



Lydeard St Lawrence SCHOOL NEWS

Summer 2008

May 16th

Following last night's Governors' meeting I am pleased to be able to tell everyone the class structure for 2008/9.

Class 3 Yr6 and Yr 5 (KS2) Mr Pepper

Class 2 Yr4 and Yr3 (KS2) Mrs Pickard, Mrs David

Class 1 Yr2, Yr1 and R (KS1 and Foundation Stage) Mrs Willis, Mrs England

I will continue to teach in all the classes when their teachers have planning and assessment time, something that I have very much enjoyed this year.

We have not split any age group, and having a slightly smaller Reception group in September has enabled us to have all KS1 children together in Class 1. This class will have a full time Teaching Assistant working with them through the week.

We are full or over-subscribed in our KS2 year groups, so this enables us to keep these years together in two KS2 classes, much easier from the perspective of planning their curriculum.

A parent pointed out to me that there had been a lot of disturbing rumours about the classes. I was sorry to hear this, as no one, including myself, could possibly have known the outcome of the governors' meeting until last night. It might help avoid this if you are all aware that this is always discussed in the first Governors' meeting after our final numbers are confirmed in May. No decision is made before this, in any year.

The children in KS2 have been doing lots of SATs activities, led by the Yr6 children doing their national statutory tests. We have had special breakfasts, informal support groups, and even a bit of last-minute practice! All this led to a relaxed and positive group of young people completing these tests, and a very pleasant atmosphere in the hall, where they were based. Children's lives ruined by SATs? SATs driving more interesting things out of the curriculum? Only if we let it happen – and in this school training for the tests is not part of our ethos. Our young people will always do their best and we prepare them as much as they need for them to be familiar with the type of layout and conditions. They were a great credit to the school in the way they applied themselves to their tests. Well done!

Several people have asked me to pass on messages in this newsletter:

- Book People catalogue is out this week, but please return your orders on Monday, 19th. School number 4535999. Please let us know if you don't want this to go home with your child. Our 10% of your order is a valuable source of books for the school.
- Please collect up your vouchers, for any of the store collection schemes, and return them to school please.
- If you have an old rolling pin at home you no longer use, please send them to Mrs Pickard for clay work.
- PTFA Bingo tonight, doors open 6.30pm. Accompanied children welcome.
- Cake sale after Good Work Assembly on Thursday 22nd (see flyer)

We have been approached to circulate letters from the Student Support Centre. If you return your slip, even if it says 'No , we are not interested' we get £75 for school funds. We do not endorse this scheme in any way.

Several older children have been regularly on the site out of schools hours, occasionally moving furniture, parts of the safety fencing etc. I have asked them to refrain, and I would appreciate it if you let me know if anyone sees anything unsuitable happening after school or in the evenings.

Thankyou for the feedback regarding hot meals – we appreciate constructive comments. They are still very well supported, and we hope to trial something a little different after half term in addition to this. I know some of you were concerned that we served frankfurters, in response to children's requests. It may help to know that they contained 70% pork, compared to 56% pork when we served sausages. The only sausages I could find with a higher meat content were well out of my price range! We do check the food we serve very carefully, and frankfurters are on the list of approved products that can be served in schools. I appreciate that they were foreign meat, but we support local producers when we can

I will be away in Telford on a headteachers' course next Wednesday and Thursday, so do enjoy the Good Work Assembly, and have a very good half term break

Gill Stripp
Headteacher