



Emersons Green Primary School
NEWSLETTER NO. 28 – 29th April 2010

In-Service Day – Friday 30th and Bank Holiday Monday

School re-opens on Tuesday morning. Enjoy the long weekend.

To Parents of Y6- SATS

Many of you will have seen in the media that NAHT- The Association for all School Leaders has balloted the members regarding boycotting the administration of the Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) in May 2010. The majority of NAHT members (61%) have voted to take action and not administer the tests this year.

As a Headteacher I believe the current system narrows the curriculum and requires the demonstration of shallow and regurgitative learning. It can also disrupt the quality of the child's experience in a year which should be a high point of a pupil's primary experience. I would welcome the abolition of SATs in primary schools although I believe we should still assess children. Schools are getting much better at making and using accurate assessments on a day to day basis in order to track and support progress which is more meaningful.

Although I am in support of the action not to administer the SATs this year we have decided as a governing body and staff to **continue as normal**. This is because we are due for an OfSTED inspection in January 2011 and the most recent validated results are used to judge the school. It would seem a nonsense to be judged on our 2009 results which were lower than usual due to the higher percentage of special needs children in that cohort. The 2009 results would be very out of date and not representative of the children currently at Emersons Green. I also feel it is very late in the year and our Y6 children have worked exceptionally hard and are geared up to take their tests. If you would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to get in touch.

RICK FORM – Re Lost Property

Thank you to Mrs. Say for her very helpful RICK Form. Mrs. Say has kindly volunteered to check for named lost property items and return them to the children once a week. This will help to reduce our enormous piles of lost property. Please, please, remember to name everything that comes into school – then it will not be lost forever! Please could you also remember to check that your child has brought home their own uniform and not someone else's. Thanks.

HAIRSPRAY

Sold Out. As Mrs. Lockyer was away when the requests for tickets went out she would be grateful if you could contact her just to confirm that she has got your booking. Many thanks.

Non-Uniform

Just Different uniform day raised £117.35. Many thanks for your contribution, the money has gone to The Just Different Charity.

Water Bottles

Now that the weather is warming up – please remember to send your child into school with a water bottle. Water bottles can be purchased from the office for £1.20.

Parents Coffee Afternoon (SEN)

Tuesday 18th May at 1.45pm. Nicky Owen, Inclusive Play Advisor for South Gloucestershire will be coming to talk about what her project can offer. They have playschemes, buddy schemes and support for pupils with disability to access mainstream leisure activities. It will also be an opportunity to tell her what future projects would be useful.

Collecting!

Yes we are collecting again! This time it is red, green and blue milk top bottles. They are being collected for a children's hospice – the plan is to recycle them and make garden furniture for children. There is a box in the entrance foyer for the tops. Thanks.

BARNADO'S - Who are we and what do we do?

As a school we benefit from a Parent Support Adviser through Barnado's. Many of our children and families have benefitted from their support in the past, and we thought you might be interested in some information provided by Barnado's.

Parent Support Advisers are funded by public money through 'extended schools'. The aim is that ALL parents have access to parent support to ensure that children and young people achieve the best and most positive outcomes possible. Barnado's are providing this service for Emersons Green Primary.

Children don't come with a handbook and we all need help and advice from time to time! Parenting can be very rewarding but those of us with children know how difficult and challenging it can be, especially when other pressures exist. We can help by.....

- Providing advice and information on setting routines, dealing with challenging behavior and your child's physical, academic and emotional development.
- As we work closely with our partner schools we can be on hand to build on existing relationships between staff and parents and offer support to enable you to become more involved with and have a more positive impact on your child's learning and development.
- We can also help with your child's attendance if this is causing you or your child's school concern.

Examples of some of the work we have been involved with recently.....

- Providing practical help and support to parents when family relationships breakdown.
- Supplying parents with additional tools to help their children gain confidence and self esteem.
- Providing parents with different strategies to cope with their children's more challenging behavior
- Liaising with schools when relationships between home and school have broken down and by making sure parents are fully informed of decisions that impact upon their children
- Provide help with the transition from infant to junior and from junior to secondary schools.

We are not here to judge you or your parenting skills but to provide help and support in any way we can. Our service is low level, short term and confidential and we do not share information with anyone else (including school!) unless we have your permission to do so.

How can you get in touch with your Parent Support Adviser?

The first thing you need to do is speak to a member of staff in School. This can be your child's class teacher, a member of support staff or Mrs Isaac. They will then get in touch with us and if we think we can be of help your Parent Support Adviser will contact you and arrange to meet up and have a chat. If you then feel that you would like them to work with you we can go from there!

PTFA News & Events

The notice board in the foyer has been updated – check it out for all the latest details.

Current events:

Every Friday	Every Friday morning we hold a coffee morning at the school, everyone is welcome and toys are provided for younger children. Juice, toast, tea and coffee available
Friday May 7th	Usborne Books are joining us for Coffee morning
4th May 2010	Spring Fashion Show – Bargains Galore!
12th June 2010	Mangotsfield Festival
9th July 2010	Yeehah! Cowboys & Indians themed BBQ with children's entertainment – evening event
25th September 2010	Fun Run & BBQ.....welcome to a new academic year. Celebrating the 10 th Anniversary of the school!
3rd December 2010	Family Christmas Fair

Fashion Show

Shop till you drop after our very own school supermodels have strutted their stuff on the catwalk! Tickets are still available and you can pay on the door. £2.50 entrance fee which includes a drink, 50p entrance for children. Thank you to all the children who have volunteered to model – there are a few spaces left and still time to volunteer. Contact either getjules@woodfortrees.net or vic.harvey@axa-sunlife.co.uk (or see us in the playground) if you'd like to be involved. Clothes will be on sale after the fashion show at bargain prices – top names from Mothercare, Next, Principles, Adams, Debenhams, BHS, M&S and many more!

Book Sale

Books have been on sale all week and this will continue next week – if you have anymore books to donate please feel free to do so. 3 books for a £1. A blue honesty box has been placed just inside the foyer – please make sure any payment for books is placed in this box. Thanks!

Family Bingo!

Bingo was a great event – thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed themselves. A big thanks to Dave Barker who made a superb Bingo caller! We will let you know the final takings and the amount we will donate to NSPCC in memory of Suni Norman when we have finalised this.

Usborne Books are visiting

Drop into our coffee morning on 7th May (8.50am – 10am) to check out the new Spring books available from Usborne.

Mangotsfield Festival

This is a great event held at Cleve RFC and as usual we will be running a stall. We always need lots of help so if you can spare an hour or more on the day please sign up with your name and number on the form in the foyer.