rubery.

The School Council

The School Council has been meeting regularly to discuss what is going well or not for the children in school and how to involve Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage children.

Assemblies

Parents and friends have continued to enjoy attending class assemblies. Foundation Stage (Reception and Nursery) are also doing assemblies for their parents which have been very well attended.



Baggy Bird

The children have thoroughly enjoyed shooting goals against Baggy Bird. We are always pleased to support WBA Community Programme as we have excellent teaching provided by this organisation at school. The children's skills at outdoor PE are good throughout the school.

Charity

An amazing £700 (approx) was raised for the people of Haiti. Thank you for your generosity.

The Holywell Choir

The Holywell Choir goes from strength to strength - 48 members now Year 3 have joined. Thanks must go to Mrs Goddard for organising this after busy teaching days. It is always a delight to hear the children singing.

Sports News

Many clubs are running for the children. I would like to thank Mrs Penfold, Miss Blundell, Mrs Savage, Mrs Cooper and Mrs McLeod for running extra curricular clubs. The school took part in a football tournament at WBA in February. The mixed team of children played well and displayed excellent behaviour and sportsmanship.

We are also fortunate to have two dance clubs going on in school run by Mrs Collier, Miss Blundell and Mrs Rogers. The Dance groups performed at the Artrix in Bromsgrove recently along with many other schools in the area. It was great to see their dances back at school - a great display of skills and team work.

The Book Fair

The Second Book Fair of the year was well attended and £813 was raised which provided - £428 worth of books for the school library and classrooms.

World Maths Day

For the first time Holywell Primary School took part in World Maths Day. The children enjoyed playing against children from all over the world. Thanks to Mrs Penfold for organising this.

Soup and Potatoes

There will be no soup and potatoes after Easter as the weather will be getting warmer and demand will go down. This provision will start again in the Autumn Term. Thank you to Mrs Dodds for all her hard work in collecting money daily, buying food and cooking and serving it!

POW - Positive Opportunities Worcestershire

This is a government project to help children try new activities that will help them in school and life. POW money is for children and young people whose families may find it difficult to pay for activities or who are in care. It can be spent on activities offered at school or other places, like leisure centres or clubs.

POW money can also pay for fees for clubs such as Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Brownies and many other organisations, even to join a local football team or music group.

If you fall into one of the above categories you will already have received a letter. If you think you might qualify for Free School Meals it may be worth you applying so that your child can be considered for the next stage of POW starting in September.

To qualify for Free School Meals you must be in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- a. Income support or
- b. Job Seekers allowance - Income Based
- c. Employment and support allowance - Income Related
- d. Support under part V1 of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- e. Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income assessed by HM Revenue & Customs that does not exceed £16,040
- f. Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Homework Questionnaire

Thank you to all those parents who responded to the questionnaire. The results have been analysed and show that most parents feel that the amount of homework given is about right. It has been a good exercise for us as a staff to discuss the matter of homework.

Attendance

There is a direct correlation between attendance and attainment. Children who attend every day have no gaps in their understanding and are able to achieve more. We are pleased to announce that attendance is currently running at 96.9% (Government target is 95%). Attendance is rewarded at the end of every term and the end of the year. It is also important for the children to learn punctuality. We have noticed that several children are coming to school late every morning. Please ensure your children are in school at least five minutes before school starts which is 8.50 am. Thank you.

School Nurse

A reminder that the school nurse is at school every other Wednesday morning for 'drop-in' sessions from 8.50 - 9.50 am. The next date is Wednesday 21st April.

School Grounds

- **Dogs**

Please do not bring dogs to school at all. There were five dogs tied next to each other recently, they began to play fight causing anxiety to parents and children.

- **Smoking**

The school and grounds are non smoking areas. PLEASE DO NOT SMOKE ANYWHERE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY - that includes the bridge and turning circle. Thank you

- **Scooters**

Please do not allow your children to ride around the playground on scooters for Health and Safety reasons. Thank you.

Holiday Club

Kayz Days - our providers for breakfast club and after school club will be running a holiday club throughout the summer holidays, Monday - Friday 8.00 - 6.00pm. If you are interested please phone Tara on 07739717650 or Joy on 07969621419

Governors

The school Governors are working efficiently in committees and regularly report decisions back to the full Governing Body which meets once a term. We thought you might like to have an overview of matters discussed.

- **Curriculum and Standards Committee**

The Curriculum and Standards Committee have reviewed standards and progress of children across the school. Targets for achievement at the end of KS2 have been agreed. Policies have been reviewed and term dates and Teacher Education days have been set.

- **The Finance Committee**

The Finance committee has monitored the school budget regularly and is pleased to say that Holywell has remained well within its budgeted figures. Two of the governors have attended a training course on Financial Management Standards in Schools (FMSiS). The school is due for the next FMSiS inspection during December 2010.

- **The Health and Safety Committee**

The Health and Safety Committee has met regularly over the year. Any action required has been dealt with swiftly and all is well inside and outside the school.

- **The Personnel Committee**

The Personnel Committee has been involved in all new staff appointments and School Policies have been reviewed.

Parking

We would ask all parents to park considerately and safely on the school drive and Gunner Lane. Thank you.

Staff News

Mrs Millett will be returning to school after Easter. It will be good to see her back fully recovered

Mr Davis is enjoying his move to Australia. The weather has been very hot (lucky him!) and he and his family are settling well.

The next term starts for children on MONDAY 19TH APRIL 2010.

Thank you for your continued support of the school. If you have any suggestions on how to make the school an even better place please let us know!

It only remains for me to wish you all a very happy Easter holiday!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Biggs
Deputy Head