



Lydeard St Lawrence SCHOOL NEWS

Autumn 2009

9th November

The PTFA are busy preparing for the Christmas Fair, and are also organising a Disco for the children on 20th November at school. The disco will be from 6.00pm – 8.00pm and all children will need to be brought and signed in by an adult.

The Fair will have all the usual attractions, and any help with stalls, clearing away and setting up, donations etc will be warmly received!

Football and Rugby club begin again this week, and Rah's dance club will resume next week. Guitars are now on Monday afternoons and we hope that other music tuition will start as soon as possible. Piano is still on Tuesday mornings.

It would be very helpful if the children could put their guitars in the new building (the room on the left of the main door) and collect them in the evening. Children in Classes 2 and 3 are able to do this on their own, so we would be grateful if you could help us develop the children's independence and sense of responsibility by encouraging them to do this.

Fern Baker is collecting Bags2School for a pick-up on 16th November.

For those of you who have not used this service yet, we collect second hand clothes, soft furnishings, bedding and sell it on to a company who then sell it on to Eastern European countries, where the clothes are used to start up small business enterprises, and enable individuals to earn an income. We are paid by the kilo for each bag we send and the money comes back in to school funds, for the children's use. We hope to buy some more play equipment for the front playground to make it a more interesting play space.

Fern stores these bags at home(!) until collection, but you can leave your bags at the school office, and we pass them on. This is just the right time for that pre-Christmas sort-out!

Bags will come home today and more are available from the office.

Thank you very much for your input and thoughts about homework and the re-writing of our policy on Homework. I will be discussing it with the governors in our next round of meetings, but in the meantime we have agreed that this half term we will have a more consistent approach to homework expectations across the whole school.

Every Monday there will be maths homework, based on the work the children have done in school that day. The homework may be practicing the methods taught to consolidate their knowledge; it may be revising the previous stage to enable them to move on with confidence; it may be extending their use of the concept taught to apply it in other ways. In this way each child's homework will reflect their need as demonstrated by their response to the lead lesson. Year 1 and 2 will have approx 15minutes work; Class 2, 20minutes and Class 3, 30 minutes, following government guidelines. If your child takes much longer than this, do not spend too much extra time, but add a brief note to the homework /record book. If you had to give your child a lot of help it is possible that the work was too demanding, and it is important that you let the teacher know by adding a very brief note. We would like to trial this for the half term.

We do understand that there is so much going on in the children's lives in November and December that homework can get overlooked, but one session every Monday needs to be planned in to their schedule, and in this way everyone knows there will be homework on a Monday and the expectation is that it will be handed in promptly on Tuesday.

In addition to this they will still be reading to and with you; learning their key words and other spellings based on their personal targets; and asked to do an extended homework task (Big Homework/Learning Log). In Class 1 this will be once a half term, and in Classes 2 and 3 every other week. The response from parents and children to this open-ended homework task has been mostly very positive, and we would like to develop it further.

I will send an up-to-date list of seasonal activities next week for your diaries. The PTFA will be sending their newsletter out shortly to keep you all the information about the Fair and the disco.

Have a good week,

Gill Stripp
Headteacher.