



# Lydeard St Lawrence SCHOOL NEWS

Spring 2009

13<sup>th</sup> January

It was lovely to see everyone back in school last week, and we are pleased to see Mrs Pickard back in class 2! Also in class 2 this term is Mr Carter, who is completing his final teaching practice from Plymouth University at our school. We are looking forward to working together with an extra teacher in Class 2.

We are producing a hot lunch on Thursdays from this week and I must apologise for the short notice. If you would like your child to have a lunch this week, please return the attached form as soon as possible please – we will send the form out in good time next week!

We have had a problem with the water drinker freezing, as you might imagine! The children really need a water bottle in school to keep up their fluid intake during the day and can fill this from the water dispenser. Children can have juice with their lunch, but only water for drinking through the day, in a named bottle please.

The clubs list is now available and information about your child's curriculum this term.

Finally! At long last our after school provision is up and running! We need a name for our club – can you come up with a really good idea that might fit in with our Early Birds breakfast club, or new names for both?

Our first pupils were in yesterday and it was a lovely relaxed afternoon, with lots of ideas for future weeks' activities. Next week's activities will be advertised on the outside noticeboard, so that you can see what is planned for each day. Please book in advance whenever possible – same day booking in an emergency only please. If you are going to be an occasional user please fill in an application form in advance, available from the hall or from the office. Many people who said they would use this service have not registered – we have employed staff based on your responses and want this provision to be a success.

Next week I will send further details about the criteria for Child tax credits and Working tax credits, and have ordered leaflets, which will give you more information, but briefly –

**Child Tax Credit** is an income-related allowance for parents and carers of children or young people who are still in full-time education. **Nine out of ten families with children qualify for Child Tax Credit.**

**Working Tax Credit** If you're working more than 16 hours a week and you're on a low income, you may be able to get Working Tax Credit too.

The Working Tax Credit includes a specific element to support the cost of registered or approved childcare for working parents. **The childcare element can help with up to 80 per cent of your eligible childcare costs.**

There are limits on the weekly costs you can claim. If you pay childcare for:

- one child, the maximum you can claim is £175 a week
- two or more children, the maximum is £300 a week

I am sure that this might make a huge difference to the affordability of our childcare.

Gill Stripp  
Headteacher