



# Lydeard St Lawrence SCHOOL NEWS

Autumn 2007

17<sup>th</sup> October

I am glad to be able to finally give you the staffing information for next half term. I was unable to confirm this until the beginning of this week. Mrs David will be returning for two days a week teaching with Mrs Pickard in Class 2, leaving Class 1 and Class 3 as at present. This will be for the current academic year. Fortunately we are able to retain Mrs Finely's services for 1.5 days a week until Christmas, supporting groups and individuals, working with me in my SENco role.

We are seeing some evidence of the sickness bug that is in the area at the moment. Can I remind you that if your child is sick or has an upset tummy they must be clear of symptoms for 24 hours before they come back to school. We have lots of new young children in school, who are particularly susceptible to these bugs as they have not yet built up their immunity. Please help us to minimise the number of children getting ill by remembering this guideline.

I have had a complaint from one of our neighbours that the parking outside the school is becoming increasingly problematic for people wishing to get through the village. After half term we will be circulating a questionnaire for our travel plan (which has to be completed by all schools) to ask for your views on many issues around transport and school. This will be passed on to the Local Authority. In the meantime, please park as responsibly as you can and be with your children on the road at all times. Some people are still driving far too fast past the school while young children are on the road, causing concern among many parents. I realise how hard it is to find parking places, but we must try to be as responsible as we can and consider our neighbours. Thank you.

The staff have been working on the revised behaviour policy and the school governors have also been looking at the use of the school grounds in connection with this. Next half term the School Council will be giving their views on what they think is a fair and reasonable policy to manage behaviour in our school. If any of you would be interested in joining a working party to review this policy, please contact me.

There have been so many things to be proud of in our school in the last week.

On Thursday, Mrs O'Brien, Mr Pepper, Mrs Pickard and I went with the children of Class 3 to the Brewhouse Theatre to rehearse their performance based on their work on Coleridge, with Chilton Trinity School. All the children had some involvement, as musicians, poets, artists, instrument makers or performers on the stage. Their notes and sketches are displayed in the Brewhouse foyer as background to this work. All the images, sounds and music were created by the children and they put together a fantastic performance.

They were outstanding – confident, attentive and working so well with others to make the final performance a real triumph. I do hope those of you came to watch them enjoyed the experience of seeing our children on the stage - a real confidence boost for so many of them.

On Saturday, 46 children, parents, teachers and governors, in families or as individuals came to Make A Difference to our school. Everyone worked so hard to improve our environment, from scrubbing playgrounds, cutting hedges, digging the gardens and painting in the buildings

to constructing seats and mending gates. Almost a third of our families were involved on the day and we left feeling that we had made a real contribution to your children's working environment. Everyone should have had a thank you note by now, so if yours hasn't arrived, do check the book bags! A fantastic effort that was much appreciated. Thank you.

Good Work Assembly is on Thursday at 1.30pm. If we finish a little early then children may leave with their parents, or you could get yourself some cakes from the cake stall that the PTFA are running after school. If you can make a contribution to the cake stall do bring it along on Thursday afternoon. If you have never been to a Good Work assembly before, do join us and see and hear what the children have been doing this half term.

I hope you have had your school photographs by now. If you wish to buy photographs, please send the money with your order to your child's class teacher by Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October. Christine is also sending a uniform order on Friday, so if you need anything for the colder weather, please contact her for an order form.

I can't remember when we have had such a busy first half term in the school year. Many of the children are more than ready for their break. Do have a good holiday and we will see you again on the 29<sup>th</sup> October.

Gill Stripp  
Headteacher.