



ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE
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21st September 2011

Newsletter ~ Autumn 2011 (3)

Dear Parent/Carer,

Some interesting developments have happened this week to warrant another letter so please read on!

A PARENT'S EVENING ON HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR READING

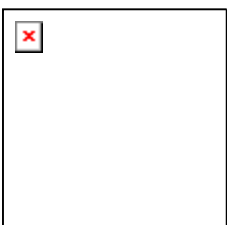
As you are all aware the skill of reading is the most important one as it is the gateway for all learning. As a staff we are committed to helping all the children read to a good standard yet at the same time ENJOY their books. In order to help you I would like to offer a very informal meeting to help you understand the process of reading and how you can best help your child at home. It is very difficult to choose a suitable time for everybody but in the end I have gone for an evening slot so that hopefully at least one of you can attend in the family. This is for **ALL** parents, (Infants and Juniors) not just those who are learning to read. If this is successful I would be happy to hold more workshops so that you feel confident with helping your child to succeed. The evening will be on **November 9th at 7pm and I do hope I will see as many of you as possible.** Please could you sign the reply slip below so that I can have an indication of numbers. Thank you. Refreshments will be available as well!

WEAR IT PINK DAY

We have decided this term to support the breast Cancer Campaign and wear something pink on **October 14th**. If every child could give a donation of £1 for wearing non uniform (or at least some non uniform!) it would be a great start to donating money for this good cause. I would also like to have a coffee morning in the hall with donated cakes and the school will provide the drinks so all are welcome for that. I will send out more details nearer the time.

NO PENS DAY!

This is a national educational day on **Wednesday 28th September** and we feel is a very important statement as children need many skills before they attempt to write. The children will all be working as normal but will not be picking up their pencils so there is to be no written homework that evening either! This day is actually supporting our Book Week theme of "Listen Up and Speak out" as we want to emphasise the importance of speaking and listening. Without good language knowledge and vocabulary a child will not be able to read and write.



POSSIBLE FILM TRIP

Mrs Hart has kindly given me information about the National Film Week during which many cinemas throughout the country are offering free films for all ages of children. Yeovil Cineworld is one of those cinemas and I have booked for both infants and juniors but now have to wait and see if there are places available. I will let you know as soon as I can.

CALENDAR FOR PARENTS THIS YEAR

Historically there have always been 2 parents' evenings in the year; one in the Autumn Term and one in the Spring Term, followed by a report in the Summer Term. After much discussion with staff I would like to change this calendar of reporting to parents which I hope will be appreciated by you. We will continue with the Autumn parent evenings but at the end of the Spring Term you will receive a written report which will outline the progress your child has made up to that point and where the staff want your child to be by the end of the year. Then near the end of the Summer Term we want to have a big Open Evening where all the year's work will be displayed in the classrooms and the staff will be around for general discussion. You will then be able to visit your child's next class if that is appropriate. Refreshments will be available so that there is a more informal approach for everyone and you can see all your child's work for the year.

TOPAZ SWIMMING

There will be NO swimming on October 13th as there is a trip for some Year 6 pupils to Bruton that afternoon. This means that there will be one extra swim for Topaz after half term.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

I have just had a visit from our new Attendance Officer, Jane Doney who works closely with me on attendance issues. She has informed me that the Government have now raised the bar for families who are looked at from 85% to 90% attendance. This is quite high but shouldn't be a problem unless, of course, your child does have some severe medical problem over a period of time, which is then completely acceptable. I urge you to always consider whether your child should be absent and of course when you take your holidays. It is very hard for the child to miss what is going on in the class and even harder to catch up.

LINK WITH NIGERIA

At Half Term I am going to Nigeria to forge links with a school in the area of Kano which is in North Nigeria. I am very excited to be given this opportunity (which is funded by the Department of Funding for International Development or DFID) and I know the children and staff will benefit from such a link. Three men from the Kano Education Authority will be visiting us before Half Term and I'm sure we will have more details to give you after their visit. If anyone would like to help me organise an event to welcome these visitors I would really appreciate it. (Refreshments mainly!) Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Townson

Head Teacher

To : **Abbas and Templecombe CEVC Primary School**

As parent/guardian of I will be able to attend the reading meeting on
November 9th at 7pm.

Parent/Guardian signature.....