

HUISH EPISCOPI PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2010 ISSUE 3

Harvest Festival

Thank you so much to all the families who contributed to the wonderful harvest display. The generosity was amazing! As well as a wide selection of tinned produce, we were delighted to receive so much fresh produce from your gardens. The food was packaged up and Mrs Ward and Mrs Ramwell took a group of Year 6 pupils out to distribute food parcels to local pensioners. They received back some lovely messages of thanks.

A special thank you to Rob Walrond from Glebe Farm Pitney, who came in to lead our special assembly.

School Meals

We have spent a lot of time looking into how to improve the school hot meal service so that the numbers of children having a hot meal at lunchtime increases. Having looked at the service offered by a number of local meal providers, the school and The Levels Children's Centre have now set up a contract with The Old Barn Owl Inn, Hambridge.

The improved offer is-

- Better choice- there will be 2 hot meat options and 1 hot vegetarian option daily instead of one hot meal choice. The menu offers a good balance of popular meals.
- The food is prepared by a qualified chef
- Meals are prepared using fresh produce
- There will be improved equipment provided to keep meals warm once delivered



Five other local schools have reported that they have been really pleased with the quality/portion size and menu choice on offer. We are fortunate to be able to enter this contract as we will be the last school that they are able to cater for. Inevitably, the improved quality of meal does come at a slightly increased cost. The school will invest in extra staffing to facilitate the service and meals will cost families £2.50 per day. We hope that when you see the menus you will feel that the meals are worth every penny. The new service will start on 1st November and the menus will go out next Friday. Special thanks go to Helen James, parent Governor, who did a lot of the research into alternative meal providers.

Macmillan Tea afternoon.

Thank you to the parents/carers and other family members who supported the first fundraising event organised by the Lets get cooking club. £45 was raised on the afternoon and will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Care.




Governing Body

At the recent Governors meeting elections were held for the role of Chair and Vice-chair. The newly elected Chair of Governors is Mr Greg Perkins. I would like to express my thanks on behalf of everyone to Samantha Coker who has worked extremely hard through difficult and challenging times in her capacity as Chair over the past few years. It is understandable that she would now like to step back slightly from this role but we are glad that she has agreed to be Vice chair in the forthcoming year.

We have received two parent nominations for the role of parent governor and so Debbie Hickman, clerk to the Governors will be organising an election very soon.

School Photographs



The school photographer will be in on Tuesday 12th October for individual photographs. If you would like your pre school child to be photographed with brothers/sisters please arrive before school. The photographer will be in the school hall from 8.30.

School photographs need to start as soon as possible after the start of the school day.



Sports Update

Our team competed very well at the Cross country event held on September 28th at Kingbury Episcopi Rec. There were strong performances from Louise Joyner, Owen Webb and Thomas Parslow. The Year 5/6 boys team came third overall. Well done to all who represented our school so well.

The Indoor Athletics team got off to a fantastic start in the first of 3 league events at Huish Sports Centre. The team consisting of 4 boys and 4 girls from Year 6 tackled each event with a determination to do well. They ALL performed well and were a credit to our school.

A number of Y3/4 children took part in some Tag Rugby training with other schools from our CLP at Somerton Rugby club. It was the first time some of them had played Tag Rugby and they all seem to enjoy it.

Fire Drill

We had our first fire drill of the year this week and the whole building was evacuated in a record time for the first practice of the year! Well done to all the children for their sensible and calm behaviour.

Eammon Reilly- author

The visit from children's author Eammon Reilly was truly inspiring. He enthused both children and staff with his talk during assembly. If your child would like to order one of his books, the closing date for orders is Tuesday 12th October.

Reading record check

We completed a reading record check this week to see how many of the children are settling into a routine of daily reading at home. Thank you to all the parents/carers who have been working with their children and recording their reading together.

Unfortunately a number of families are doing this but there is no signatures in the reading record and so you may have received a letter asking you to read with your child although this is part of your daily routine. Please show us the great work you are doing by recording it in the reading record!



PFA- Bags 2 school

The first PFA fundraising event of the year has been organised. Each year a member of the PFA organises Bags 2 school. This year it is PFA Vice chair, Emma Green. In the next few days, your child will bring home a white plastic bag, to fill with any unwanted clothing. Please do what you can to help. It would be great if every child could return a filled bag on FRIDAY 12TH NOVEMBER. Every filled bag earns money for the school and goes towards improving the education of your child.

Library Reading Challenge

Congratulations to all of the children who received a certificate in assembly today for completing the library Reading Challenge. This was the largest group to have met the challenge and Sally, the librarian said our school had the most number of successful children. Well done!

Caretaker post

Our new caretaker is Kevin Davies. We welcome him to the staff team.

French language assistant

We welcome Mademoiselle Colosimo to our school. She has arrived from Lille, France to work with us on Wednesdays. We hope to organise a family French conversation class after school on Wednesdays very soon- watch this space!



Parents Evening

Please send in or sign up for appointment times on Monday. On Parents Evening, make your way to the hall and you will have the opportunity to look at your child's books before your appointment. Our year 6 hosts will then show you down to the classroom.

Triple P Parenting Programme

A new Triple P Parenting course will start in November. The course will be held at Monteclefe School, Somerton and will run from Tuesday 2nd November until Tuesday 14th December 2010 from 9.30a.m. - 11.30am. It is aimed at parents of children aged 0-12 and will consist of 4 group sessions, followed by 2-3 weekly telephone calls to parents with a final group session on the 14th December 2010. There are up to 12 places available but parents/carers will be required to commit to all of the sessions. We will not be offering crèche facilities at the venue but childcare can be funded if notified in advance. The course covers all sorts of parenting issues. These may be issues such as tantrums, aggression, non compliance, mealtime problems, bedtime problems, toileting, low self esteem, separation anxiety and dealing with high risk situations (e.g. shopping or travelling in the car). Nicky Buckler who is known by some parents and Juliet Morgan will be facilitating the course. If you are interested please phone Tel: 01458 259146

The feedback from this course has been excellent.

Greatwood assembly

Parents are welcome to join us next Friday to see the photographs from Greatwood during assembly. The assembly on Friday starts at 9.10. Apologies but we cannot accommodate any pre school children for this assembly.

School Council

School Council met again today to discuss requests from the PFA for suggestions of events this year, lunchtimes, Eco monitors and the new school meals.

Christmas.....

Finally I hesitate to mention Christmas in October but for those of you who are much better organised than I am and are already planning ahead, I want to let you know of an excellent suggestion from Mrs Wilde, parent of George and Richard. She has suggested that there is a pin board in each class on which the children can put up a Christmas message or one Christmas card written to the whole class. This will save paper, money and evenings writing out endless cards! We just felt that we should let you know we will support this idea and a pinboard will be available from December 1st for those families/children who would prefer to do this rather than send individual cards.

