

SEATON PRIMARY SCHOOL
Valley View, Seaton
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29th January 2009

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

Once again, a big thank you to all who took time to respond to the questionnaire. I have now completed the task of looking at these forms and the final results are printed on a table at the end of this newsletter. The questionnaire has been discussed with the staff and your comments have also been looked at. Some, by nature, are related to individual experience, but where there have been comments related to our school practice as a whole, we have taken them on board and I hope you will see improvements in these areas. I have tried to respond to some areas of comment in previous newsletters – today I have written about assessment and reporting of children's progress (please see below).

STAFF TRAINING DAY

Please note that there has been a non-pupil day added to this school year. Children are not required to attend school on Friday 26th June 2009. This day is being used to look at our assessment, recording and reporting of children's learning. In particular, the new APP (Assessing Pupil Progress) guidelines.

YEAR 2 SATS

Testing for Year 2 SATs will take place during weeks commencing Monday 11th and Monday 18th May. It would be appreciated if you could avoid booking appointments for your child during these two weeks. There will be a SATs information meeting for Year 2 parents on Wednesday, 4th April 2009, at 2.30pm. A letter will go out to parents closer to the time with details of the meeting.

KEY STAGE 1 ASSEMBLY

Parents of children in Key Stage 1 are invited to our Parents' Assembly on Friday, 3rd April, at 9.00am in the school hall.

LEGO

The Reception classes are hoping to increase their stock of Lego and wondered if any parent had Lego which their child no longer played with. In particular, they are looking for the

Lego people. If you have any you would like to donate to the school, please bring it into the school office. Thank you.

MINI RUGBY

I am always keen to promote local sporting clubs and I have been given a poster from Sidmouth Rugby Club as they are keen to recruit boys and girls from Year 3 who would like to play mini rugby. Please see the poster on the noticeboard outside Reception for contact details.

Miss Sealy

KEEPING PARENTS WELL INFORMED ABOUT CHILDREN'S PROGRESS

Seaton Primary School is a top performing school and our results have placed us regularly in the top 20% of schools nationally. For a school with a diverse, mixed ability intake of

children, this is an excellent achievement. Over the past five years (according to OFSTED data) the school has achieved excellent standards and progress, achieving significantly above the national average. This doesn't happen by chance and I congratulate the teachers and support staff on their hard work and dedication in supporting your children's learning.

In school we carefully monitor the children's progress and track each individual child to ensure that they achieve their potential. Over the years we have tried to keep parents involved in this process through regular feedback and sharing of information about what the children are doing in class and what we are looking for.

Currently, our practice is as follows. At the beginning of each term we send home information about the Key Learning Objectives that your child will be working towards during the term. This is not normal practice in most schools. However, we feel that it helps us to keep you in the loop. Over the past two years we have introduced the new Primary National Strategies for Literacy and Numeracy which organise the curriculum into strands of learning and we have, therefore, reorganised our Key Objectives around the new strands. We still send out information about all subjects.

At the end of term we send out mini-reports on how your children have performed against these objectives. Again this is not the practice in most schools – we are only required by law to send out an annual report at the end of the year. It is our view that the mini-report gives you more feedback about their learning. In the past, our reports have included all subjects, but we have concentrated on Literacy and Numeracy this year to try to get this right. Their performance in these two subjects is key to other areas of the curriculum and reflects their progress in other subjects. We have tried to move away from using grades (which often demotivates the average or less able child) to a system that reports back what your child is able to achieve. The more able child will still achieve the extended objectives and this will show they are working above the expected level for their year group.

We continue to send home an end-of-year annual report and this includes Teacher and Test Assessments based on National Curriculum levels.

As well as the reports, we have parents' meetings, at which the parents can discuss progress with the teacher. We now plan to have a formal parent meeting in November, March and for those who wish to discuss their child's annual report in July. Information about the March evenings will be sent home soon. At the report meetings you will be able to look at your child's work and the teacher will be able to report on your child's progress and give targets for the next step. You may be shown their progress books or internal test results to support their comments and show you what your child needs to do to improve. These are important sessions and I hope you are able to attend them when they happen.

If the teacher has a concern about some aspect of your child's learning he/she will contact you to discuss the situation. This may happen between the parent evening dates. The teacher will discuss with you your child's needs and what can be done to help. This may result in changing sets or even Special Needs assessments. However, parents should always be kept informed of any change.

Likewise, if you have a concern about your child's progress, please make an appointment and talk about it to the teacher.

The above is a long description of what we are trying to do to ensure you are well informed about your child's progress. However, this issue created the largest number of concerns on the questionnaire and I would like to organise a meeting – after half term – to meet with

parents and discuss this further. Please look out for details of this meeting in a later newsletter.

Yours sincerely

Alan Simpson
Headteacher

If you wish to receive a copy of this Newsletter via email, please email news@seaton-primary.devon.sch.uk and we will arrange for it to be sent to you.