



ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE
Church of England V.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL
School Lane, Templecombe, Somerset BA8 0HP

Tel: 01963 370481

Headteacher: Mrs Bernie Green BEd Hons (NPQH)

e-mail: office@abbastemplecombe.somerset.sch.uk
www.abbastemplecombe.co.uk

Fax: 01963 370409

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Newsletter 03 - Spring 2006

Dear Parents

The children have all settled in well after the half term break. A warm welcome to our new children and parents. I am sure that you will quickly make them feel part of our school community.

As mentioned last term, Mrs Tara Hart, Post Graduate trainee teacher has joined Ruby Class this term and I am sure that she will make a valuable contribution to the children's education, Mrs Laurie will naturally work alongside her.

Maths Project

As a school, we are a member of a Learning Network with other local schools, working on a project to share practice and develop Mathematics skills in Year 3 and 4. Therefore, Ruby Class are pleased to invite all of their parents to a special assembly to launch their 'Mighty Maths' project on Tuesday 7th March at 3pm. You are welcome to bring other adults, grandparents or uncles, if you wish. This will give us the opportunity to explain the project to you in detail, so that you can join in with your children at home. Refreshments will be served at the end of the assembly at 3.30pm. We do hope you will be able to attend. A formal letter will follow next week to give you all of the relevant details.

Choir

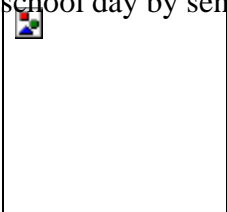
Our choir has been invited to take part in the South Somerset Music Spectacular. This is a concert given by a range of schools in Somerset, it promises to be an exciting and musically diverse event. The children will be performing on the evening of Wednesday 22nd March at Westlands Social Club in Yeovil. Tickets are available directly from Westlands, either by phone or in person. Further details about times and dress will be sent to choir members shortly.

National Tests

A reminder that pupils in Year 6 will take their end of Primary School National Tests during week commencing 8th May. It is vital that children attend school and feel able to perform their very best during the week, therefore, please support their revision work. Key Stage 1 children in Year 2 will have a less formal approach to teacher marked assessments. These tests will take place during the latter part of Spring and early Summer Term. The children will engage in these activities as part of their normal work, therefore they should not feel any undue pressure. Please let me know if you have any queries or concerns about your child's participation in the assessments.

Lunch

A reminder that sweets are not allowed during the school day, even at lunchtime. Mini chocolate bars such as Kitkats, Penguins etc are acceptable. Also please encourage your child to drink plenty of water during the school day by sending them with a water bottle. Juices and cordials are allowed at lunchtime only.



Parking

For the safety of all children would parents please avoid parking in, or driving up, the side lane that leads to the playground (lane to village hall) as this becomes very dangerous for pedestrians.

Parenting Course

As part of our Family Learning Programme, we have organized at your request a “Parenting Workshop”.

This will cover:

- Recognising what children really need
- How to develop emotional security
- How to set loving limits

It will take place on Tuesday 28th March, 10am -1pm in the school hall. We will be drawing up a list shortly, but please see Mrs Joy or myself if you would like to come.

Please note this is a class all parents will find useful, it is not about perceptions or judgments about your current parenting skills. Also, it is free! Please consider attending. A few words to encourage you:-

*Many things can wait.
Children cannot.
Today their bones are being formed,
Their blood is being made,
Their senses are being developed.
To them we cannot say tomorrow.
Their name is today.*

Gabriela Mistral

Sustaining Success

Mrs Geary, Mrs Sherry and I attended a conference in Bristol this week “Sustaining Success”. We are one of seven schools chosen from the County due to our high achievement and County recognition. As a result we have identified the following five factors that contribute to our success.

- Clear direction and leadership
- A culture of high expectations
- High quality committed staff and supportive parents
- A rigorous performance management system for all staff
- High calibre of pupil progress tracking and intervention work.

If you are interested in discussing these points in greater detail please see me and I will be pleased to give further information. A little extra funding comes into the school as a result of our involvement in the project.

Governors Literacy Prize

As you know, our Governing Body run a very successful competition each year to encourage pupils to write well. Posters are now up, detailing this year’s topic “What I would like to be”. More details will be given to pupils in assembly. Winners will be announced at the School’s Summer Fete.

World Book Day

On Thursday 2nd March it is World Book Day and we will be celebrating this with a variety of activities within our classes. On this day, please can your child bring a storybook that they no longer wish to keep, to swap with another child in their class?

Breakfast Club

The trial breakfast club has proven very successful over the last two terms, but it must now sustain itself rather than draw upon school funds. We need a minimum of 5 children to attend daily (at £1.50 per child) to cover full costs. In the past the school budget has subsidised the trial breakfast club heavily and this is not possible after Easter. Please see Mrs Phillips if you would still support the club at these costs.

Outdoor Play Area

The Early Years play areas is almost complete and the children are looking forward to using it. We hope to have an opening ceremony for Early Years parents, so more details later. Please contact me if you have any queries or concerns about anything raised in this letter or in relation to your child's education.

Future Dates

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| Friday 17 th March | – Year 1 Dental Check |
| Tuesday 28 th March | – Parents Evening 4.00pm -6.00pm |
| Wednesday 29 th March | – Parents Evening 6.00pm-8.00pm |
| Thursday 30 th March | – Easter Egg Hunt |
| Friday 31 st March | – Easter Service at St Mary's (all welcome) 1.45pm
+ Easter bonnet parade – End of Spring Term |
| Tuesday 18 th April | – Back to School – Summer Term |

Yours sincerely

Bernie Green
Headteacher