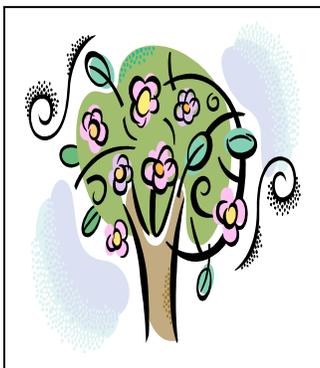


Tividale Community Primary School

Newsletter March 2014



SATs - Year 6

May I remind parents that the Year 6 SATs tests take place week beginning 12th May. I must urge parents to ensure that their children are, if at all possible, in school everyday during this week as the tests cannot be re-taken on other dates. As I mentioned at the parents meeting, if your child does happen to fall ill during this week, please contact us so that we can make alternative arrangements if possible.

Staffing

The end of this term sees Mrs Findon returning from maternity leave, and she will be job-sharing in Class 8 with Mrs Shields who has kindly been working for five days a week to ensure there was consistency for the children when Mrs Jarrot left us at Christmas. We are pleased to announce that Mrs Cocker will be joining us as a permanent class teacher at Tividale from the beginning of next term. She will remain in post as the Y6 Booster teacher until after SATS, again to ensure we are providing our children with the best chance of being successful in their tests.

Carole Moseley Award for School Catering Services

Earlier this term, we were delighted to learn that our cook, Linda Plimmer, has been awarded a trophy and certificate by Sandwell catering services for her outstanding contribution to the school meals service. She has been recognised above all others in the area for "exceeding customer expectations, promoting healthy eating, and always going the extra mile." Our staff in the kitchen prepare and cook dishes for a large number of children on a daily basis, and Linda and her team always display a friendly and personal service to our children, ensuring their needs are met. I'm sure you would like to join me in passing on our thanks and congratulations for this accolade.

Universal Free School Meals

You may have heard in the media that the Government is helping schools to provide a free school meal for all children from Reception to Y2 from September 2014. This is wonderful offer, but it is going to mean a change in the organisation of our lunchtimes at school, as many more children will need to be served hot meals. In order to help us to prepare for this, we will be sending out a letter next term, asking you to indicate whether or not your child will be likely to be taking up their free meal. Obviously, the answer you give us at this stage may be subject to change at a later date, but it is important to help us to try to gauge the number of meals we may need to be providing, and ensure we have the necessary equipment and space to deliver this effectively. We have asked the catering service to review the school menus, and will hopefully have an update on this in the near future.

Appointments with Teachers Before and After School

Teachers at Tividale try as best as possible to run an open door policy, whereby they will try to speak to parents whenever there is a need. However, please understand that although teachers try to be available on the playground in the mornings and afternoons, they need to take charge of their classes and, at the end of the day, ensure their classes are dismissed safely. This may result in the time they are available to speak to you being short, often not allowing issues to be fully discussed or concluded. If this happens, please come to the school office, and any of the staff there will be pleased to make a further appointment for you at the first available opportunity the teacher can offer. Thank you for your continued support and co-operation on this matter.

New School Website

I am very excited to announce that in the next few weeks we will be launching our new school website. This will include all up-to-date information about school events and learning for your children. You will be able to access photos and animations, find letters and newsletters, read about special events and keep your diary updated. Any important newsflashes will run along the homepage for your information. It will also include documents such as the prospectus, code of conduct, lunchtime menus and key policies. The final touches are being added now, so, watch this space.....

Fundraising Update

Fantastic news! We managed to raise £380 for Sports Relief last Friday. I'm sure the children have told you all about the special assembly the staff performed for them. The money will go to Sports Relief and our school fund respectively. We also raised over £570 during our Book Fair week, which will be spent on new books for our school library. Well done and thank you to everyone for your support when we hold these events. As well as raising money for charities, we need our school fund to help pay towards prizes, trips, presents etc for our pupils. Without this money, and your continued support and enthusiasm, we wouldn't be able to do this.

Charging Policy for After-School Clubs

Due to a change in the way schools are funded, and to bring us in-line with other local schools, I need to inform you that from April 28th 2014, will be charging a nominal fee for children attending after school clubs. We will be charging £1 per child per session, and this will be confirmed in writing to you if your child is offered a place at a club. By doing this, it means we are still able to offer good quality and a variety of clubs for our children, for a much lower price than tuition fees would normally cost. As a school it is important you understand we are not making a profit from this change to the policy, as the amount the charge will raise amounts to less than we are charged by the coaches. If you have any queries about this change, please contact me at school and I will be happy to discuss it further.

Dates for your Diaries

School finishes for the Easter Break this year on Thursday 10th April.
School will reopen next term on Monday 28th April.

Other dates to be aware of include:

April	9 th	Morning Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 Easter Bonnet Parade
	9 th	Afternoon Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 Easter Bonnet Parade
	10 th	Year 4 Easter Assembly



Signed:

E Burnell

Headteacher

28th March 2014