



**ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE**  
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8<sup>th</sup> June 2010

**Newsletter ~ Summer 2010 (05)**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I trust you all had a good break and made the most of the lovely weather. We now have the busiest time of the year ahead so please make sure you have all the dates in your diary. I will put in the most important ones at the end of this letter just in case they have not made it to your diaries yet!

As you are probably aware this is the time of year when the staff decide on classes for the next academic year. I would like to point out that we are a typical small rural school in Somerset with the inevitable mixed aged classes, simply because we only have 5 classes and there are 7 year groups in the primary phase of education. It is therefore inevitable that every child will have to be in one class for 2 years. As we have such excellent staff this does not cause any problems as the children are dealt with as individuals as far as is possible and all children make good progress.

At present we have large numbers and it is physically impossible to have 2 whole year groups in 1 class. We are also restricted by legal requirements in that no infant class can have over 30 children. This year we have 25 children in Diamonds which means it is impossible for them all to go up to Emeralds as there are 21 Year Ones which would make a class of 46 in September! This means that every class will have mixed year groups this year and we have tried to make the numbers as evenly distributed as possible, whilst looking at all the children's needs and where we think they will achieve to the best of their ability.

The children will be told this week which class they are in and I know you will trust the

professional judgement of the teachers. Miss Pritchard will personally inform those parents in Diamonds which children are staying with her next year, as they are too young to understand the news or maybe even remember to tell you!

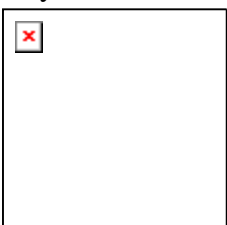
**STAFFING**

I would like to welcome Gill Morris onto our staff as a Teaching Assistant. She will be working every morning in Ruby Class from September and will be a very positive addition to our staff.

There are changes with teaching staff as well. Sadly Mr Briggs is leaving us in July to further his experience in another school nearer to his home. I know you will all miss him and I'm sure there will be a good send off for him near the end of term. I will let you know as soon as we have appointed a replacement. Mrs Mewett will move to Topaz in September and will take over Mr Higgins' teaching role and Mrs Longbourne will be in Sapphires though this is subject to change depending on our new appointment.

**ART WEEK- JUNE 21<sup>st</sup> to JUNE 25<sup>th</sup>**

As you are already aware this is our first major event of the half term and the theme is "Our Environment." Please come and offer your services if you are interested in art as we have many activities which would benefit from adult support. We would also like you to start collecting as we will need many raw materials such as sticks, twigs, willow, bamboo, bottle tops, plastic, nylon strips in fact anything which can be reused! Please put anything large like sticks, bamboo, wire etc in the environmental area and we will store anything smaller in school. Thank you.



**NEW LIBRARY**

Work is now under way to create a new, larger library where the current ICT suite is. The plan is to distribute the present computers into classes and have 15 laptops for the juniors to use in classroom lessons so that there is more use of IT throughout the curriculum. I also hold books as a valuable resource and want to make the library bigger and more exciting for the children. This will hopefully happen by September for the start of the new term. We will then be introducing many things for you to take part in with your child so that there is a higher profile on reading both at home and in school. We are also forming a reading committee consisting of 2 teachers, myself, a governor, 3 children and, if you are interested, a parent! Please see me if you would like to help with creating ideas for this project.

**CLUBS**

For this half term there are 2 changes. There will be **NO** KS1 rounders on a Wednesday night as Mr Higgins is arranging an outside experience for some older children and I will start a tennis club on Friday for 8 KS2 children. It will be first come first served to fill in the slip attached to this letter. Weather permitting, we will start this week.

Finally I have heard that some of you are not receiving our letters. We have tried to reduce copying costs by only giving out one per family and it may be the case that the older sibling is not bringing them home. In future there will be a board out every time a letter is going out so that you know to look for it in the book bag! Let's hope that works.

Yours sincerely,

*Helen Townson*

Helen Townson

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**ABBAS & TEMPLECOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**Friday After School Tennis Club ~ KS2 Children**

**REPLY SLIP**

I am interested in my child ..... in ..... class taking part in the After School Tennis Club which will finish at 4.30pm.

Signed .....

Date .....

**DATES REMINDER**

**Carymoor trip** 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June. (If the weather is bad please don't forget clearly marked wellie or walking boots and waterproofs)

**Sports Day** 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 3.30pm – followed by a BBQ, refreshments and a mini fete!

**Open Day** 9<sup>th</sup> July. This will be a chance for you to see the Art work from our Art Week as well as visit the classrooms if you would like to see the children during a normal day.

**Cycling Proficiency** 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July This is for years 5 & 6 only and will only take place if 10 children want to do it.

**Production- Yanamamo** 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm.

**Reports** 16<sup>th</sup> July

**Leaver's Service** 21<sup>st</sup> July at 2.00pm

**Commendation Assembly** 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 1.45pm in the school hall.

School will end at **2.30pm** for the summer holidays.