



NEWICK NEWS

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April 2009



Spring is in the air!

It was lovely to see so many of you at our recent parent consultation evenings and thank you for the lovely comments that many of you made about the displays around the building and classrooms. I would like to make an apology for excluding the parents evening dates from the last newsletter – I do appreciate how difficult it is to make appointments at such short notice. I will endeavour to ensure that you have these dates well in advance next time.

Many thanks to all of you who donated books for our recent Bring and Buy Book Sale which took place on World Book Day in the first week of March. We raised a tremendous amount of £183.72 which will be split between Chestnut Tree House and Isubilo. A special thank you to the NSA who helped run the sale. As it was a huge success, we plan to hold another one later in the year.



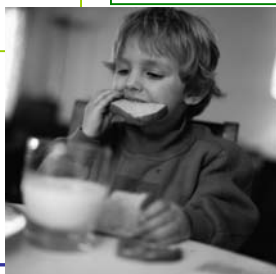
I am particularly grateful to Mr Peaple, Miss Riggs and Mrs Cadman who arranged a fantastic afternoon of events held in the Hall on Red Nose Day. There was a sensitive mixture of serious and funny sketches which all contributed to a great afternoon. Each class contributed in a variety of ways – with the main message of helping others really coming across strongly. In total we raised **£295.74** which included some children 'doing something funny for money' around the village (photos later in this newsletter!)

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Easter and hope that you have a good break. See you in a couple of weeks time!

Sophie Thomas

Breakfast Club

Due to popular demand, we shall be starting a breakfast club in term 5 and 6. At the time of writing, we are anticipating the start date being Monday 27th April: please see Mrs Newman or Mrs Fake in the school office.



Advance Notice!

Some of you may know that St. Mary's Church is having a flower festival at the end of June (26 – 28th June). As a school, we would love to take part in this community event. The theme is 'Musical Arrangements' which is a very wide remit! Nearer the time, we shall provide you with some more details.

HELP!



We have an urgent request for outgrown swimming costumes for boys and girls. We also have no spare swimming towels left or large pants (!) so if there are any old/unused items at home that you think could help please let Linda Hocking or the school office know. We would also request any items for swimming or other clothing items that have been borrowed, could they please be returned. Thank you.

Thank you to.....the parents and adult helpers who have been helping out in the library in recent weeks. It is very much appreciated!

Prayer Group Meetings

The prayer group meeting times are as follows for the rest of the academic year:

Friday 1st May 3.45pm

Monday 1st June 7.30pm

Friday 3rd July 3.45pm.

Well done to Georgina Thomas and Rebecca England in Year 6 for raising £33 for Chestnut Tree House by having a 'Non Talking Day'! Also to Lottie Johnson and Georgina Thomas who raised over £60 for Comic Relief by being chained together all day – well done to all of you for these great efforts to help others less fortunate than ourselves!

NSA News

This Friday (3rd April) - Mum's drinks in **The Bull** from 8pm.

Flora Margarine - we are now collecting tokens for school cooking equipment.

Uniform shop - we need more helpers for September. Please let us know ASAP if you can help once a month 8.30-9.30am on a Tuesday.

WANTED - Tug of War rope, Popcorn machine and lots of volunteers to help out at the Summer Fair. Saturday 4th July 2-6pm including family barbeque. We are also looking for dancing, gymnastics and sports teams for a display arena.

Travel Plan

In 2005 we were asked to produce a travel plan for the school, which involved finding out how the children travelled to school and home again and how they would prefer to do this. We wanted to encourage more of the children to walk or cycle to school and to reduce car use. This is because of the health benefits of exercise and the safety and environmental issues that car use causes.

The outcome of the survey was the start of the Walking Bus; this was thanks to Hilary Blackman and her team. We were also given money to purchase a bike shelter.

We have now completed a survey to see how things have changed in 4 years. The results are pleasing.

The original survey showed

38% of children walked to school, now it is 49%

0% cycled now it is 2%

62% travelled by car now it is 48%

This is a great advance, so well done everyone who is taking the physical option to get to and from school.

The latest survey showed that 20% of children would like to cycle to school. It would be good to encourage this, but, with a great deal of car movement around the school and narrow pavements there is a safety issue. The parish council are currently looking at the issues of cycling in the village, if you have any views about this, please send them to the Parish clerk, Linda Farmer at 7 Oldaker Road. The council need to know your views about this.

Meantime, keep walking, cycling and car sharing, we will all benefit if you do!

Mary Mayes, Chair of Governor

Walking Bus

It may still be a bit chilly outside at the moment but Spring isn't far away. How about joining the 'Walking Bus'? We have been running successfully for over two years on Tuesdays and Thursdays from the Village Hall car park and from the Crown Inn car park on Wednesdays. You can drop your children off and disappear off to work or join in and have a sociable stroll to school. We really need some extra volunteers – is there anyone out there? You know it makes sense – it cuts down the number of cars around the school, wakes the kids up and it saves you time when we take your kids to school for you! You get to like day-glo yellow too (or green or pink)! For more details, please see Hilary Balckburn or Sarah Eynon or alternatively, leave a note for us at the school office.

Hilary Blackburn



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

I have tried to give you as many relevant dates as possible for the rest of the school year. Please be mindful that some dates may change and there will certainly be additions.

April		<i>Easter holidays – End of Term 4</i>
	20th	Children return back to school – <i>start of Term 5</i>
	27th	Breakfast Club begins
May	1st	Achievement Assembly 9.05am – parents welcome Prayer Group Meeting 3.45pm
	4th	May Bank Holiday – school closure
	7th	NSA meeting 9.15am
	11th	Year 6 SATs Week: Monday – Friday
	15th	Achievement Assembly 9.05am – parents welcome
	22nd	<i>Half term – End of Term 5</i>
June	1st	Children return back to school – <i>start of Term 6</i> Prayer Group Meeting 7.30pm
	22nd	Junior Production Week
	29th	Sports and Healthy Living Week Yr 6 induction day at Chailey
	30th	Yr 6 induction day at Chailey
July	1st	Leaver's Service for Year 6 at Crowborough – parent:
	2nd	Sports Day 1.30pm
	4th	Summer Fair (time tbc)
	6th	Bowles Residential for Year 6 (Monday – Friday)
	14th	Open Evening 5 – 7pm
	17th	Leavers Service (time tbc) (All parents welcome)
		<i>Summer holidays – End of Term 6</i>
Sept	3rd	INSET
	4th	Children return to school



TEACHER TRAINING DAYS

The following dates have been set as INSET Days:

Monday 20th July 2009, Tuesday 21st July 2009, Wednesday 22nd July 2009