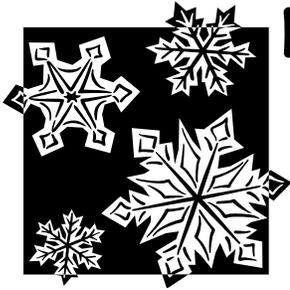


# Tividale Community Primary School

## Newsletter December 2013



### Spring Term 2014

Please be aware that the Spring Term starts on Monday 6th January, as indicated on the Spring Term diary.

There is one training day scheduled to be taken during the spring term. This will be on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April.

### Year 2 and Year 6 SATs Meetings for Parents

As in previous years, we will be holding parents' meetings in January to give an overview of how we can work together to give children the best chance of performing well in their SATs in May.

This year, the Year 6 meeting will be on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, starting at 6.00pm. At this meeting, as well as discussing some of the government changes to the Y6 tests, we are going to introduce SAM Learning, which is a computer program that children can access at home to help them with their SATs. Regular use of it has shown that children can improve their SATs results by as much as one full level. To this end, we would encourage all parents and Year 6 children to attend this meeting which we expect to last a maximum of approximately one hour in total.

The Year 2 meeting will be on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 3.45pm. Again, please make every effort to attend. Teachers will talk to you about how your child is assessed and judgements are made on their attainment.

### Dinner Option Request

I'm sure you will appreciate that organising and cooking hot meals for our pupils is a massive job, and one which the kitchen staff work very hard in doing and do very successfully. In order to help the kitchen staff to prepare for the new year, if your child is thinking of changing their option from either a hot meal to a packed lunch, or, a packed lunch to having a hot meal, please could you let the office know by the end of this week. This will ensure that the food order from the kitchen can be prepared appropriately to accommodate all of those pupils who want it. Thank you, and thank you to those parents who have already informed us of any changes to their child's lunchtime arrangements.

### Staffing

I wish to inform you that after working at Tividale Primary School for the past 7 years, Mrs Jarrott has taken the difficult decision to leave us at the end of this term, in order to spend more time with her young family. We fully respect her decision to leave, and wish her all the very best for the future.

Mrs Jarrott has worked as both a Learning Mentor and a teacher at Tividale, and as such, has played an integral role in the excellent progress and achievement of all of the children she has worked with.

Further to this, I am very pleased to be able to reassure you that for next term, Mrs Shields will be working full time in class 8. This is good news, as it ensures that our children will have consistency with their teacher and in their learning at Tividale.

### Entering School

In the frosty weather, we need to be especially wary of congestion on the playground adding to potentially hazardous conditions. In the light of this, on snowy and icy mornings, could I ask children in Years 3 - 6 to walk around the pathway, instead of cutting across the Key stage 1 playground. This will make it much safer for the younger children and their parents waiting in the playground.

Thank you for your help on this matter.

## Curriculum Workshops

As you are aware, this half term has seen the continued development of parent workshops. Each year group has invited parents into school to take part in workshops based on the theme of the current Project work. The aim of these workshops was to give parents an insight into how their children are learning at school.

Although in a few year groups, we were slightly disappointed with the turn-out, (however, I absolutely understand that for working parents it is difficult), the overall feedback from parents on the days has again been excellent.

Feedback from children has also been very good. They relish the chance to work in school with either their own, or friend's parents and enjoying showing off their skills and learning, and this in turn, boosts their confidence as learners.

## Winter Weather - Snowline

So far this year, we seem to have avoided any disruptive weather. However, should I be speaking too soon and should we have any seriously bad weather this winter that requires us to close the school for a short period, we will be notifying you through our text messaging system, **so please make sure that we have your most up to date mobile phone number.**

**In addition to this, we will also be informing you on our Openhive Pupil Page.** When you log on to this page, underneath the school logo, there will be an announcements box. This will tell you as soon as possible, whether or not school will be closed due to snow. Remember, on occasion, this may even be the night before in cases of particularly bad snowfall.

Also, as is required, we will be informing the local authority of the closure and they in turn publish it on the council Twitter page. Be assured though, that school will be closed as a last resort only - **if you don't get a text from us or see it on Twitter or Openhive, we are open!**

## Sandwell Young Carers, Save the Children, British Legion and Christmas Fayre Fundraising.

Many thanks to everyone that continues to support our fundraising events throughout the year. The recent "Sandwell Young Carers" appeal raised a staggering £870. Our sale of poppies in aid of the British Legion this year made £85 and our wearing of our 'Winter Woolly Jumpers' raised £95 for Save the Children.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December was our annual Christmas Fayre, always enjoyed by parents, grandparents, teachers and pupils alike and raised £535 for school fund. As usual, we had to unfortunately limit the number of tickets for children to visit Father Christmas at the Fayre itself due to time, although Father Christmas will also be visiting the Key Stage One Christmas parties, so all children will see him then.

## Appropriate Winter Footwear

We have had many enquiries at school about what is appropriate and acceptable footwear for girls especially during the winter months. Due to the increase in availability of appropriate style school boots for girls in shops, we have decided to allow school boots to be worn during the school day. If your child wishes to wear boots, please can you make sure they are in keeping with the school uniform. This means being black, leather style or patent, and that they have a sole suitable for running in the playground- no high heels! Ugg style, or knitted, fluffy boots are not appropriate and can be dangerous as they provide little or no support to feet or ankles. On wet or snowy days, children coming to school wearing wellies or snow boots must bring either a change of footwear or change into their PE pumps whilst indoors.

## Finally...

I have seen many of you personally at one or more of the many excellent events planned and presented in school over the past couple of weeks, but, on behalf of everyone in school, may we wish you a very happy and restful Christmas and send our best wishes to you all for New Year in 2014.

Signed:

(Headteacher)

17<sup>th</sup> December 2013