



EMERSONS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter No. 4 – 23 September 2011

Whole School Trip to Bristol Zoo

The whole school (including all the staff) and Reception class will be going to Bristol Zoo on Friday 7th October. The school building will be closed on that day. Reception class children will therefore be with us for the whole day. We will need a few parent helpers, please see Mr. Hemmings on the playground if you are interested. Unfortunately we cannot include younger brothers and sisters.

The children will be taking part in workshops, can you let us know if your child has any allergies to animals, fur, etc.

Following our survey regarding children taking spending money on trips, the majority of votes are in favour. Therefore, we have agreed that children may bring up to £2 pocket money – if parents wish them to do so – this is not compulsory. Please do not give your child any more than this amount. Children will not be allowed to buy sweets or ice cream, but will have the freedom to spend the money on things of their own choice if time permits. (This will be our policy for all future trips.)

As this is a treat following the outstanding OfSTED Inspection and the children's ongoing positive attitude and behaviour, the school is funding the entrance cost to the zoo. Therefore we will only be charging the cost of the coaches for this trip and ask parents to make a voluntary contribution of £3.00 per child to cover costs.

If your child has a pass to the Zoo please could you bring it in to school so that we can photocopy it and give it straight back to you. (This will reduce our costs).

Children will need to be in school for registration at 8.50am, and will be returned to school for normal going home time.

They will need to take a waterproof coat. They will also need a packed lunch and drink – preferably all in a carrier bag that can be thrown away once they have eaten.

Please complete the reply slip at the end of the letter and return to the class teacher, (not the office). We must have a completed reply slip for every child.

We are really looking forward to the whole school being involved in this exciting visit together.

Bikes in School

This week a child's bike was nearly stolen. Fortunately, it had a very good lock on it and although the lock was badly damaged the bike was not taken. There are times when the security gates are open, i.e. after school etc. Please make sure if your child brings a bike to school that it is securely locked up.

Confirmation of dates:

School will break up for half term on Thursday 20th October – this is the bank holiday day that we have been given to celebrate the Queen's Birthday.

Parent Governors

We are looking to recruit 3 parent Governors. Please see attached paperwork.

SEN/Inclusion Parents' Group

Dates for meeting of the SEN/Inclusion Parents' Group will be:

Friday 14 October, Friday 9 December, Friday 3rd February, Friday 23 March, Friday 25 May and Wednesday 18 July.

The October meeting will focus on communication, as this is the month when the national 'Hello' campaign focuses on AAC (alternative and augmentative communication). Katy Waddington, one of the Speech & Language Therapists who works at the school, will be joining us to talk about Makaton.

Nathan Roe, Education Officer at South Gloucestershire LEA, will be coming to the December meeting to talk about the transition to secondary school for pupils with SEN. The meetings are open to all parents who have a child with SEN or who have an interest in inclusion.

School Lunches

A reminder that all lunches must be booked and paid for on a Monday of each week. Dinners cost £1.70 per day = £8.50 per week. Cheques to be made payable to South Gloucestershire City Council or SGCC.

The school kitchen deal with all dinner money, not the office. Please send your child's money in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with name, class and which days they are having a lunch.

October is active mind month in Emersons Green Library

At Emersons Green Library we have organised a programme of events to celebrate Active Mind Month which aims to challenge, entertain and inspire the whole family to have fun or learn a new skill this autumn.

The events at the library are:

- The No 1 Library's Detective Quiz –drop in and test your knowledge with the Crime Reading Group's fiendish quiz
- Have a go at a new craft with local enthusiasts demonstrating:
 - Beadweaving - Bristol Beading Cluster says it can be addictive

- Knitting and crochet – friendly group with an interesting project to show
- Quilting – with Emersons Green Quilters
- Photography - Exhibition by Downend Camera Club
- “It was different in my day....” – an introduction to family history
- Facebook, Twitter, Linked-in - What’s it all about? Need to boost your professional links? Free sessions run by a Library Computer Support volunteer
- Teen author Steve Voake – meet the author whose writing is described as ‘heart warming, thought-provoking and exciting’
- ‘The fountain of knowledge’ sculptures – official unveiling of joint Council and Sainsbury’s project
- Old-fashioned board games tournament - run by Emersons Green WI
- ‘How does your garden grow?’ – ask an expert about encouraging wildlife, growing flowers for arranging or allotment vegetables

This is part of South Gloucestershire Council's bigger programme for Active Mind Month.

Cllr James Hunt, Executive Member for Communities and local councillor, said: “South Gloucestershire Council has worked with many local groups, individuals and businesses to provide an exciting month of activities with the aim of getting as many of our residents as possible to become more active in their communities.

“Research has shown that people who regularly take part in activities are not only more mentally active but tend to be happier and healthier too. We want everyone in lead healthier lives and South Gloucestershire wants everyone to have an active mind in an active body. “

Programmes with the full listings and dates are available from any South Gloucestershire Council office, library or leisure centre and online <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/LeisureCulture/activemindmonth/>

Gill Clayton, Emersons Green Library.

REPLY SLIP – BRSTOL ZOO TRIP

I give permission for my child _____ Class _____

to go on the whole school trip to Bristol Zoo on Friday 7th October 2011. I enclose a contribution of £3.00. (Cheques payable to Emersons Green Primary).

SIGNED: _____ (Parent/Carer)