



ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE
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Newsletter ~ Autumn 2010 (01)

Dear Parent/Carer,

I do hope you have had a peaceful and enjoyable break with your family and as usual I can't believe how quickly the time has gone by. I would like to welcome all new families to the school, both in the Reception class and throughout the rest of the school. I hope your children settle in quickly but please do not hesitate to come and talk to us if you feel there is a problem. Needless to say, we all welcome Miss Hannah Robinson to Ruby Class and Gill Morris who will be the Teaching Assistant for Miss Robinson every morning. For the parents of Ruby Class there will be an informal meeting for you to meet Miss Robinson this **Wednesday 8th September at 3.30pm**. This will be in Ruby Class.

As with all new school years there are some changes to take in so I do not apologise for a rather lengthy letter as the items are important for you to read and assimilate as they will involve all the children and sometimes you! Please read on!

START AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

The school bell will ring at 8.50am as per usual but we will NOT be going into the hall for exercises. Each class will be timetabling their own exercise session throughout the day as we all feel this will be more beneficial to the children and we will have a more ordered start to the day. At the end of the day only the Reception class will be met in the bottom playground. **All other classes will be picked up in the main playground.** The 2 main reasons for this being safety away from the road and more shelter for you in the bad weather. If you have a child in both Key stages please pick up your Reception child

first and then walk up to the main playground to collect your older child. You may then of course leave from either gate. Having observed the end of the school day carefully, I am very concerned about the number of cars in the road and would urge you please to walk with your child to and from school whenever possible. I understand that the High Street is dangerous but it is important to teach children how to be careful in situations that are not ideal.

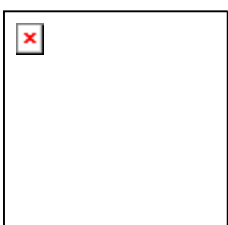
We are happy to continue with the "Walking Bus" on Wednesdays this term, beginning this week. Mrs Longbourne will leave the recreation ground at **8.35am** to walk to school. It would be lovely to see as many parents and children supporting this as possible.

If you wish your child to walk home on their own, it is very important that you let us know in writing.

Finally I would also like to remind you that you are responsible for your child in the mornings until 8.45am when a member of staff will be out in the playground. Thank you.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The staff have been working hard during the summer break to create a more stimulating environment for the children and we have been looking at the skills that the children need to learn for their relevant age group in each area of the curriculum. We are going to teach through termly topics beginning with "Water" this term. Many of the subjects will be taught through this topic but some areas will be discreet and taught separately



such as Maths and RE. Each class teacher will send you a short outline of the areas they are going to cover within the first week. As we develop this new curriculum the children will become more involved in their learning.

HOUSES

Within the next 2 weeks we will be sorting the children into 5 Houses. Each House will have a group of around 30 children aged from Reception to Year 6 and this will then hopefully be a basis for many activities throughout the years ahead. Generally we will keep siblings together unless you advise us otherwise. Each House will have a teacher in charge and the children will be deciding on names within the next 2 weeks.

DATES

Below are the dates we have arranged so far this term and we of course welcome you to our Harvest Service in Church on 12th October at 1.45pm. There will be refreshments after the service in school. The theme of our service this year will be Water to coincide with our termly topic and we will be supporting Water Aid which is a very worthwhile charity and hopefully the children will learn a lot through their lessons. To fund raise for this a large bucket will be out in the playground EVERY MORNING for you to please put any loose change you may have in your pockets – even if you only put in 2p every day we would raise a considerable amount by the Harvest Service!

CLUBS

Separate letters will follow shortly with details of school clubs which will commence on Monday 20th September. Private music tuition will also continue – details of which will be sent at a later date.

CAKE RAFFLE

We would like to continue with this weekly fundraiser as it is very useful in helping to fund extra activities for the children. For those of you who are new to the school, this involves parents volunteering to bake a cake which is then raffled at our Friday assembly. Tickets are 10p each and children can bring in any amount they wish on Friday mornings **to buy their tickets in class**. If you would like to bake a cake for the raffle, please inform the school office and they will put your name down on the list for this term. Thank you

very much. Every little helps! I will start the ball rolling this Friday so all you need to remember is the 10p's!

SWIMMING

Just a reminder to all parents of Topaz Class that swimming starts this **Thursday 9th September**. (Please see separate letter today and return the consent slip together with your payment to the school office as soon as possible.) Your child will not be able to swim without the necessary consent form being received in school.

PLAYTIME EQUIPMENT

The staff would like to have more activities to offer the children at playtimes especially when we are confined to the hard area which limits more physical play in the Autumn and Winter. If anyone has spare crayons, felt tips, paper or games that you no longer need, please could you donate them to us so that more of the children's needs are met. A plastic set of Boules or a Mankala set would also be fantastic. We are also hoping to work in groups outside on occasions so if you have any old spare wellies you could donate, that would also be very helpful. Thank you.

HOMEWORK

This is always a controversial area with Primary Schools but the main consideration is that we have your support in helping your child to develop and improve. For **all** of you the main area is helping your child with their reading. This of course varies from simply sharing a story in Reception to listening to a chapter read in Sapphire and Topaz Class BUT it is the most important area of the child's education as without this skill they cannot access the rest of the curriculum and their learning is limited. Spellings will also be introduced from Year 1 for your child to learn and time spent on that will also vary according to age. In the Juniors (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6) there will also be a Mathematical investigation or some work related to the Maths they have been doing in class. Finally all children will have some research work to do on the topic we are studying and this will vary from week to week. I hope you will then be more aware of your child's learning in the term. We will review this at the end of the term to discuss its success.

CALLING ALL PARENTS!

If any of you have an interesting job, profession or hobby which you would be prepared to share with the children in a Wednesday assembly please let me know as it is important they see the outside world as much as possible and it gives them a different perspective on life too.

LUNCHBOXES

As you are all aware we are a Healthy School and do try to make the children aware of as many aspects of maintaining a healthy lifestyle as possible. We do not allow any sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks in lunchboxes though chocolate biscuits such as penguins are acceptable. For children who have packed lunches, we have agreed with the lunchtime supervisors that all uneaten food and waste will be sent home, as I think it is important that you are aware if your child does not eat all their food.

Also we have more than one child who has a severe reaction to nuts and so we would ask that you ensure that no nuts are brought into school. Thank you very much for your co-operation with this.

ART WEEK CARDS

Attached to this letter you will find the beautiful card your child designed during Art Week last term. As you can see, you are able to order packs which will help to raise funds for our environmental work in school. Please make sure your orders are received in school by the deadline of Friday 17th September.

THANK YOU!

I would like to say some thank you's to:
Penn Mill Scaffolding for providing the wood for making our vegetable beds;
Bradfords in Evercreech for provided weeding baskets and membrane;
Sarah Goodman for her donation of a garden shed for our vegetable area, and to Andy Greene for building it for us. Also, thanks to Michelle and Kara Greene for painting it too!

Yours sincerely,

Helen Townson

Head Teacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

24th Sept	International Day
28th Sept	Yr4 trip to Stourhead with Horsington & Henstridge
28th Sept	PTA AGM
1st Oct	Sapphire & Topaz trip to Waterworks
5th Oct	Wessex Water visit – all infants
12th Oct	1.45pm Harvest Service in St Mary's Church
3rd~5th Nov	Yr5 residential to Leeson House
9th&10th Nov	Parents Evenings 3.40pm-6.30pm on both days
15th~19th Nov	Book Week