

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

22nd January 2009

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

This term the topics covered in each class have a more geographical focus and there is some interesting and exciting work taking place across the school. Yesterday evening the school hosted a training session for other schools on using video conferencing. I was given the amazing experience of sitting in front of a camera and microphone in Mr Lewis's classroom and talking to and seeing a group of teachers and their headteacher in Manchester, through a video link on the internet. The hope is for our school to develop a link with this multicultural school in Trafford to work together on some topics and share information. I am sure this will be an exciting development.

PARENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to all who have returned their forms. If there are any more, please return them by the end of the week. I hope to print the results of the questionnaire in next week's newsletter. Your comments have made interesting reading and have been the focus of discussions in the staff meetings. Please find another brief response at the end of this newsletter.

GOVERNORS' MEETING

The next full meeting of the school's governing body will take place on Wednesday 28th January 2009. If you have any questions or queries about the school which you would like raised at this meeting, please talk to a parent governor.

MUSICAL MONKEYS

We have been asked to let you have the following information about this group: "We have re-launched Musical Monkeys on a Thursday morning during term time from 9.45am – 11.30am. If you would like to come along with your toddler (0 – 5 years) for a sing-song and then a coffee, we would love to see you. Our aim is to make singing fun and it is great for children's vocabulary. For more information please contact Trudi on 01297 22792 or Tamzin on 01297 23310."

PTA NEWS from Claire Ross

We are pleased to inform you that we have received a cheque from Sidmouth Garden Centre

for £50.00 from sales of Christmas trees and the same amount from Yellow Moon for sales from their catalogue. Thank you for your support.

Claire Ross

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE – HOMEWORK

As usual, the questionnaire has raised homework as an aspect of school life that causes mixed responses. Although 90% of responses so far agree/strongly agree that homework builds well on what your child learns at school, seven responses disagreed and four didn't know. Comments on homework show that some people think we give too much homework, others too little! Some say they are confused about their part as parents in homework, eg how much/little help they should give. Some say it is too hard, others feel it is too easy. However, the biggest number of comments has been about lack of consistency of approach to homework by different teachers. This has been a topic of discussion at a staff meeting and I hope that it will be addressed as soon as possible – every teacher is expected to follow the school's policy.

I note that the information on our website is out of date and I will ensure that our latest policy is published there as soon as possible. My priority is to ensure that there is a consistent approach across the school. Homework should build up as children get older in preparation for the load they will receive at secondary school. I know some people will continue to feel that this is too little or too much. I also know that sometimes it will seem too easy or too hard. But, overall, we get the balance about right. If you feel there is a need for more homework, encourage your children to read more and develop their own interests. If they find it hard work, we are happy that you work with them to help them – playing games or doing joint activities are seen by the government to be good homework because they encourage discussion, thinking skills and enjoyment in learning. If your child is struggling with homework, talk to his/her class teacher.

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.