

## Court de Wyck Church of England Primary School



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Dear Parents

Wow! What a busy term – I know the children, staff and myself are looking forward to the Christmas break this year. In the last two months alone the school has experienced three inset days, a Materials Workshop, Brass and recorders tuition for KS2, swimming for Y3/4, an art exhibition, Christmas fair, Y3/4 celebration assembly, an excellent KS1 production, carols by candlelight, Christmas lunch, Christmas church service, whole school pantomime trip and a visit from Father Christmas – not to mention a successful Ofsted and the great things that go on day-to-day at Court de Wyck.

I can confidently say that our school is in the best shape that it has been at any stage over the last 12 months and the momentum continues to build. As I said at the Key Stage One Christmas production, the children make this school a fantastic place to work and they in turn love their learning.

### **Jack and the Beanstalk**

I hope your children came home full of stories about our pantomime visit yesterday. It is quite a feat to organise a whole school activity like this but it was thoroughly successful. The children (and adults!) enjoyed the performance and joined in enthusiastically. Several members of the public commented on the exceptional behaviour of our children.

The trip cost £12 per child, which would usually have been prohibitively expensive. However, our magnificent school association subsidised every child to the tune of £7.00, which included purchasing an ice cream and a bottle of water. Many thanks to every parent who contributed towards the trip at a very expensive time of year. Without these contributions, this type of enrichment activity would not be possible. Thanks also go to all the parents who volunteered their time to supervise the children and to Mr Hudd who organised the visit.

### **Carols by Candlelight**

This event returned by popular demand this year and was bigger and better than ever! This free event was well attended by parents of the school and members of the wider community. We were lucky to secure some members of the Royal Air Force Association band to play for us and their leader, Pete, led the event superbly. Thanks to all those involved in organising this community event and to the School Association for providing refreshments.

### **School Improvement Planning**

Following a couple of requests for parents to join a School Improvement Planning working party, I have had a response but am still eager for more people to join. This is your opportunity to have a say in developing the vision and planning for the long and medium term. I appreciate that you all lead busy lives and will arrange meetings to fit in with these – possibly an evening meeting in the Village Hall. Please register your interest with Mrs Holliman or myself.

### **Uniform**

Our children look really smart in their school uniform and black shoes. Thanks to parents who support this policy almost without exception. Mrs Holliman will be sending another school uniform order in January. We can order all items of uniform and this year will also offer baseball caps at £3.00 and fleece lined reversible waterproof jackets at £12.50 both in the school colours of burgundy with the school logo.

## **Internet Safety**

I have been asked by the North Somerset ICT team to pass on this very important information to parents and families:

*Buying a PC or laptop for your children this Christmas?*

*It is a fact that Christmas is by far the busiest time of year when new computers, mobiles and gaming consoles are being bought, most often as presents. These open a world of opportunity and learning for children and young people, especially when connecting to the internet.*

*The internet enables an astonishing opportunity for learning, exploration, entertainment and communication. It's opportunity is perhaps most embraced by children and young people and leads to considerable enrichment, although as in life there are always associated risks and the internet is no different. There are potential threats such as bullying or unwanted contact, many of which are regularly reported in the media. These reasons, however, should not stop you from making these purchases, but understanding the risks and how to minimise them.*

*The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre ([www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)), is the UK law enforcement agency dedicated to help protect children when online, **and** are looking to inform parents about some of these online risks and encouraging them to register for free monthly updates. The monthly updates will inform parents on how new technologies are being used by children, what signs to look out for and even some of the behavioural changes that are typical in children who are under threat.*

*For further information and to subscribe to these updates, please visit*

*<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>*

## **Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS)**

As a Church of England school, we are obliged to undergo a SIAS within eight weeks of an Ofsted inspection. They will be judging the school on four key areas:

- § How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?
- § What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?
- § How effective is the religious education?
- § How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

We will be welcoming Mrs Jo Curd from the diocese into school on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Our last inspection 13 months ago judged the school as being satisfactory.

As RE coordinator, Mrs Harding will be leading the school in the preparation for the inspection. I will inform you of the outcomes as soon as we have them.

## **Year 1/2 Class Teacher**

Today we have said 'au revoir' to Mrs Bingham who begins her maternity leave at the start of January. I am sure you will join me in wishing her and her husband good luck for the birth of their first child and the exciting first few months of parenthood!

Miss Hannah Kingston will be teaching the class for the duration of terms 3 to 6. Hannah has been into school several times since her appointment and is already proving to be a valuable addition to the team.

## **Reminder of dates**

School reopens to families and children on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008.

There are two inset days on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2008.

## **School Website**

Mr Wilsher regularly updates the school website [www.courtdewyck.co.uk](http://www.courtdewyck.co.uk) with important information. In the New Year, there will be a visitors' book and an allocated page for each class to share their learning with the world! Please pay a visit to the site; we would like to hear your thoughts.

## **And finally...**

All that is left is for me to wish you and your family a very restful, peaceful and enjoyable Christmas. Thank you to all the parents, governors, staff and children who have worked so hard over the last year. Lets look forward to continued success in 2008!

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Nick Riddiough  
Headteacher