



NEWSLETTER 15

FRIDAY January 9th 2009

Happy New Year!

We have had a very good start to 2009 in school, with the children settling down very quickly to their new tasks. They have coped very well with the cold weather and have been sensible around the all the ice. As we start the new year, there are a couple of changes to school procedures that I would like to share with parents:

- 1 Newsletters are going to go home 'one per family' from today, with the oldest child in the family having the responsibility of taking the newsletter home each Friday
- 2 We have a new Attendance Policy, and you should receive a leaflet explaining this along with tonight's newsletter. Major changes are to do with not taking holidays in term time during certain key points in the year and building on the high levels of attendance and punctuality the school enjoys
- 3 The Governing Body have agreed a new **Charging and Remissions Policy**. In brief, this policy states that:
 - No child should have his/her access to the curriculum limited by charges made for educational activities.
 - Charges may not be made for education provided during school hours, with the exception of musical tuition of an individual or a group.
 - At Longwell Green, we consider the inclusion of enrichment activities to be essential in supporting and enhancing this curriculum. Enrichment activities broaden children's learning experiences and help them to discover and develop personal interests and vital skills, such as problem solving, creative thinking and self-evaluation. Many of these activities are free (for example, all of the clubs that teachers offer; the activities provided by local secondary schools; and our Sports Partnership activities). However, some can only be made available to children through parental contributions that cover the costs of the specific activity.
 - Parents will be invited to make a **contribution** to cover the cost of school enrichment activities, whether taking place on the school premises or as part of an educational visit off site.
 - The total value of voluntary contributions will not exceed the cost of the activity. Where a voluntary contribution is requested but insufficient contributions are made, the Headteacher will determine if the activity can proceed taking into account the fact that additional costs should not be made against the school's budget.
 - The school understands that voluntary contributions can be difficult for some families to make and can offer a 'waiver' of contributions. In cases such as these, the school asks that parents inform the school on an activity by activity basis. In principle, only those families currently entitled to "free schools meals" will be entitled other than in exceptional circumstances. Request for waiver forms are available from the office.

We hope these changes will continue to improve the provision we are making for all our children.

Don Sibley

Free School Meals

Many families may be eligible for free school meals but do not at present claim them. You may be eligible for help if you fall into one of the following categories:

- You are in receipt of income support or a Job Seekers Allowance (income-based)
- You are entitled to child tax credits with income no greater than £15,575 as shown on your TC602 from the Inland Revenue. If you receive working tax credit then you are not eligible
- You receive the guarantee element of state pension credit
- You get support from the national asylum support service

If the answer to any of the above is 'Yes' then your child may be entitled to free school meals. If you think you may be eligible please contact Mrs Dix in the School Office for an application form. Alternatively you can contact South Gloucestershire Council directly on 01454 868008 or email: cis@southglos.gov.uk.

You will need to provide proof of the benefit you are receiving in the form of a recent letter from the Benefits Agency, or form TC602 from the Inland Revenue.

Applications and the administration of Free School Meals are always carried out with the utmost discretion and confidentiality.

After School Clubs

Last term Mrs Chen-Phillips ran an after school Maths Club, which proved to be very popular with many children. I am delighted to say that the club will continue this term, but will now be on **Wednesdays** after school, from 3.15 to 4.00, starting on Wednesday 14th January. The club is open to children from Year 5 or 6 and will be a chance for them to complete maths homework and to reinforce their learning. Children can be collected at 4pm from the library. Thanks again to Mrs Chen-Phillips for offering this additional service.

Raphael Burke Soccer School – the Football Club will run on Tuesday afternoons from 3.30 – 4.30 pm for five weeks commencing on Tuesday 13th January 2009.

Taekwondo with Mr Davies – Tuesday 13th January 2009 from 3.30 – 4.15 pm.

Tennis Coaching – Monday 12th January 2009 – 3.20 – 4.30 pm.

Class Assemblies

Parents are invited to the following class assemblies all held at 9.15 am.

Mrs Harris H2	Friday 30 th January
Miss Wood W3	Friday 6 th February
Mrs Lloyd L3	Friday 13 th February
Miss Rogers and Mrs Phillips RR & PR	Friday 6 th March
Miss Flook F4	Friday 13 th March
Mrs Murdoch and Miss Christopher	Friday 20 th March
Miss Burkett C1	Friday 27 th March
Mrs Rogers R4	Friday 3 rd April

