

# Tividale Community Primary School



## Newsletter October 2013

### Thank you...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for your support so far this year. We have had a great start to the new year and all the children have settled in really well. We have already had some fantastic homework projects sent in this term and we are currently trying to organise a more central place to display some of them so that they are on view for all visitors to school to see to excellent quality of the projects. Thank you also to the Key Stage 2 parents in particular for your patience in collecting your children from the gated area. We are aware that it is a very congested space, but grateful to the parents who are now taking a few steps back and waiting further away for your children to come to you. Please be assured that safety for the children remains just as important in this situation, as children are only allowed through the gate when teachers are sure that parents are there.



### Parking thanks...

Thank you to those parents who make every effort to continue to park considerately and safely to help protect our children. Unfortunately, there is still a small minority of parents who are parking on yellow lines and even across neighbour's driveways. We have had a few complaints over the past weeks. I am also aware that neighbours have informed traffic wardens who have said they will now be making regular visits and will be issuing parking tickets to those cars they find parked illegally.

### Annual Parent Survey

The outcomes of the Annual Parent Survey completed last term are very positive, with all areas reaching well over the 80% approval rate, and, with all but one of these being well into the 90% level. This is a further improvement on the previous year. Also, as in previous years, just one area, "*My child gets the right amount of work to do at home.*" has been the area to fall significantly below the other results. In 2010 this was only at 71% approval rate. This rose significantly to 82% in 2011, 88% in 2012 and is now at 91% at 2013.

We have been addressing these concerns over last year by ensuring consistency across the school, deeper understanding with parents about our homework expectations and also, perhaps the biggest change, was introducing our 'Terrific Topic' homework books. As I mentioned previously, children have been returning a very high standard of work in these books.

The response to the question of how racism is dealt with in school is also very pleasing. We have had a positive response rate of 84%, with the remaining 16% ticking the 'Don't know' box, which means they have had no experience of racism at Tividale. This makes an impressive total of 100% positive response. Other areas to mention include 99% of parents saying that their children are settled well into school and that they make good progress here. 100% of parents who completed the questionnaire agree that their child likes school and is taught well, they are kept well informed about how their children are getting on at school, the school is well lead and managed, and that Tividale is helping their children to mature and become independent.

Parents have been assured that we give serious consideration to all of the comments made on the questionnaire. However, it is also important to understand that for us to change our practice we do need to feel that there is concern amongst a significant number of our parents as opposed to just one or two in isolation.

## Black History Month - October 2013

This term sees children at Tividale celebrate a number of different cultural and religious celebrations and festivals, including Harvest, Eid, Diwali and Black History month.

Black History Month is held every October in Britain. The aims are to:

- promote knowledge of Black History and experience
- disseminate information on positive Black contributions to British Society
- heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people in their cultural heritage.

All across our school from Nursery to year 6, our children have enjoyed listening to stories, role-playing, researching and learning about important events and people from Black history which have had an impact on the way we live our lives in today's society. This work will be continuing and spilling over in some year groups into November to fit into specific themes and project work. In particular the year groups have been looking at:

Year 1 - Black Royalty, Year 2 - Black Explorers, Matthew Henson, Year 3 - Racism in Italy-Afro-Italian association, Italian footballer Mario Ballotelli, Year 4 - Black soldiers in WW2, Year 5 - Pirates in Jamaica and the history of Port Royal, Year 6 - Joseph Laroche and the fate and legacy of other black passengers on the Titanic.



## Wet Mornings ....reminder....

On wet mornings children will be allowed into school at 8.45am when staff will be available to take responsibility for them. When mornings are wet, please try to ensure that your child(ren) do not arrive in school before 8.45am. Key Stage 1 and Reception children should enter school through the door in the Key Stage 1 playground where a teacher will be on duty and Key Stage 2 children through the Year 3/4 door.

## Important Days/Dates for November 2013

4 - 8 <sup>th</sup>	Y5/6 residential trip to Edmond Hall
7 <sup>th</sup>	Halloween Disco
15 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Uniform day for Children in Need
15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Diwali Assembly
18-22 <sup>nd</sup>	Parent workshop week (Details to follow)

## Finally...

Thank you to all parents and carers who donated towards our Harvest Festival. The food was donated to local senior citizens and a food bank, where it was gratefully received

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy half term holiday.

Signed:

*E Burnell*

(Headteacher)

24<sup>th</sup> October 2013