



Lydeard St Lawrence
SCHOOL NEWS

Autumn 2011

19th September

Welcome to the last group of children starting school with us this year: Oliver Howden, Harvey Elsley, Ellie Hobbs, Kizzy Lee, Phoebe Johnson, Lucy Keith, Noah Leaney, Will Mowat and Jamie Parsons. My heartfelt apologies to Jack Davies, who started last Thursday and I got him mixed up with Jamie. Occasionally over the last 30 years there have been 2 children I get mixed up, and I think this will be a test! They don't even look alike! All 16 reception children are now in school each morning, supported by their Class 3 buddies, who are helping them to settle in school.

The School Council has elected Henry Scott to be Chair for this academic year, with Robyn Appleton as Vice Chair. Kirsten Hill is their treasurer, supported by Ben Luxton. The secretary will be appointed after the first meeting has been held. The children are consulted on a number of school related topics and bring their own ideas to the agenda. I look forward to working with them this year.

This half term's topic is the Elizabethans. The children are learning about Tudors and also the reign of Elizabeth II (and trying to sort out the ones in between!).

I apologise for any confusion about the Class 3 trip to Taunton School for a 'play in a day'. This is for Class 3 children only, but brothers and sisters are welcome to the evening performance at 5.30pm. Taunton School will provide the transport for the class in the morning, but they will be collected by parents from Taunton School in the evening, at 6pm after the performance (if you are not attending yourself). Lunch and snacks will also be provided by Taunton School.

Some of the equipment we ordered through the Sainsbury's voucher scheme has arrived, including balance beams, javelins, training hurdles and target games. Some items have still to be dispatched. Thank you for collecting so many vouchers for us. We collect all the store vouchers, including Nestle box tops for school. If you eat Nestle cereals you will see the voucher on the box. There is a new collecting box in the library, and the vouchers are exchanged for books.

For those of you who wanted science club sessions for your children, we were still 8 children short of the number required, so we were told they would not be going ahead. I understand that for some of you cheques have been cashed and we will follow this up on your behalf.

Hot lunches will begin next Thursday and we will send out just one week's menu today. The rest of half term will be sent next week. Please note the rise in prices. 6 years ago I started providing a soup and pudding lunch and the price has never risen. To be self-financing we have had to increase prices for the meals. Cheques made payable to Somerset County Council please.

On Friday 30th September, we will be holding our annual coffee morning (at 3.00pm!) in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. This is a great opportunity to meet old friends, make some new ones and raise some money at the same time, for a charity that touches many of our lives. Come along, bring a friend, or a cake (or even better a friend, a cake and your purse!) and

enjoy a drink and some cakes with us. Some of the children will be helping to serve you and we will hope for a sunny afternoon on the playground. In bad weather we will serve tea in the hall. I look forward to seeing you then.

Saturday 1st October is our annual Make A Difference (MAD) day, where as many of us as possible get together to do all those jobs around the school that need doing before the winter. Parents, teachers, governors, children and friends of the school all join in if they can. Some people come for an hour, some all day and everyone does their bit towards making the school looked cared for and tidy. Some of the jobs need a bit of specialist knowledge, but most just need a hands-on approach! I will send out a note to see how many of you can help us, so that we can organise the jobs that need doing.

We have a hard working and supportive Parent Teacher and Friends Association, and the AGM is on Thursday after school. Please come along if you would like to know more or can find time to help in any way. The PTFA does a huge amount to support what we can provide for the children and is a very important part of school life.

As you might remember from the dates list, the school photographer will be taking individual and family photographs next Monday morning. If you have pre-school children and want their photographs taken with their brothers and sisters, please bring them in to the school hall at 8.45. (Please leave pushchairs outside for health and Safety reasons).

Finally, thank you for reading this newsletter. I try to give you all the information you need to know what is going on in school, and this is also updated each week on the website (see the bottom of the page). If you would prefer to have your newsletter via e-mail, please send a message to Sch.218@educ.somerset.gov.uk with 'newsletter' in the subject box and we will send you an electronic copy instead of the paper version. (This might be helpful if your newsletter sometimes goes astray!) Forms needing a reply/signature will still be sent as a hard copy.

Have a great week.

Gill Stripp
Headteacher.