

St. Nicholas Church of England Primary School



February 2008

Winter Weather

We nearly had the snow that was threatened! Hopefully this is the last reminder that we will need for this year but if snow is forecast and it looks like getting to school might be a problem stay tuned to Radio Wave 96.5FM or Century FM 105.4. No news is good news and means we are open!

Building Progress Report

As you may have seen, we now have information boards up on the perimeter fencing, outlining what is being done next on the project. This week will see a huge crane lifting a ten tonne concrete staircase into place and after that the first floor will begin to spring up!

Parkinsons have advised me that there will be some more traffic lights over the next couple of weeks to make connection with the main sewer. This has been timetabled to coincide with the half term holiday so disruption is kept to a minimum but be aware that traffic could be bad down School Road the week after half term.

The intention is for us to move into the new classrooms currently being constructed before the end of this school year in July.

Time Capsule Open Day

Our Open Day on 29th January was a real success. We had visits from ex-pupils and ex-staff who brought photos and shared memories. We have collected all sorts of memorabilia and are hoping to get this on our new website which is currently being built.

Our oldest visitor was a lady who is now 92 and was at St Nicholas in 1927!

Class Assemblies

The next class assembly is that of Mrs Heighway's class on Friday March 7th. All parents / grandparents of children in 3PH are most welcome!

The next class assembly after this will be Miss Donnelly's class (3AD) which will take place on Friday 28th March.

Attendance Champions!

The class with the best attendance record for January was 3PH with 96.2% Well done to Mrs Heighway's class!

Did you know that if your child missed one session a week for a year (that is an afternoon or a morning) this would equate to missing 4 weeks a year of lessons.

**A 1% improvement in attendance
= 4/5 % increase in attainment!**

Holiday Arrangements this Easter.

You may have noticed that our school holiday pattern and that of all Blackpool schools is following the pattern set by Lancashire schools this year. Because Easter is so early, the school will close for the Bank Holiday Easter weekend on Thursday 20th March and re-open on Tuesday 25th March. The two week end of term holiday now begins at 2:15pm on Friday 4th April and the children return to school on Monday 21st April.

The half-term holiday begins this Friday at 3:30pm and school re-opens on Monday 25th February at 8:55am.

Book Fair

We have a Book Fair visiting school from Wednesday 27th Feb to Tuesday 4th March. As in previous years we will have £1 book tokens to give out to the children to celebrate World Book Day on March 6th. These tickets can be used at the Book Fair so please do come along and share a book with your child because reading is where it all starts. If you can read the whole world opens up!

Come and encourage your child to choose a book and encourage them to read!

Help your child to learn

We have had some interest from parents in running short workshops to help parents to understand how they can help their children to learn at home. So much has changed since we were at school ourselves that an evening such as this gives parents a real chance to make a difference to their child's learning. We are running two evening sessions from 6pm til 7:30pm for English and Maths. Miss Taylor and Mrs Woodcock will be looking at what children learn from Reception through to year 6 and will give you the opportunity to test yourselves as the children will be tested. All the evidence shows that the more help children get at home, the better their chances of success at school and beyond in the world of work. The Maths workshop will be on 20th May at 6pm.

Road Safety

Yet again we have had a couple of near misses where children walking across the end of the lane between school and Squires Gate FC have very nearly been hit by vehicles trying to make a quick getaway at the end of the day. This is made worse by cars being parked right up to the entrance of the lane which restricts driver's views of School Road. We have even had cars being parked on the no parking school zone zig zags or even stopping in the middle of School Road to unload children!

We don't recommend parking down the lane and certainly not in front of the school gates where access is always needed. If you do decide to park down there please edge slowly and carefully out and be aware that children are about.

By the end of the month we should have use of the new car park which is currently being built. The Council are going to be very keen to promote this car park for use by parents at the beginning and end of the day which are the busiest times for School Road. They have made it clear that once the car park is ready, that they expect parents to use it. In the past, parking officers have made visits in high visibility clothing at 3:15pm and this has persuaded parents to park properly. From the end of February, the parking officers will be arriving from 3:25-3:30 and will ticket any vehicle parked in-inappropriately (blocking drives or parking on zig zags). It therefore makes sense to use the car park provided and for the sake of the children to drive carefully and cautiously around school.

I know this sounds like me repeating myself but I have had representation from at least 15 different parents who are all, like me, very concerned that if care is not taken we will have an accident very soon.

Dates For Your Diary

25th February - Start back after half term break
18th March - 6pm English evening with Miss Taylor
20th March - Easter Egg Tombola - more info to follow

28th March - Wine Tasting Evening 7:30pm

