



ST. NICHOLAS C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER—MAY 2010



St Nicholas is an Eco Friendly School

I can now officially tell you that our school is an Eco friendly school and that has been recognised in the awarding of a Green Flag. Great credit must go to the team for the way that they have worked tirelessly towards this award and especially Mrs Crozier who has led the work. We are in the process of having a flag pole erected to show off the Green Flag!!

Staffing Appointments

We are now nearly fully staffed in readiness for September and have made five more appointments this week as the school continues to grow.

We have appointed Mrs Pam Rudkin to support in Reception, Miss Evie Burrows as the new teaching assistant in Year 3, Miss Colleen Bromley to teach in Year 2 and Mrs Sarah Chamley to teach Year 6. Mrs Ann Daly will add to the office team that we currently have. A full list of the staff team for September is available on the school website.

Extended Services Building

We would like to welcome you all to your exciting new facility, for Children, Young People and their Parents.



The new extended services centre will be offering a number of different groups, services and activities for you and your family, such as Baby Massage, Parent and Toddler play and stay sessions, baby groups and much more.

To celebrate the opening of the centre we are holding an Open Day on Thursday 3rd June from 11.00am until 3.00pm. There will be lots of fun activities for adults and children such as face painting, card making, pot decorating, hook a duck, trim trail and much more.

We hope that you will be able to join us on the day and share your thoughts and ideas you may have for your new centre. We are also hoping that all you creative thinkers out there will be able to find a name for the new Extended Services Centre.



PARENTPAY

From 1st September 2010 we shall no longer be accepting cash payment for school dinners and trips and visits. Below is a little information to explain the process.

What does ParentPay do?

- enables you to pay for dinner money and other items such as school trips, music lessons and residential visits
- offers a highly secure payment site
- gives you a history of all the payments you have made
- allows the merging of accounts if you have more than one child at school
- shows you all items available for payment relevant to each of your children
- emails a receipt of your payment to the email address you register

How does ParentPay help you?

- gives you the freedom to make payments to school whenever and wherever you like
- stops you having to write cheques or search for cash to send to school
- gives you peace of mind that your payment has been made safely and securely
- helps with budgeting; payments are immediate, there is no waiting for cheques to clear
- payments for many of the larger trips can be made by instalments up to the due date
- ParentPay is quick and easy to use

How does ParentPay help our school?

- reduces the administrative time spent on banking procedures
- keeps accurate records of payments made to every service for every student
- payments do not bounce
- reduces paper 'waste'
- allows for easy and quick refunds to be made back to the payment card
- improves communication between the school and parents concerning payments
- offers a more efficient payment collection process, reducing the amount of money held on school premises

How do I get started?

We will send you an activation letter to enable you to setup your ParentPay account. The activation letter will contain a personal activation username and password to enable you to log in to ParentPay. During the activation process you will be guided through changing your username and password to something more memorable; you can also merge your accounts if you have more than one child at St Nicholas C of E Primary School.

More information

More information can be found on the ParentPay website, alternatively contact the school office.

We will be installing a computer terminal in school for parental use if you have no internet connection at home.

St. Nicholas C of E Primary School, School Road, Marton Moss, Blackpool. FY4 5DS, Tel: (01253) 608900 Fax: (01253) 608901

www.st-nicholas.blackpool.sch.uk, Andrew.mellor@st-nicholas.blackpool.sch.uk Headteacher: Mr A Mellor B.C.S., P.G.C.E., NPQH

Email Addresses

If you have a new email address or you would simply like to be part of our parental email list and get the news from school first and be part of our surveys, then please send your email address to school for the attention of Mr Mellor.



Website

Please keep a close eye on the website as it changes frequently. Recent updates include how to support your child at home and the staffing structure for September.
www.st-nicholas.blackpool.sch.uk
Twitter: stnicholas14



Twitter

We are keen to keep parents as informed as possible and therefore we have moved across from the Blog to a more immediate form of communication, which you can find on your phone, which is Twittering. If you are not sure what this is and would like to know more then please come and ask.

twitter



For regular Twitterers, you can find us at stnicholas14 and we usually post something each day.

Local Parking

Local residents have again contacted me about the lack of respect shown for their driveways and access. I have advised them to contact the Police if any behaviour is offensive or anti social as this then becomes a Police matter. In the meantime I would ask parents to think carefully about where vehicles are left and to consider the needs of local residents.

Qualifications for Parents

You may remember some time ago that I asked if there were any parents wanting to do the next qualification in their learning journey. We now have contacts with Blackpool and Fylde College and they want to know how many parents would be interested in anything between an NVQ and degree. Please leave your name with the office or email Mr Mellor.

Theft!

During the building work to complete our Extended Services building, some insulation tiles were stolen from the building site and it now transpires that the thieves have stolen two of the picnic benches provided by school to allow parents to keep an eye on their children whilst on the Trim Trail. If you know anything about these thefts please contact Mr Mellor at school. The Police have been notified.

England Matches!

We are in the process of setting up a system which would allow you to view England World Cup matches on the big screen in the hall whilst waiting for your children at the end of the day. Some games kick off at 3pm. You are welcome to watch the rest of the game in school if you would like to.



Dates for your Diary

Thursday 27th May

6:30pm Induction Meeting for parents of children starting school in September 2010.

Friday 28th May

School closes for half term at 3:30pm and re-opens on Monday 7th June 2010 at 8:55am.

Wednesday 16th June

9:30 - Junior Sports Day - 1:45 Infant Sports Day

Thursday 17th June

St Nicholas school Gala organised one last time by Mrs Woodcock!!

GALA! GALA! GALA! GALA! GALA! GALA! GALA!

Attendance

Our school attendance rate has shown a rise in recent months and we hope that the message we are sending about absence from school meaning a loss of learning is beginning to get across.

We have a target of 94.2% and we are currently at 93.7%. With your help we can achieve this target which is one of the remaining OFSTED targets that we need to meet.

Absence = Less chance of doing well at school.

School Bank

Don't forget that the school bank is open each Thursday lunchtime and at the request of Reception parents, we will be opening it up to Reception children as well from this week.

School Dinners

As you will know, we are trying a choice system for dinners which allows each child to make a choice of one of 5 meals each day. We would really like your feedback on this before we try again. Feedback can either be hand written, on Twitter, emailed or via the school blog.