



# New Christ Church Primary School Newsletter 29th January, 2010

## This week at NCC...

Blue and Green classes enjoyed their trips this week and as always, their behaviour while out of school was excellent. Many thanks to all of you who supported both trips, which will really enhance learning this term.

Orange and Yellow classes were visited by our school nurse, who told them all about good dental hygiene—I hope to see lots of shiny teeth over the next few weeks!

Next week, I have a meeting to discuss The Tank, which is located near the school. For years, I have thought that this area is wanting some serious attention and RBC have agreed to work with the children and the school to identify (and pay) for improvements and developments, so that it can become a proper, safe play space for our children—watch this space! Also next Friday, we will be visited by RBC Street Sweepers; as part of our Community Afternoons we have a Children's NAG, which looks at ways to improve our local area. Last term the children focused on litter and wrote to the Council with their ideas about how litter could be reduced. As a result, one of our Councillors has arranged this special visit. This is a great way to encourage children to be involved in their local community and understand the responsibilities that both they and RBC have.

It promises to be another busy week as Green class will be visited by the school nurse (talking about healthy hearts) and some of our School Councillors will be meeting with the WEC Pupil Council.

Wishing you all very peaceful and happy weekends,

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## Congratulations

### to...

Tithi, who was one of the Top 100 Mathletes this week—well done!

## FRIENDS MEETING

Wednesday, 3rd Feb  
at the school at  
2pm—please so come along if you can!

## Parking Outside School—please do your bit to keep children safe!

At its meeting this week, the Governors of the school raised a number of concerns about the traffic outside our school.

They are particularly concerned with the numbers of parents who continue to stop on the Zig-zag lines in front of school. They have asked me to remind all parents that to stop on these lines is **illegal** and must never happen; I have also been asked to record the license plate details of any car which does so and report these to the police—not something I particularly want to do, but Governors feel that we need to take a tough line on those few individuals who continue to put children's safety at risk.

I have also been asked to remind all drivers that parking on Waterloo Road and walking the short distance to school is probably less stressful than battling down Milman Road—please consider doing this as it will really help calm traffic outside our school.

May I also remind all parents that the car park opposite the school is not ours and you should not be parking there at all. The school rents half of the spaces available. When parents park there, you prevent key staff from being able to get to work in both the school and the community centre next door, which obviously impacts on the services we can provide!

## Green Class Trip to the Living Rain-forest

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January we went to The Living Rainforest. We had a look in the glass houses, it was brilliant! We saw the Emerald Tree Boa, which was green to disguise itself in the leaves. Then we saw the giant millipede and later we went to the toucan. It has a very long beak! After that we saw the crocodile which was nocturnal.

Next to the crocodile were some turtles and tortoises. We saw stingrays, paco fish (which are related to piranhas) and terrapins. After lunch we had a tour with our group. Finally it was time to go and we felt like coming back another day!

By Alastair, Deanna and Joel.



## Red, Orange, Yellow Classes— Diary Date

**Thursday, 9th February 2.00—  
Reading CAP**

CAP stands for Child Assault Prevention—this programme of workshops teaches children ways in which they can keep 'Safe, Strong and Free'. It's a super programme and will support your children in many ways. A workshop is held for parents before the programme starts so you can ask questions etc. More details will come home next week.

## Punctuality

Being on time is an important feature of life and something we all need to ensure our children understand, especially if they are to grow up and enjoy successful working lives. As their carers and supporters, we all have a duty to set a good example to our children.

It is therefore essential that parents ensure that children arrive to school on time in the mornings. Our first lessons start at 9.00 promptly—if your child is late, then they will miss out on essential learning. Too many children are arriving to school after the bell has gone—it isn't their fault but they are the ones who miss out and have to enter a classroom late!

Equally concerning, and frustrating for staff, are the numbers of children who are not collected promptly at the end of the day. This week I have missed two important meetings because I have had to look after uncollected children, and last night there was a very serious situation which kept staff in school until 6.30pm.

When your children go home, the staff here continue to work—we have meetings most afternoons and if we're not meeting, we're planning and making assessments of learning. We can not do any of this if we are having to care for your children. It's also not fair on your children—they're tired and being left alone in a school like this can be quite distressing.

I realise most parents are incredibly responsible and sensible—thank you. I also realise that everyone is late once in a while and we really don't mind when an exceptional situation arises. But there are a small number of parents who are repeatedly making the lives of many very difficult simply because they are late.

## Lessons start at 9.00—please help us ensure a prompt start to lessons by:

- Staying in the playground when your child comes in—children in Y1-6 are more than capable of hanging up their own coats! We also need to try and keep the cloakrooms a bit clearer in the busy mornings.
- Only pass on essential and quick messages to teachers. If you need to have a conversation with a teacher, you must book an appointment or come in to school before the bell. Imagine if 5 parents all want a conversation with a teacher in the morning at 8.50—that teacher will never be ready to start a lesson at 9.00!

**Thank you!**

## Maths Questionnaires

In the past, you've told us you want more support with maths...but I've only had 10 questionnaires returned telling me how we can help. Please return these as soon as possible so we can decide what to do next. Thank you.