



News from the Nest

Autumn half term 2

12th November 2008

Homework Review!

Dear Parents,

Feedback from our last questionnaire to parents together with requests to Mrs Armitage have prompted us to review our homework policy in school. A number of parents have asked if their child could receive regular homework, especially as they get older so that it helps them prepare for high school.

We agree with these parents and feel that there are 3 important reasons that children should receive homework to support their learning:

- 1) Homework will help children to consolidate and practice the basic literacy and numeracy skills they learn in school.
- 2) To encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self discipline to study on their own and prepare them for high school.
- 3) To provide opportunity for parents to become involved in their children's education.



We have discussed what is appropriate for children to be given as homework and the amount that should be set. Please take time to read the homework policy which is attached to this newsletter as it gives the detail for each year group. Reading with your child is probably the most important and vital way you can help your child right the way through school. Ten minutes a day sharing a book with your child shows the value that you place on the importance of learning to read and will send your child a very positive message. Please ask your class teacher if you would like any help or tips on hearing your child read - they will be delighted to help.

Thank you,



Ruth Wylie - Headteacher

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED APPEAL

Every penny you give goes towards helping children and young people in the UK.



We will be celebrating Children in Need day on **THURSDAY 13th NOVEMBER** as we have school photographers in on Friday 14th December. To join in with this charity fundraising day we are asking all children to come to school in their normal clothes, instead of uniform and make a donation of at least 30p towards the Children in Need school collection. Thank you.

Christmas is on its way!

The children have already started to learn Christmas songs and words for their Christmas performances. I am sure you will want to put these dates in your diary so details are as follows:



Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) will be doing a performance sharing their thoughts on "My favourite things at Christmas". Our very youngest children who come to our childcare setting will also dress up and come and enjoy the performance. There will be two performances on Friday 12th December at 10am and 2pm in the KS1 hall.



Key Stage 1 children are putting on two performances of "Whoops-a-Daisy Angel". The performances will be on Wednesday 10th December at 1:45pm in the main school hall and a further performance on Thursday 11th December at 10am.

Key Stage 2 is celebrating Christmas with a traditional theme, and all children are busy learning Christmas carols. We realised that unless we took the time in primary school to teach children some of the traditional carols it might be that our youngsters never have the opportunity and a whole generation could grow up without knowing these special songs.



You are therefore invited to join Y5&6 on Wednesday 17th December at 10am and Y3&4 on Thursday 18th December for a Celebration of Carols. The children will be serving parents mince pies and coffee after the assembly and each parent will receive a small gift made by their child. We do hope you will be able to join us.

We also hope that as many children as possible will come to St Francis church to share in a

Christmas celebration of song, carols, drama and dance. This will be held on Monday 15th December at 7pm. A coach will leave school at 6:30pm and transport the children to the church with as many parents as possible meeting us there for our service. Mince Pies and Coffee will be served afterwards. So come along and get into the Christmas mood!

Christmas Lunch

The children will be enjoying Christmas lunch on Wednesday 17th December - normal dinner price of £1:65 or free if your child has this entitlement. All the children will eat in the dining hall with the staff and crackers will be pulled! Later in the term we will be sending home a slip to enable your children to order a Christmas lunch if they wish.



School dates for 2008

End of term: Friday 19th December 2008

School starts back for the children on Tuesday 6th January 2009

(Staff training day on Monday 5th January)



Half term is Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February.

We break up for Easter on Friday 3rd April and return back to school on Tuesday 21st April.

Christmas Fair - Saturday 6th December

This year the Friends of Wren's Nest School (FOWNS) have been busy planning a special Christmas Fair. Due to the building work we obviously were unable to hold a Summer Fair, so to make up for it we will be opening the doors on Saturday 6th December for a Christmas Fair. There will be gift and toy stalls, a tombola, face painting, nail art and of course Father Christmas has put the date in his diary and will be there to hear Christmas wishes and give out some early presents!

