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# Redland School News

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Volume 13 Issue 5

7<sup>th</sup> December 2009

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Dear Mums, Dads and Carers

The final newsletter of 2009!! Where has the year gone?? The festive season is great fun in school with very excited children and the sprinklings of glitter, tinsel and stars decorating the classrooms.

The children can now bring their Christmas cards into school to be posted and delivered by the pupils in Falcons and Kingfishers.

Please ensure they are correctly addressed.

## DATES UP TO THE END OF TERM

Tues 8<sup>th</sup> KS1 Performance 9.30 a.m.

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> " " 1.30 p.m.

Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> " " 9.30 a.m.

Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Santa's Grotto

Tues 15<sup>th</sup> KS1 Christmas Parties

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> KS2 Christmas Parties

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> KS1 Sponsored Welly Walk

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Christmas Lunch Box

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> BREAK UP

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Sainsbury's Bag Packing Day

## 25<sup>TH</sup> YEAR CELEBRATION

Just to remind you that tickets are on sale for the 25th Years Party Night! This will be a great night and Piano Pete and his band will be playing those unforgettable hits from the 80's!

## AT THE GATE

Can I please ask parents NOT to leave our KS1 children unaccompanied at the school gate. Several parents have come into school and expressed their real worries when seeing Yr.1 and Yr.2 pupils left by the gate. Please, please do not leave these younger children on their own. We must work together to safeguard our children.

## TD DAY

Our school is closed for a TD Day on Friday January 15<sup>th</sup>. Teachers are training that day on a new Assessment Tracking System.

## BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club fees are increasing from January 4<sup>th</sup> to £2.50 per session.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL CHARITY

We collected £70 for the Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit at the RUH in Bath.

Thank you for your support!!

## SUPER HERO DAD!!

One of our parents, Mr. Peter Cusick, is indeed an amazing sporting hero!! In November he completed in the Deca Ironman World Challenge in Mexico and came an amazing 4<sup>th</sup>!!

The Deca Ironman event is basically 10 grueling triathlons over 10 days. Each Ironman competition is a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile cycle ride and 26.2 mile marathon run. The mathematicians out there can times by 10 and the total number of miles, covered by Mr.

Cusick over the 10 days are -

24.2 miles swimming

1120 miles cycling

262 miles running

I'm exhausted simply writing the numbers!! All of those distances were covered in just over 137 hours!! What an incredible achievement!!

We all send our congratulations to you Mr. Cusick!! You are our sporting hero!! Our Key Stage Two children will thoroughly enjoy the assembly we are planning next term, where you can share your achievements!!

**HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME**

I need to clarify with you the guidance surrounding holidays in term time. Parents do not have a legal right to take children out of school on a holiday. The law says that the school has the discretion to grant up to 10 days authorized absence in a school year if:

- The parent the child normally lives with applies in advance for the holiday
- There are special circumstances for the holiday

Holidays are authorized under special circumstances when:

- As an employee who is prevented from taking holidays outside term time if the holiday will have minimal disruption to the pupil's education.
- When a family needs to spend time together to support each other during and after a crisis.

The circumstances a holiday cannot be authorized:

- Availability of cheap holidays
- Availability of desired accommodation
- Poor weather in the school holiday here in our country
- Overlap with the beginning or end of term

Other considerations for "time" away from school are:

- Wedding of a family member
- Family bereavement

As with all requests for time away from school, I will take into consideration the pupils overall attendance. The last thing I would want to be involved with is issuing Penalty Notices for absences which I feel are unnecessary, unwarranted and falling **outside** the circumstances I have mentioned above.

Please, please consider your actions very carefully when booking your family holidays. Thank you for your support in this matter.

**CHILDREN IN NEED**

We raised £283 for this very worthwhile charity. Thank you very much!!

**WET PLAY TIMES**

During the murky, wet winter months, the children are often unable to play outside. As Christmas is approaching you may be clearing out your children's toys and games. We would really appreciate it if you could donate sensible board games to school for children to play with during the morning and lunch breaks

Thank you very much

**LUNCH BOXES**

A very "gentle" reminder to Mums, Dads and Carers, regarding the contents of lunch boxes. We are noticing chocolate biscuits and chocolate bars featuring in many boxes. As a Healthy Schools Award holder, it is a bit of a contradiction that our children's lunch boxes are failing to meet the necessary standards. All our children have been involved in the Healthy Lunch Box lessons and are more than aware of the healthy foods which they should be eating. During an Ofsted inspection the inspectors do go into the hall and I'm sure they will comment on any "unhealthy" additions! Please try to give your child/children healthy boxes.

Thank You.

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN SCHOOL**

As you may see or your children will have told you, all staff have ID lanyards as well as our parent helpers, students, governors and visitors. We are striving to re-assure you that we are committed to the continued care of all our children in school.

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS (run by teachers)**

If an activity club has to be cancelled and we know in advance, we can give adequate notice. However, if on the day, a club is cancelled due to staff illness, we will try to contact you by telephone. Those children who have siblings in school will be asked to go home with their parents who are in school collecting a brother or a sister. If the club has to be cancelled during the afternoon i.e. due to bad weather, it will still go ahead and the teacher and the club will take on a different format.

**MONEY ENVELOPES**

There are still money envelopes available from the office - £2.50 for 50.

**REMINDER TO PARENTS AND CHILDREN**

If you are late collecting your child from school at the end of the day, can we please remind you that they **must** come to the office. We can then locate the person who is to collect them and assure them that their child is safe. Children must not go home without an adult unless this is a regular arrangement. The office is always manned and children will be looked after if you are late.

**SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL**

Daniele Duprat will not be on duty for crossing patrol on the following dates:

14<sup>th</sup> December to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009

4<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Can you ensure that your child crosses the road **with an adult** during these times.

**FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

Please contact the office for further information if you are entitled to apply for free lunches for your child/children. This will be handled confidentially.

**FOOTBALL AND NETBALL KITS**

We have new sports kits for our teams!! They look absolutely great in their brand new kits. A huge 'Thank You' to FORS, who bought the netball kit and Malcolm Lyus, DL Windows, who have sponsored the kit for our football team. One of our Dad's, Dave Summerfield, helped us to acquire the football kit, so a big 'Thank You' to him too.

**SAINSBURY'S - BAG PACKING**

FORs have booked with Sainsbury's for Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December a bag packing day at the tills. This is a great opportunity to raise funds for our school. A letter has been sent home and we would be grateful if you could reply as soon as possible. Your help - even just for an hour, along with your child (dressed in Redland School uniform) would be very much appreciated!!

**CHOIR VISITS**

Our choir, led by our own Peter Williams, has sung for the residents at Avon Court. This is the first of their 'tour' dates and gigs. They will be performing at Castle Lodge, Ash Gables and Sheldon Lodge. They have already had a fabulous review from the residents at Avon Court. The children were great ambassadors for our school. They sang beautifully, spoke to the residents and touched a lot of their hearts. Our choir along with Pete is a real asset to our school.

**SAT'S**

This year we are delighted with our overall final results for last year's Yr.6 children. I'm sure you will have seen the *Gazette* and *Herald* and the results tables they printed. We are rated 64<sup>th</sup> in Wiltshire. Have a look at the table and you will be enormously pleased when you compare us against the other schools in our local area.

As a school, we are immensely proud of our children's achievements and progress and I thank the staff for all their hard work. As with all the primary schools in Chippenham we all work diligently to provide an exciting and broad curriculum. The tests only show a tiny part of our children's learning in school. All our aims are to give our children the opportunities to thrive emotionally, socially as well as intellectually.

And finally..... Having just watched the wonderful KS1 production of "Cock-a-Doodle Christmas", I feel extremely festive and Christmassy!! The production is fantastic and my praise and thanks to go all the staff and children for all their hard work and energies.

I wish every one of our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

See you on Monday January 4<sup>th</sup> when will be welcoming in 2010!  
Have a great family time together - rest and have fun!!

My very best wishes to everyone.