



Lydeard St Lawrence SCHOOL NEWS

Spring 2010

February 3rd

Thank you to everyone who covered for me during my absence last week. Don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything that I need to deal with immediately that may have been delayed because of this.

Class 1, Mrs Villis and Mrs England have managed remarkably well under very difficult circumstances for the last few weeks and we look forward to them returning to their classroom this week. Thank you for the offers of help with painting. In the circumstances, we will get the children back into the room first and get the redecoration done as soon as possible. This will probably be during or after half term.

Congratulations to Sid Appleton, who represented Somerset at the weekend at Bristol University, in a South West counties athletics competition. Sid's team took second place overall from a large field of competitors.

We continue to look for opportunities to give our children an opportunity to develop their talents in a wide range of sports. If you know of any other activities the children might enjoy please contact me with further information.

If you have fruity tuck or swimming contributions outstanding please send them to school before the end of half term. If there is any difficulty in doing this please let me know. Some of the younger children are reluctant to drink their milk at break. Could you check with your child to make sure they are enjoying drinking their milk, as it is very difficult to persuade them!

Please read the accompanying note about Free School Meal provision. This factor influences funding, opportunities and take-up of activities in all State schools and as you can see, there are many benefits in addition to the meals themselves. All children entitled can be provided with a free packed lunch or the Thursday hot lunch. Personal lunchboxes can be packed, so there is complete confidentiality, and the children can choose from a range of healthy and home-made packed lunch options.

It would help us greatly if you could let me know if a) you are entitled and b) you would like to take up this meal service on all, or some days of the week, now or in the future.

The hot meal survey showed that although there was a positive response to provision of hot meals, the take up would be in the region of 25 each day. Although this is a very good response at 33%, it does mean that this would not meet the 40 lunches we would need to sell to provide a viable service. We currently serve around 50 lunches on a Thursday. I am sure there are many ways we could expand this service, and welcome any constructive suggestions from parents, children and friends! I am hoping the advantages of a hot meal at lunchtime will change your minds, once the service is running!

We still have a vacancy for a parent governor, so if you are thinking that this might be a way you could be involved in the school community, please contact Sarah Wood. I am

sure that any of our current governors would be glad to talk to you about the role, the commitment required and the very positive outcomes of this position.

The PTFA have a meeting at the Carew Arms next Monday evening at 7.00pm. They are also arranging a Valentine's disco on the last Friday of this half term. The disco will start at 6.30 and children will need to be signed in. Please pick up promptly at 8pm. There will be a cake sale after Good Work Assembly which is on Thursday 11th February at 1.30 in school. Donations gratefully received.

PCSO Fyne, our new community police officer will be visiting school on Friday 12th to talk to the children about cycling and road safety. She will also be post-coding bicycles that afternoon from around 2.30 and after school in the front playground. If you want to bring your child's bike (or your own!) to school that afternoon, either in the car or by pedal power, PCSO Fyne will security mark them for you.

Film on Friday will now begin on 26th February, due to the shortage of time for me to organise it this week. The first film will be Nanny McPhee and we will either show this in the hall or class 3, depending on numbers. I will send the flier out as promised, but will do so next week, in time for the children to enrol in Film Club and get their passwords and club information!

REMINDER: February 22nd is not an INSET day. It was in our draft calendar, but was changed at the beginning of the year. This has been in previous letters and is on the website dates list.

Finally – I need a huge favour from four or five families who could help pilot a healthy school course called 'A question of balance' It is for four sessions, covering exercise, healthy lunches, cooking as a family, relaxation and health and all or some of the members of the family can come along, including very small ones! No one too mature or too young! Grandad, big sister, aunty, childminder – all constitute 'family'. I agreed to pilot this in school after working on some projects for the healthy school team, and suddenly I find myself looking at the calendar and the first session is due next Monday! I am asking (actually, I think I am begging) for volunteers to take part in this as a whole family session (minimum 2 members) from 3.00 – 4.00pm on Monday February 8th, and after that 1st 8th and 22nd March. Mr Christmas (yes, really) will run the sessions and we will feedback on the course and what goes well. I think the idea is to cook a meal together in the last session on a 'come dine with me' principle.

Anyone who would like to come along, please let me know tomorrow, as I am very near the deadline. Thank you.

Have a good week

Gill Stripp
Headteacher