



Lydeard St Lawrence
SCHOOL NEWS

Autumn 2009

8th September

We have several sets of paperwork for everyone this week, which are legal requirements. One is your data information form. Please check this, amend it if necessary and return it to class, making absolutely sure that your contact details are correct and that you have emergency contact numbers as well. There is also a privacy notice, which replaces the fair processing notices that used to go out annually. This will be done just once in a child's life at school, unless you wish to change your response.

We also need to ask you if your child can be photographed for school purposes, publicity or information reasons. (Sports teams, Christmas performances are good examples).

There is a form that allows us to take the children out around the village, over to church or to walk to the detached playing field, with appropriate supervision and risk assessment. I am sorry but we have to do this each year. We would be grateful for the prompt return of these forms to the classrooms. Thank you.

The first dates we have planned for the autumn term are:

Harvest Festival 21st September

Everyone is encouraged to bring harvest produce to school, for our church service at 9.00am. The produce is then auctioned in the evening, along with the church's donations, to raise money for Water Aid. This provides clean water and sanitation for communities in developing countries.

McMillan Coffee Morning (in the afternoon!) 25th September

Each year we welcome everyone to school for tea and cake to support the McMillan coffee morning appeal. We meet in the afternoon, and all donations of cake, biscuits and produce are welcome. This is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new ones and support a good cause at the same time. The older children will serve you and we look forward to this as the first social event of the year.

MAD day 26th September

For those of you new to the school, staff, parents, governors and children all get together at least once a year to Make A Difference to our school – hence MAD day! Everyone is welcome, but the children need to be able to look after themselves or help out with the jobs that need doing. We provide a healthy lunch for anyone who would like to take part, and you can offer an hour or a day to make a difference to our school.

Following the extensive building work and ground work, we will have lots of practical tidying and clearing to do to get the school looking at its best again. The bark has been ordered and will need spreading; windows and paintwork need freshening up; flower beds need weeding; seats repaired or put together; raised beds constructed for the seating area and possibly a shed put up!

Last year lots of people decide to come, but didn't return a slip. Based on that, we had so few volunteers we cancelled, then people turned up, disappointed that no-one was there. If you can join us, whatever the weather, we would love to see you. Only enthusiasm required!

Parents information evening 1st October

We would like your input on our homework policy and practice, and also some feedback and ideas regarding reporting to parents. If you would like to know more, or share your views, come along at 7.00pm – 8.30pm.

I am sorry these dates are a bit bunched up, but we are committed to share the harvest festival date with the church, and the McMillan date is obviously a fixed one.

A full list of dates will be coming out later in the week, with a full year's timetable. We will also be taking Friday 23rd October as a further INSET training day (this is the day before the beginning of half term).

Thank you for returning your swimming and Fruity tuck money. I am clearly not back in the swing of things yet, as I forgot to remind you to make cheques payable to SCC for swimming and Lydeard St Lawrence for fruit.

As your children will no doubt have told you, the whole school is learning about Europe this half term, with the history topic being the Vikings. This is the first time we have the same area throughout the school for the whole half term, so we are enjoying sharing ideas, resources and plans. We will be giving you the contact details of several interesting websites, where the children can continue to study at home, and for those without computer access, the local libraries can provide books on European countries and peoples. Have a good week.

Gill Stripp
Headteacher.