



EMERSONS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 2 -11th September 2009

Communication

Newsletters

Every Friday we send home a Newsletter with your child. The Newsletters are numbered and dated and we make every effort to ensure your child gets a copy – please check their school bags. A copy is displayed in the window of the Entrance Foyer and spare copies are available from the rack by the office window. The purpose of the Newsletter is to keep you up to date with events and school news and to help to reduce enquiries and telephone calls. You can also check the school website where the newsletter is posted every week, www.emersonsgreenprimary.co.uk. We hope to eventually email the newsletter to as many parents as possible.

Holiday forms and holiday dates up to July 2011, uniform order forms, dinner menus, milk forms and other important information are also available in the rack, by the office hatch.

Flyers and letters for outside clubs, sports activities, etc are available in the other rack in the foyer.

We apologise for the epic newsletter this week.



Coffee Mornings

The PTFA hold regular coffee mornings in the school hall on a Thursday 8.50 – 10.00am. You are most welcome to come along with or without toddlers and have a coffee and a chat with other parents.

School Organisation Attendance

The school morning commences at 8.50am but teachers are in classes from 8.40am to greet the children and give them an opportunity to settle before the start of the school day. Other adults are at the Infant and Junior doors and in the cloakroom to assist the children. Children CANNOT come to school before 8.40am as there is no one on duty before that time and we cannot take responsibility if a child is hurt or gets into any trouble. It is now our duty to write to the parents personally if your child is on the premises without an adult before 8.40am. On the other hand, children who arrive after 8.50 are marked in the register as 'Late'. The Education Welfare Officer checks the registers and if a child is continually late, the EWO has to investigate this. We have updated the Attendance and Punctuality Guidelines for Parents and have enclosed a copy for you. The full policy and the guidelines are on the web site.

Teachers are unable to see parents first thing in the morning as they are in the classrooms. Any message can be left in the office or with staff at the doors and if necessary an appointment will be made.

It is also crucial that parents ring us on a daily basis if your child is not coming to school that day. We must stress to you how important it is that you keep us informed. School is busy and although we do operate a first day contact system it does help us if you phone us by 9.30am. If the answer phone is on, please just leave a message.

Reception 2010 children and Secondary transfer children July 2010

If you have a child born between **01.09.05 – 31.08.06** they must be registered for school to start in September 2010. The information packs have been sent home with siblings this week and we are arranging to hand deliver as many packs as possible. Please if you can help, they are in the entrance foyer; even if you can just take one for someone in your road it will be very helpful. Each pack costs over £1.80 to post – we have over 75 packs to go out! Thank you for helping and thanks to the PTFA who addressed all of them! Applications for places need to be made on the form in the book and sent directly to South Gloucestershire Children and Young People's Service. Please do not return them to school.

Yr.6 children brought home a **Secondary Transfer Book** during the week. The Yr. 7 Admission Form is in the back of the book. These have to be returned directly to South Glos. Children's & Young People's Service. Please do not return them to school. We will not follow this up so it is your responsibility to make sure these forms are returned to the Authority by the stated date. If you are hoping to choose an Independent School, CTC, St. Mary Redcliffe or a school that is not in the local catchment area, it is still necessary for you to complete the form requesting a place at a local school. This will cover you if your application to an alternative school is not successful.

Birth Certificates

Over the next few weeks we will be sending home a green Contact Information Form for each child, this needs to be filed in and returned as soon as possible. We must now see a child's birth certificate, so if your child is in Reception class or has recently joined us it would be helpful if you could bring it to the office when convenient. Contact Information Forms are updated every September, but please remember to let us know if you change your emergency contact telephone number, as we need to be able to contact someone in the event of an emergency or illness. Many thanks.

School Meals

Dinner money is now £1.60 per day - £8.00 per week. The Catering Department deal with the dinner money, please send your money in on a Monday morning to the class teacher, in a sealed envelope. Please make cheques payable to South Gloucestershire Council (SGC). If you have any queries regarding dinners, Vicky, our school cook, is usually available so just go and have a chat with her. Vicky deals with all the money relating to dinners and it is extremely helpful for her if orders and money are made on a Monday morning. Thanks. Please remind your child that they must remember to hand in their dinner money.

Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of Income Support you may be entitled to free school meals. The forms are available in the entrance foyer or call at the office if you need to know more

Uniform

The PTFA are available on a Thursday morning to sell school uniform. This coincides with their weekly coffee morning. Uniform Order Forms are available in the foyer. Please complete and send in with payment, orders will be processed and will then be sent home

with your child. From time to time we have second-hand uniform for sale in the entrance foyer or outside the front door. Donations of good, clean uniform are always appreciated. Please hand them into the office. There is currently a table of second hand uniform out so please have a look.

Water bottles: These are available from the office at £1.20 each, or from the PTFA. These can be kept in school or taken home weekly for a wash-up.

Lost Property

Please make sure that everything that your child wears or brings to school is **NAMED**. We have just had to make a large donation to the CLIC charity and a school in India as we are unable to store the vast amount of lost property that accumulates in a school year. There is a 'lost property' box in each cloakroom area – but we would ask parents to check that it is their child's uniform that went in the wash this week! There are also a few coats in the entrance foyer; these will be disposed of next Friday if they are not claimed. They have been held up in assembly and are all un-named.

Medication

We are no longer authorised to give short-term medication to children, i.e. Calpol, linctus, Penicillin etc. You can arrange to come into school and give any medication to your child. If your child needs regular long term medication please let us know because a Health Care Plan has to be completed so that we can give them essential medication.

Parking

We have to **insist** that parents do not drive into the car park when delivering or collecting children. The car park is not big enough and there are health and safety factors to be considered. We have a mini bus and taxis transporting children with disabilities. The mini bus needs 8ft of clear space behind for access and these vehicles should not have to double park for the safety and ease of letting the children get on and off the bus. The lay by at the front entrance is reserved for disabled parking for parents with children in the Resource Base and taxis. We also have to be aware that if an ambulance or fire engine was needed they must have access through both gates. For the safety of all the children please co-operate with these requests.

Cycling to School

Children are allowed and encouraged to cycle to school. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult but once the older children have achieved their cycling proficiency we are happy that they cycle to school alone or with friends. All children **MUST** wear a cycle helmet. All children must dismount bikes and scooters at the gates. If you are leaving a bike or scooter in the bike racks by the garage please ensure that they are secured.

Shoes for Africa

Please may we remind you to continue collecting old shoes for our 'Shoe Aid for Africa' appeal. We are looking for adults and children's practical shoes. Please pair up your second hand shoes, bring them into school the week of **5th to 9th October 2009** and put them in the collection box located in the entrance foyer. If you have any queries please speak to Miss Joanne Chambers.



Events



Harvest

We are preparing for Harvest Festival early again this year. We plan to hold our service on the afternoon of Tuesday 20th October at 2.00 pm. Following the success of our harvest festival last year with the theme of helping the children understand that food doesn't just come from supermarkets we would like to do something similar this year. This is where you can be involved, so yet again we have a big favour to ask.

We would like the children to be involved in making a food item for Harvest. Ideally it would be better if it was a preserve or a pickle such as a jar of jam, chutney or perhaps a jar of pickled onions or cabbage which has a long shelf life. The children will then bring their offering into the hall as part of the service and at the end we will have a sale of all the lovely goodies. The money raised will go to CASE - our adopted charity in South Africa which funds counsellors for children who have lost their parents.

Here are a few suggestions that you could make with your children

- a jar of:
 - jam (there are some lovely blackberries growing in the hedgerow around school)
 - chutney
 - pickles- cabbage, onions, beetroot etc
- a loaf of bread (the bread maker can come in useful here)
- cake, tarts, etc
- pizza
- soup

We will also make some things in school to add to the collection. Last year the children made some fantastic jam from the blackberries on the school field and bread- a great combination. If you have a really busy life and the thought fills you with dread we would be happy to receive a jar of something that you have bought.

Road Safety

On Wednesday October 21st we have a special 'Be Safe, Be Seen' assembly led by South Gloucestershire Council Road Safety ETP team.

As the clocks go back on Sunday 25 October, and the nights draw in, we want to encourage all children to wear something bright and take extra care when out and about.

The assembly will be followed by a sale of fluorescent and reflective material to children and parents. We will remind you about this nearer the time but if you have any questions please speak to Miss Joanne Chambers.

In-Service Days

Schools have five In-Service Training Days for Staff, which are spread over the school year. The dates for your calendar are Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd November, Monday 22nd February, Friday 30th April and Friday 2nd July.



Scholastic Books – a great idea for gifts and Christmas presents!

Children will be bringing home a copy of the Scholastic Book Club catalogue. If you choose to make an order from this catalogue then we will receive 20% commission to spend on books for the school library. To make an order please either:

- a) Return your order to school with a cheque made payable to **Scholastic Ltd**. Your books will be delivered to school and there will be no delivery charge; or
- b) Order via the scholastic book club website www.clubs.scholastic.co.uk/shop. When you make an order using the website of £5.00 or more then you can **claim a free bag** by quoting the promotion code **BAG0909**. There is free home delivery using this method if your order is over £25.00, otherwise the delivery charge is £3.50.

Curriculum

SEAL

Our SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) theme for this term is New Beginnings. The activities during this theme aim to develop the children's knowledge, understanding and skills in four key social and emotional aspects of learning: empathy, self-awareness, social skills and motivation.

Extra Curricular Clubs

Please see the attached letters for Gymnastics and Athletics. We have also attached a table of all clubs planned to run in terms 1 and 2. Please note dates, and times when the club finishes- they can differ. Staff will distribute information to children and let them know if they have a place in the club. Up to date information is given out to the children in assembly every Monday. Clubs will run regardless of weather- in extreme circumstances when a club is cancelled at short notice we will contact you. Cancellations that we know of in advance will be communicated in the newsletter.



Thank You

A big thank you from Mrs. Knight to everyone who remembered to bring home some Spanish magazines from their holidays.

PTFA – News

Please see attached letter from our very active PTFA.

Out Of School Club

The Out of School Club now meets at Emersons in the morning (7.30-8.40am) when breakfast is available and the evenings (3.20- 6.00pm). This is proving to be a huge success and the children are enjoying not having to trek up to Mangotsfield after school. There are still places available but are likely to fill up quickly. If you would like more information please contact Tina on 07786006906.

