

**SEATON PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**Valley View, Seaton**  
**Tel: 01297 20922    www.seatonprimary.co.uk**

**15<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

## **NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parents

This has been a busy and interesting week for me. On Tuesday I chaired the Axe Valley Learning Community meeting – trying to organise a group of 16 primary and secondary headteachers is a difficult thing – but at this meeting useful decisions were made about the future of pre-school and extended school services in the area. I am able to tell you that the charity NCH Action for Children has been appointed to set up a children’s centre in the area, something which will be of great benefit to parents of under 5’s.

Another interesting meeting highlighted the government’s new thoughts on the school curriculum – The Rose Report. This will mean more change! One particular point of interest is the possibility that from September 2011 all children will start in the Reception classes at one time each year (unlike the two entries per year we have now in Devon).

Also this week I have spent quite a bit of time going through the parent questionnaires. My thanks to all who have taken time to respond. I will share the results later in the term. However, I would like to try to respond to some of the comments through the newsletter bit by bit over the next few weeks, the first item is below. Overall, I am pleased that the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

Finally, tomorrow I will be attending the Children’s Trust meeting and will join with colleagues from Health, Social Services, Police, Housing, Youth, Children’s Services and voluntary organisations to continue to seek ways in which we can work together to help children and parents. You can see from the above, a headteacher’s job is not just “sitting in his office doing paperwork” as one child once said to me!

### **SAFETY AROUND THE SCHOOL POND**

PC Bolsover and others have told me that children have been messing around near the school pond. Please can you keep your children away from the pond, unless supervised. The children have been told not to stand on the pond wall, throw things into the pond, or climb the trees. I have also warned them about playing with ice. They should not break the ice on the pond or throw it around.

### **YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4 SATS**

These tests will take place during week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June so we would appreciate it if all Years 3 and 4 children could be in school at this time.

### **DIINER LADY**

The school is looking to appoint another dinner lady to extend the supervision of the children playing outside at lunch time. If you are interested in the post, please ask at the school office for further details.

### **SCHOOL LINK BROCHURE**

We are sending out today copies of the January/February School Link brochure. If you wish to place an order from this brochure, please return the order form to the school office by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Orders from the Christmas brochure gave us £96.00 to spend on books for the school. Thank you for your support.

### **SCHOOL CLUBS**

All clubs will start next week. Tag Rugby on Saturday mornings will start this Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January.

### **FUN CIRCUITS / TONING CLASS by Christina Oyo**

I am starting a new circuits/toning class in the school hall on Tuesdays, 6.30pm – 7.30pm. Everyone welcome! Working at your own level, the class will be suitable for all. Great for improving fitness, fat burning and toning! Cost is £3.50 if you pay weekly, or a special offer if you start on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>, £12.00 for next four classes.

Christina Oyo

### **QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE**

What is the school's procedure for dealing with complaints?

The full policy is available on the school's website and can be provided by the school office. In short, there are three stages. First, write to, or go and see, your child's teacher. Often this sorts out the problem very quickly. However, if the complaint is about the teacher, or you are not satisfied with the response, go to stage two and write or talk to the headteacher. Finally, if your complaint is about the headteacher, or you are still not satisfied, write to or speak to the Chair of Governors. The current chair is Mrs Nessa Rutherford. She can be contacted via the school office. The governors have a committee for dealing with grievances (including appeals if necessary).

Is it school policy to keep parents away from teachers in Key Stage 2?

The school policy is to be an open school, one in which parents do feel comfortable about talking to us about their concerns or questions. Every teacher in the school is happy to meet with a parent at any time that is convenient (in most cases this is immediately). Sometimes teachers need to know information straight away and therefore it is essential that you see them. Please call into the school office first where the staff are very friendly and can deal with most requests. Likewise, most mornings I am on duty on the playground and I am happy to talk to people.

However, the school does try to encourage independence in the children. Key Stage 2 is a buffer between Key Stage 1, where the children may need more support through daily contact with the teacher, and the secondary school where contact with teachers is very

minimal and very distant. This is why we ask that from Year 3 you allow your children more space to come into school by themselves and they are not picked up from the classroom door. As a parent this can be a hard thing to do and it may feel strange at first, but it does benefit the children because they have to learn how to organise themselves and it does take a long time to develop this.

Obviously, there is a tension between developing independence and the need for contact. However, I can assure you that the teachers are not blocking out parents and are always happy to meet with you if there is a need. Many comments were made that when Key Stage 2 teachers were approached, they were friendly, helpful and responsive. Please, please do not feel pushed out!

### **PTA NEWS from Claire Ross**

I heard a couple of days ago that the PTA will be asked to help hand out drinks to the Grizzly Run finishers on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Please make a note of this date in your diary – it is great fun to help out at this incredible event and (weather permitting) it can be fun for spectators too!

There will be a committee meeting on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, at 3.25pm as usual.

Claire Ross

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](mailto:news@seaton-primary.devon.sch.uk) and we will arrange for it to be sent to you.