



New Christ Church Primary School

Newsletter 14th May, 2010

This week at NCC...

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Year 6 have 'enjoyed' test week—as you know, I decided not to administer the 2010 KS2 Tests, but we have tested the children using SATs from previous years; these will now be sent to another Reading school for marking and results reported later in the term. The children themselves have worked extremely hard and have taken the process incredibly seriously—they obviously want to do their best and we're all very proud of them. Thank you to all of you who have expressed your support and I'm particularly grateful for all the support I've received from the staff. Hopefully, by this time next year, we will have an assessment system in place which acknowledges the professional judgment of teachers and keeps parents informed as well as provide a fair way of judging schools. We'll wait and see!

I spent an afternoon in Red Class this week. As a KS2 trained teacher with some experience in KS1, working in the Foundation Stage is well out of my comfort zone! It's good for me to work with all classes across the school and keep my teaching skills up to date. I really enjoyed being with the children who really impressed me with their behaviour and creativity—these children have come such a long way since they started school and I can see them really flourishing as they move up through the school! Mrs Dunn, Miss Cox and all parents are doing an amazing job in supporting the children in their learning—thank you! Next week, I hope to spend an afternoon with Green Class.

Andy Barker from RBC visited children this afternoon; proposals are being drawn up to develop The Tank playground and he came to meet children and collect their ideas and suggestions so that they can contribute to the project. Hopefully, there will be further opportunities to involve the children in the next few months.

With very best wishes,

School Allotments—WE NEED YOU!

Miss Taylor and Mrs Dunn have been working with colleagues from RISC and Food4Families to build some simple allotments in the school field. The children from NCC will then be able to start growing different foods, which we ultimately hope to be able to use in our school kitchen and at breaktimes. We also hope to invite people from the local community to use the allotments for themselves, including Katesgrove School, Katesgrove Children's Centre and Apollo.

We really hope that you will want to be part of this project and to introduce it everyone, 2 Open Days are being held tomorrow and next Saturday mornings between 10.00-12.00—in that time, we hope you will be able to help finish off the planting beds as well as learn more about what we're doing. You don't need to be a great gardener (if you're not, you'll learn new skills too!) but do need to be enthusiastic! Bring gardening gloves and spades etc if you can. Children are welcome but must be with an adult. Use the Swainstone Road entrance.

Saturday 15th May 10.00-12.00

Saturday 22nd May 10.00-12.00

Walk to School Week

Next week, we will be promoting 'Walk to School' week.

There are many good reasons to encourage children to walk to school including:

- Keeps us fit and healthy
- Helps punctuality and there's an opportunity to play with friends before school starts
- Minimises negative impact on our environment, by reducing car fumes
- See parts of the local area you wouldn't see from a car window
- Helps children be alert and full of energy ahead of the school day



We're asking children to walk as far as they can to school this week; if you really need to use the car, park further away from school and walk the last bit to school, or if you live locally, try walking the whole journey to school.

You can arrange to meet friends and walk together.

Every class will record who has walked to school on each day and on Friday there will be a special award for the class with the most walking children.

Year 6 Sex & Relationships Education

Y6 children will start this programme after the half term break. There is a comprehensive policy agreed by the Governing Body about what is taught. We use a range of resources to support children in their learning and understanding, including a DVD, worksheets and discussion time. There is a meeting for parents next week, where we will share full details of the programme and answer any questions—**Thursday, 20th May at 3.30 in Violet Class**. Parents have a right to withdraw their child from some aspects of this programme; if you are considering this, you **MUST** make an appointment to speak with Ms Soulsby.

Thoughts and Prayers...

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs Cross, whose mother died earlier this week. Mrs Cross will not be back in school next week and we are currently making arrangements to cover her teaching responsibilities—I'm sure parents in Green Class will understand the difficulties but I can assure you that we will be doing everything we can to keep things stable for the children.

Don't Forget...

20th May	Y6 Sex Education Information for Parents—3.30 Violet Classroom
28th May	Last day of Term 5
7th June	INSET Day, school closed to pupils
8th June	Term 6 starts for children
17th June	Maths Workshop for Parents @ 2.00pm

E-mail Addresses for Newsletters

We've had a fantastic response to this initiative, thank you. So far, we've only had one request for paper copies of newsletters—if you don't have an email address, you will need to tell us before September or you won't know what's going on!

I will be sending this newsletter via email to everyone today—if you don't get it, please check I've got your correct email address.

Thank you for your support in this venture which will really help us to reduce photocopying and paper costs, both financial and environmental!