



Lydeard St Lawrence
SCHOOL NEWS

Autumn 2011

13th September

It was great to see everybody back last week.

Welcome to Mitchell Holman, Jamie Parsons, Annie-May Morin, Ruby Sherwin, Charlie King, Edward Luxton and Charlie Crockett who all started school on Thursday. Nine more children will be joining us this Thursday, making 16 children in reception this year.

Sarah has sent a data check form and a privacy notice with this letter. If you check the data form and it is all correct, please seal it back up and return with 'all correct' on the outside. If you have amended it, reseal and return to school. We need to have all the forms returned from all families.

There is also a photo permission slip and an activity permission form. Please return these to class as well.

I am sorry that there is so much paper at this time of year, but we are legally obliged to collect this information.

It is good to see some of the children cycling to school, but can I remind you to ensure they are wearing cycle helmets and that their bikes are adjusted to the right height for them. We do need the older children to be setting a safe example for the younger children who may be starting to ride their bikes on the road, and as you know, not all cars drive slowly near the school, or take extra care when children are around.

I appreciate your support in this matter.

We have been given advice from the Department of Education that from September this year the threshold for children deemed to have a persistent absence record has been reduced to 15% (10 session, or 5 days per half term approximately). Once this threshold is reached the attendance officer and school meet to discuss this and he decides if further action will be taken. I think that the usual process would take place, and if I had concerns about a child's absence record I would discuss that with you before the attendance officer became involved, so there will be no unexpected letter on the doormat!

Thank you for sending in Fruity Tuck money.

If anyone is able to help cut the fruit up in the mornings, particularly Monday or Thursday, can you contact Sarah in the office and she will pass your name on. It just takes 10 to 15 minutes to prepare the fruit for the children's snack, and without your help we cannot offer this to the children. They really enjoy having a choice of fruit at snack time and I would like to thank all those parents who have been helping us, some now for many years!!

Thank you also for swimming and gym contributions. I am aware that many of your children already take part in many sporting activities and we subsidise this as much as we can to try to keep costs down. I am sure you know what good value this is for transport, tuition and the opportunity to do gym or dance in a lovely gymnasium. Fortunately we have had enough parents prepared to contribute this term to enable us to meet the shortfall from school funds, so thank you for your support.

Forest School is this Friday for Year 1 children only. Please bring your outdoor clothes.

Gill Stripp
Headteacher.