



Lydeard St Lawrence
SCHOOL NEWS

Autumn 2008

21st October

We have had lots of activity outside and in school in the past two weeks. Class 2 have been to a sports festival, 2 children have visited an exciting 'Wind in the Willows' experience, and Class 3 have taken part in National Film Week with a trip to the Odeon to see Oliver Twist. The rugby and football teams have also made excellent starts to the season, so we will watch their progress with great interest.

The football coach thinks he can offer us another block of sessions after half term and we are waiting for him to send us his dates, and rugby can be offered if sufficient people wish to take part.

There will be no clubs in the first week after half term.

I would like to thank those of you who have transported your children to these events. We are always trying to balance the value of attending as many activities as possible with the organisational and financial cost. If we ask you to get your children to events, it means we can send our children to more activities, but for working parents it can be difficult to arrange with your friends. We cannot arrange lifts for you, as this causes problems with insurance. If we have a bus, the minimum cost is £90 to Taunton for the shortest trips (eg a morning) and escalates rapidly. Voluntary contributions have to meet a considerable amount of this cost for the trip to be viable. I hope you appreciate that we do our best to find a balance between these two.

The biggest issue at the moment is the return of permission slips. Even if you do not wish to make a contribution we must have signed permission, as do all other schools. In the past we have made telephone calls on the day of trips to allow all children to take part, but life would be much easier if we get slips returned to the classteacher in good time. Staff will endeavour to give you the maximum amount of notice of any future events.

While on the subject of paperwork, Sarah is sending a blanket permission slip for swimming in classes 3 and 2 and Fair Processing notices to all parents, which is a legal obligation, related to data protection.

Good Work Assembly is at 1.30pm on Thursday and a cake sale will follow. Everyone welcome.

By the time you read this most of you will have met with your child's class teachers and discussed how they have settled into school or their new year group and the targets for progress that have been set. In response to parent requests, the teachers planned for 15 minute meetings this term, and I will be asking for feedback from them and you as to whether this has been helpful/manageable. Thank you to the staff and children who volunteered to help things run smoothly on the night.

Finally, on the back of this newsletter is the article from the Western Daily Press that they printed last Saturday, to compensate for publishing an article saying we were closed! I have added the web link, as the picture can't be downloaded, and you may want to see if your child is on it!

Have a great half term. See you all on 3rd November.

Gill Stripp
Headteacher.