



HOLYWELL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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FM/TW

23rd October 2008

Dear Parents / Carers

NEWSLETTER

Governors

As you may remember from the first Newsletter this term, I informed you about vacancies for Parent Governors. I am delighted to be able to tell you that the four vacancies have been filled. The new Parent Governors are: Mrs Chaplin, Mr Grainger, Ms Thompson and Ms Coates. These Governors have been elected for a term of four years.

Annual Questionnaire Results

As promised, here are the main findings from the Annual Questionnaire sent to you last July.

Number of replies: 30.3%

Do you think the STANDARD of education at Holywell is:

Outstanding: Yes - 24.4%

Good: Yes - 71.5%

Adequate: Yes - 3.3%

Unsatisfactory: 0%

Is your child happy at school?

Yes: 96.8%

No: 0%

Mostly: 1.6%

In lessons: 0.8%

No reply: 0.8%

Do you think your child is being educated to be healthy and safe?

Yes 98.4%

No: 0.8%

No reply: 0.8%

Can you identify one STRENGTH of our school?

Excellent / dedicated staff team
Leadership / Head
Communication between parents / school
Friendly / caring / approachable staff
Standard of education
After School Club / Activities
(These were the top 6 responses)

Have there been any new initiatives or opportunities that your child has benefitted from during 2007 and 2008?

Drama group
Malvern Outdoor Centre
Art Club
WBA Football
Skipping
Dance group
(These were the top 6 responses)

If you could change ONE thing about Holywell what would it be?

Parking
Hot school meals
More after school clubs
Larger / secure playgrounds
Increase number of male staff
More notice for trips / events
(These were the top 6 responses)

Wrap Around Care

Breakfast Club - Yes 10%
After Care Club - Yes 16%
Holiday Club - Yes 26%

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Pupil Questionnaire Responses

Nursery - all the children very happy to come to school.

Reception - the majority of children are happy to come to school, a few did not like lunchtimes.

Year 1 - all the children very happy to come to school.

Year 2 - no responses.

Year 3 - (10 responses) all children very happy to come to school.

Year 4 - the majority of children are happy to come to school.

Year 5 - all children are happy to come to school.

Year 6 - all children are happy to come to school.

Things the children identified as liking included - "messy" activities, the interactive whiteboards, singing and listening to music, athletics, guitar, sports and art club, Professor McGinty, the Think Tank trip, Stratford visit, performing the musical 'Oliver', learning French and the trip to Malvern Outdoor Education Centre.

5% of children felt they had been bullied but they all knew who to go to for help in school. 28% identified this problem in July 2007! The main request from the children was to have quiet areas developed on the playgrounds.

Thank you to all parents and children who returned the questionnaires as this provides us with very helpful information.

Breakfast and After School Care Club

I have attended both clubs this term. They are exceptionally well run and those children who attend were very positive about the clubs. If you are interested in either club please contact Tara Kay on 07739 717650.

Staff

Miss Blundell is finishing on Friday 24th October to take Maternity Leave, I know you will join with me in wishing her the best of luck. Mr Michael Harrigan has been appointed to take over as class teacher for 3KB.

Stray Dog

I am very concerned that a dog has been roaming around the school site and the local area. The Dog Warden has been contacted and she has attempted to catch the dog but unfortunately, she has failed. If you have any idea where the dog lives or who it belongs to please contact Julie Edmonds, Dog Warden on 07799 887536.

Attendance

The Governors set last year's attendance target at 95% for 2007/08. I am delighted to be able to tell you that this target was achieved and that the school attendance was 95.68%. Thank you for working with us to improve attendance. I would like to remind you that we do not approve holidays in excess of 10 days and even then, we only approve holidays if attendance has been good. Please remember that the Year 6 SATs week is May 11th - 15th 2009 and we expect all Year 6 children to be in school that week unless they are too ill to attend.

Thank you very much for all the Harvest goods you sent in. We have sent a cheque to Acorns Childrens Hospice as a result of the sale held in school on September 29th. Thank you to those of you who attended the MacMillan Coffee Morning, this was very well attended and a donation has been sent to MacMillan Nurses.

School closes on Friday 24th October for the half term week and reopens on Monday 3rd November. Please remind your children not to play on the school site during the half term week for health and safety reasons.

Photographs orders should be returned on or before Monday November 3rd please.

We are looking forward to raising money for the Children in Need charity (week beginning November 10th) and a Book Fair will be held week beginning November 17th so please, shop early for Christmas!

FM : 23.10.08.