



NEWICK NEWS



November 2008

Gunpowder, treason and plot!

What a week we have had! The children were treated to a wonderful dramatic representation of the famous Gunpowder Plot in 1605 by our very talented staff as the opening to our Creative Week. The children have taken part in drama, dance, music and writing activities all around the theme of Bonfire Night and Fireworks! It culminated in a spectacular procession with all school members either dressed to attend a bonfire or dressed as if taking part in a Bonfire Society Parade! My huge thanks to all of the teachers and teaching assistants for making this week so special and particular thanks to Mrs Sawyer who is the literacy leader for all of her hard work and planning. This was aimed at helping the creativity element in the children's writing. We shall ensure that examples of their work is placed on the website for all to see!

Our termly Think Tank meeting is due to take place on Thursday December 20th at 9.00am in the staff room. The meeting will mainly focus on the forthcoming Home School Agreement. If you have any thoughts you wish to have included in the conversation, please let your class rep know. The more people we have contributing to this important document, the better! We aim to ensure that this document will be one side of A4 that sets out clear agreements between the school, the parents and the children. The staff have already agreed their points and the children will be discussing this in their class councils and then feeding back to me through the School Council.

I would also like to put together, a working party to look our Anti-Bullying Policy which is now up for review. If any parents would be interested in being a part of this procedure, please let me know.

Back in September on the first INSET day, all of the staff and some governors were involved at looking not only what we were going to include on the School Development Plan, but also looking at the school's values and vision statements. You will have probably noticed that on the school's headed paper, the strap line "Where fun and learning meet." We felt this summarised our school in just a few words extremely well. Our vision statement now reads as follows:

Together we will create a special place where every child is encouraged to love learning, be creative, active, caring and to be the best they can be.

From next week onwards, you will see this new 'Goal' as we are calling it around the school.

At the end of the last academic year, the school decided to use the significant talents of the teaching assistants we have in school, to lead some lessons across the school whilst teachers were having their PPA time (planning, preparation and assessment time). These teaching assistants received appropriate training and whilst Newick had been in the unusual position of still having PPA delivered by teachers, our exceptionally low budget share meant that as a school, we caught up with common practice in many primary schools and use the talents around us. The classes where Miss Awcock and Mrs Hocking are delivering their curriculum expertise are benefiting hugely from their talents. As a school, we endeavour to ensure that our children receive the best that we can provide. I would like to say what a superb job both of these ladies are doing.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the parents who have come forward to offer their help in school. Again, you are a very talented bunch and we enjoy having your input whenever possible. There is always room for more, so if you find you have a spare hour or two, please feel free to come in.

Sophie Thomas



Newick School Prayer Group Support

The Newick School Prayer Support Group meets regularly to pray for the needs of the school and to give thanks for the school and all of those involved. The meetings are an opportunity to meet together to pray (either out loud or in the quiet as each person feels comfortable) in a relaxed and informal way. Please feel free to join us.

Next meeting date is Monday 17th November at 7.30pm. Please feel free to join us.

For more information call Ruth James on 01825 722531



Future dates for your diary:

Monday 17th November at 7.30pm

Friday 12th December 3.45pm

Family Shoebox Appeal

We are collecting the shoeboxes between 20th October until Wednesday 12th November. We will make a display of them in the school entrance hall. Please help us support these families. For more info see

www.linkromania.co.uk/files/2008-2leaflet_indd.pdf

For further info for contents please see website or ask at the School Office. Thank you!



Infant Nativity

The dates for the infant nativity on the previous newsletters were incorrect. Our apologies for this. There will be three performances this year. The first will be on Tuesday 9th December at 2pm and the second on Wednesday 10th December at 2pm. A creche will be available for younger children to attend for these afternoon performances. If pre-schoolers wish to see the performance, they are welcome to come to see the dress rehearsal on Monday 8th December at 10am. The second performance will be on Thursday 11th December at 6pm. At the evening performance, tickets will only be issued for adults or older secondary aged children. All junior children will have watched the dress rehearsal of the nativity beforehand. We cannot allow children to sit on parents' laps as happened last year, as we have to stick to our limit of numbers in the Hall. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

We are in the process of organising a company based in Uckfield to film the nativity for you to purchase. A letter with more details will be sent out nearer the time.

House Name Competition Winners

Thank you so much to all of you for your suggestions for house names. We had a great response and finally have the winning names chosen by the children. Trees were the chosen theme which is extremely appropriate as they reflect our beautiful surroundings. Red House is now Beech House, Yellow House is now Ash House, Green House is now Oak House, Blue House is now Willow House. These were suggested in part or in full by the following children: Katie and Aimee May, Phoebe Scott, Alice Stoner, Hannah and Lottie Carding.



Eco Awareness Day – Reminder!!

Newick Parish Council

Saturday 22nd November 2008

10am – 4pm



Confused over global warming? Come & listen to Professor John Midwinter (member of Royal Society) talk about his unbiased independent analysis of current research.

Come & see displays on 'green' issues by Lewes District Council, EDF, South East Water, Free Trade, Paynes Heating & Plumbing etc.

Come and get the TRUE FACTS and improve environmental conditions for our future generations.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about how you can make a difference and be energy savers in your own home! Please come and support this event; our local MP, Norman Baker will be in attendance too.

For more information contact Tony Mayes on 01825 7222404



Old Mobile 'Phone?

Please leave it in the recycling box in the School entrance – charger not necessary. We can claim £300 with only 200 mobiles.



BOOK FAIR

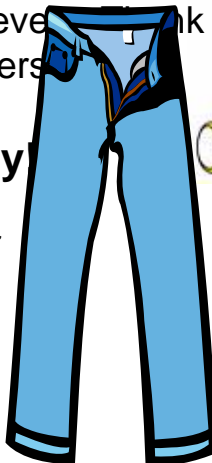
Come and buy a wonderful range of books at this year's Book Fair from Friday 7th – Tuesday 11th Nov from 3 – 4pm.

NSA Corner... School Quiz Night

We raised an amazing **£508** at this event. Thank you for your support and well done to our winners....the teachers

Fri 28th Nov – Dress Down Day

All children can wear non-uniform clothes on this day. In exchange, we are asking for a donation for the Christmas Fayre Adult Tombola – whether it be a bottle of wine, some toiletries, a box of chocolates or any other item you would like to win yourself. All items to be collected on the school gate by Kerry, Mandy, Julie and Sue.



Fri 14th Nov – Sponsored Day

All children are invited to join a Sponsored Welly Walk around the school field – please see Kerry, Mandy, Sue or Julie for sponsor forms.

Please see our NSA newsletter for more details. Thanks for reading!

Coloured versions of all the school Newsletters are available at :

www.newickschool.co.uk

along with our recent Ofsted report, Teaching For Learning Policy, term dates and other relevant information.



Governor News

Already the new school year is passing quickly. There are two changes to the governing body this term. Alan Cork, who was a full governor, then, due to work pressures was unable to commit the amount of time this involved, became an Associate Governor. This was to enable us to continue to draw on his Health and Safety expertise. Alan now finds his work commitments do not make it possible for him to attend Governor meetings, so has resigned. We are very grateful for the many hours Alan has spent on Health and Safety issues at the school, at a time when we had many policies to write and checks to organise. We welcome Denise Taylor as our new Parent Governor. There was no election for this post as Denise was the only person whose name was put forward. Many of you will know Denise from her work with the NSA, she knows the school and staff well and will be a great asset as a Governor.

The school has a very talented and committed staff this year and the governors will continue to support them to take the school forward and build on the good Ofsted result which we received last term. Behind the scenes, the Governors do a lot of work, a great deal of this over the past year has been in making the budget work. Each year the school is given a budget to cover all of our expenses, and usually includes at least a sum to take into account inflation. For the current year, we were given only 0.3% increase, which did not in anyway reflect the annual staff salary increases and certainly not the rising utility bills. Consequently, we have had to budget very carefully and make some cutbacks. I would particularly like to thank Rob Boswell, the chair of the Governor Finance and Buildings committee, for his huge amount of work with the staff, to ensure that all of our complicated financial paperwork has reached the standard requested by the Financial Management Standards in School external assessment.

The governors are part of the school community and want it to continue to be a happy place of learning for all. When you see any of us at school functions, do come and talk to us; we like to hear your views on the school.

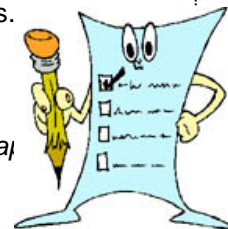
Mary Mayes
Chair of Governors

And finally....

Some sad news. Andrew Street, who many of you may know, sadly passed away during the half term week. Andrew was Chair of Governors here a few years ago and his wife Helen, worked in the school office. He leaves behind his wife and two children. The family are in our thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time. The funeral will take place at St. Mary's Church, Newick on Wednesday 12th November at 2pm.

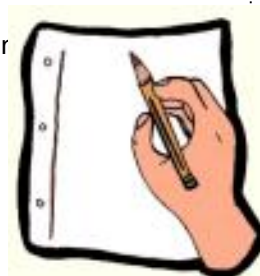
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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.



Nov	3 rd	Children return back to school - <i>start of Term 2- winter uniform a</i> Creative Week all week
	7 th	Creative Week's sharing assembly 2pm School Book Fair 3-4pm
	10 th	School Book Fair 3-4pm
	11 th	Seals' class assembly (9.05am) (All parents welcome) School Book Fair 3-4pm
	14 th	Achievement assembly (All parents welcome) 9.05am Children in Need – sponsored Welly Walk (time tbc)
	18 th	Penguins' class assembly (All parents welcome) 9.05am
	25 th	Otters' class assembly (All parents welcome) 9.05am
	28 th	Achievement assembly (All parents welcome) 9.05am NSA Dress Down Day (bring in items for Christmas Fayre r

Dec	2 nd	Dolphins' class assembly (All parents welcome) 9.05am
	6 th	NSA Christmas Fayre 2-4pm
	7 th	Christingle Service 10.30am – all welcome
	8 th	Dress rehearsal for Infant Nativity 10.00am
	9 th	Infant Nativity 2.00pm
	10 th	Infant Nativity 2.00pm
	11 th	Infant Nativity 6.00pm
	12 th	Achievement Assembly (All parents welcome) 9.05am School Christmas Lunch
	19 th	End of term service in St Mary's Church 2.00pm



Christmas holiday – End of Term 2

Jan Feb	5 th	Children return to school – <i>start of Term 3</i>
	13 th	INSET – school closure

Half term – End of Term 3

April	23 rd	Children return back to school – <i>start of Term 4</i>
	3 rd	End of term service in St Mary's Church

Easter holidays – End of Term 4

May	20 th	Children return back to school – <i>start of Term 5</i>
	4 th	May Bank Holiday – school closure
	11 th	Year 6 SATs Week: Monday – Friday

Half term – End of Term 5

June	1 st	Children return back to school – <i>start of Term 6</i>
	29 th	Yr 6 induction day at Chailey
	30 th	Yr 6 induction day at Chailey

July	17 th	Leavers Service (9.30am) (All parents welcome) Final assembly (2pm) (All parents welcome)
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Summer holidays – End of Term 6

TEACHER TRAINING DAYS

The following dates
have been set as
INSET Days :

Friday 13th Feb 09

Monday 20th July 09

Tuesday 21st July 09

**Wednesday 22nd July
09**