

Harvington C.E. (Controlled) First & Nursery School

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NEWSLETTER Friday 23rd April 2010

Welcome

Welcome back - we hope you have all had a lovely Easter break. The children have settled back to work very quickly. This term looks to be an extremely busy one! May I remind you to refer to the 'school dates' leaflet we sent out at the beginning of the year, with other dates being given in the 'Friday' letters. As we strive to achieve our next Eco award, I am hoping to reduce the amount of printing and paper used, so if you can read the Friday letters via the website, rather than collecting a letter, it would support us with this.

Forest School

As you are aware, we successfully gained a very large grant to develop a new forest school area which is now beginning to take shape and we are watching the exciting changes which are taking place. The new 'growing area,' complete with seven large vegetable beds, is nearing completion and we should be ready to do some planting very soon. As this area is not supervised at home time, please ensure all children stay with you on the playground.

Music Cluster event

Years Two and Four participated in the ABBA music cluster event on Thursday, held at the Evesham Art's centre. They sang their song confidently, as a school group, and joined in enthusiastically with the other cluster schools. Many thanks to Miss Keary and Miss Mahoney for giving them this opportunity and well done children!



School Health Nurse Drop - In

The School Health Nurse will be holding another drop-in session in the school library from 8.30 a.m. on **Monday 26th April**. If you have any concerns about your child's health or behaviour please pop in and see her. Those that have used this provision have been very positive.



Clubs

Please collect a separate [club letter](#) today. Last term Mrs Jefferies very kindly helped us out by taking a football club for both keystages, this term Mrs Jefferies will be taking a football club for Years 1 and 2 on a Thursday.

Sports Challenge Football and Tri-golf clubs start next week, details are on a separate sheet. Music lessons resume next week - we do have some spaces, why not give it a try? Guitar and ukulele lesson costs have changed to £42 (guitar) and £37 (ukulele) this is due to the number of weeks missed last term. The Music Concert will be held on **Tuesday 20th July at 1.15p.m.**



Sunshine

I am hoping this lovely weather is here to stay! Please can you ensure your child has applied adequate sun screen before coming to school and has a cap or hat to protect them from the sun. We have such beautiful grounds and we use them for our learning as much as possible, so the children need to be protected. We have a water fountain in school but if you can supply water bottles too we can encourage the children to drink water regularly. Suitable footwear is also needed and whilst open toe sandals are very pretty they do not protect little feet, so please save these for home.

Better Readers

Certificates were given to our successful 'Better Readers' in Celebration Assembly today. This is an extremely successful intervention programme - making good readers better - and is led by trained volunteers. Many thanks to Mrs Cracknell, Mrs Jones, Mrs Seymour and Mrs Davies for supporting us with this and well done to all the children. We have found a new training course, so if you are able to give some time twice a week please let us know.



Name the Teddy Competition



A message from Miss Pearson:

Thank you to everyone who attempted to guess the teddy's name. Together we raised a fantastic £31.50 for St James' Church crèche. His name was drawn on the last day of half term and it was Chipper, guessed by Anja Seymour in Year 3. Congratulations Anja - we hope he's very happy at home with you! With the Reception class raffle we donated £ to the Church renovation fund and have received a lovely thank you letter in return.

Tutpup

We apologise for the delay in creating the Tutpup passwords etc. we have been in contact with the internet site and they have sent us the following message:

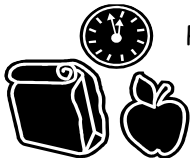
'Unfortunately, we're currently facing a shortage of available user name combinations. While our technical team are evaluating the best way to address this issue, we ask our loyal users to be patient. You can continue to enjoy the edutainment value of tutpup by playing as a guest.'



As soon as they let us know when they have sorted their problems we will set up the systems for all the individuals who have requested to participate.

School Meals - 6th May 2010

Please note that there will be no hot school meals on Thursday 6th May as St Egwin's School will be closed due to the school being used as a Polling Station. Children who have free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch on this day.



A message from the Reverend Richard

"The Harvington Youth Group 7-10 year old age group are meeting at the Baptist Chapel at 6.30pm until 7.45pm this coming Thursday 29th April. The group is called the "Adventurers" and it offers games, chats, a story and tuck - if you are a boy or a girl aged 7-9 you are most welcome. If you are aged 10 then there is a group for you on Tuesdays at the same time. A full programme will be available shortly."

POW Funding!

I'm writing to you to let you know of a new project we're becoming involved in. The project is called **POW** (Positive Opportunities Worcestershire) and has been designed by central government to help children try new things that will help them do better at school and in life.

We have been awarded £1,140 for this project this academic year and will receive a similar amount in 2010 to use up until July 2011.

POW funding should be used to help children and young people who claim free school meals to take part in activities that they otherwise haven't been able to afford, for example football club on Wednesday or music lessons. These activities can be offered at school or other places, like leisure centres or clubs. POW funding can also pay fees for clubs such as Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Brownies and many other organisations, even to join a local football team or music group. The funding can also pay for a pass for activities.

I will be contacting all of those families that are eligible for POW funding separately to offer support and guidance on how best to use the funding.

If you think you may be eligible to claim free school meals please speak to the office in confidence. Only children who claim free school meals are eligible for this funding.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions or queries regarding the POW project please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or the central support service by emailing pow@worcestershire.gov.uk

Attendance and Punctuality

Many, many attendance certificates were given out in assembly today. Thank you for the improved attendance - 94.8% so far this academic year. The aim is to improve this further by the end of the year! Punctuality is much improved too, which ensures the children are in class ready to begin their learning on time - it has also made the office area less congested in the morning. Thank you, again.

The attendance teddy was awarded to Year Three this week! The Punctuality Pups were awarded to Reception and Year Two. Congratulations!



Thank you for your continued support,

H. Fishbourne



PTFA NEWS

As you know, we are holding the discos and the dress down days to raise funds to buy replacement digital cameras for each class.

We are really pleased to say that after the Easter Disco and the dress down at the end of last term we now have enough money to buy two replacement digital cameras.

We hope that the dress down today will enable us buy a third one, but we will let you know. Your continued support is, therefore, vital and really appreciated by us and the school.



Talking of continued support, tickets are now available for the Barn Dance. This is a joint event with Harvington Pre-school and is on the 22nd May in the Village Hall. It will be a great evening with a hog roast and plenty of dancing.

Ticket numbers are limited so please do not miss out.

They can be purchased from Claire Snell or Emma Mullen in the playground.

