

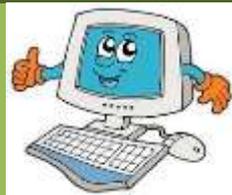


### Head Teacher's Welcome

It is surprising how quickly the weeks have gone by and half term is fast approaching. Again, a lot has happened since returning after Christmas and we still have our E-Safety day! More about this further on in this newsletter.

*Richard Culham*

### E-Safety Day



Next Tuesday (7 February) is Internet Safety Day. The purpose of this is to get everyone thinking about making the most, SAFELY, from this wonderful resource – the internet.

There is a parent/carers session from 5.30 pm - 6.30 pm and this is designed to help us all understand better and make the most of the internet in a protective and supportive way. There will be the opportunity to ask advice and share useful tips. Please come along and find out more. There will be a crèche available. It would be helpful if you could let us know if you require the use of the crèche and for how many children.

### Erasmus



There was a great 'European' feel to school last week with 30 visitors from 9 different European countries spending time in school. They have been fulsome in their praise – particularly of our wonderfully polite and helpful children.

During their visit they had the chance to have a pupil led guided tour, met the Yeovil Mayor and his Mace Bearer, savour the best of British food from our kitchen and enjoy a welcome celebration assembly involving our choir, band and some of Y6 performing short scenes from the Best of British Authors. I know that they have left very impressed with Birchfield! Well done all!

### Sickness



Along with the rest of the country, we have been hit hard this January with a variety of nasty bugs and illnesses! Hopefully the warmer weather – which must be due soon – will help clear up the infections.

Can I please remind you to phone us on the first day of absence as early as possible.

Also please make sure that we have up to date contact details for you just in case we need to phone you if there is an emergency.

We have had some cases of chicken pox, particularly in the younger classes. The advice is that children need to stay off school once the spots appear and until they have crusted over.

## Active Kids Vouchers



Sainsbury's  
**Active Kids**  
Eat well • Move well • Live well

We are collecting the Active Kids vouchers from Sainsbury's again this year. The more vouchers we collect the more cooking and sports equipment we can obtain which benefits all the children in the school. If you have any vouchers please place them in the collection box in the school foyer before the end of June. We are very grateful for the continuing support from you all.

## Attendance



Despite the increased absence rate currently, we have still been set an ambitious attendance target of 97%. Our attendance rate over the years has improved dramatically because we have all worked so well together to ensure that the children come to school regularly and on time!

We have produced a new attendance leaflet which explains our policy and procedures further. This can be found on our website under 'Parents and then Admissions'.

Can I please remind parents that our registration period is between 8.55 am – 9.10 am. If your child attends after 9.10 am then they will be marked as an 'unauthorised absence' for the morning. If your child has 10 unauthorised absences in a 12 week period then a £60 fine may be issued, this is per child, per adult who has parental responsibility.

If your child is in KS2 they should line up on the playground in their class line at 8.55 am where they will be collected by their class teacher. Children in KS1 can be taken straight to their class when the school gates open at 8.40 am.

Your support with this is very much appreciated.

## Dates for your Diary

**Tues 7 Feb:** E Safety Day –  
parents meeting 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm.

**Mon 13 – Fri 17 Feb:** Half Term

**Mon 20 Feb:** School re-opens

**Tues 21 Feb:** Y4 trip to Cheddar Chocolate Factory

**Tues 28 Feb:** Y3 trip to Roman Baths

**Thurs 2 March:** World Book Day

**Tues 7 March:** Y1 trip to Gore farm (further details to follow)

Y4 trip to Ninesprings

**Wed 8 March:** Y1 trip to Gore farm (further details to follow)

**Mon 13 – Wed 15 March:** Parent Consultation meetings and Book Fair (further details to follow)

**Fri 17 March:** Red Nose Day

**Tues 28 March:** YR trip to Gore farm (further details to follow)

**Wed 29 March:** YR trip to Gore farm (further details to follow)

**Thurs 30 March:** Last day of term

**Fri 31 March:** INSET Day

**Mon 3 April – Mon 17 April:** School closed for Easter

**Tues 18 April:** School re-opens

**Wed 19 – Fri 21 April:** Y3 residential trip to Tregoyd