



## NEWSLETTER 2

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 19<sup>th</sup> 2008

The children have continued to settle down really well and have started to get stuck into their learning for the term. Many of them are keen to be on the new School Council and they are designing manifestos ready for the vote on Friday. I have been into all the classes from Y1 to Y6 to try to learn the children's names- they have been very helpful to me and I am doing quite well! Thank you to all the parents who came along to the Introduction to the Classroom presentations on Wednesday- the evening was very successful and was another example of Longwell Green School parents showing their commitment to their children's learning.

Don Sibley



Longwell Green Becomes Even Greener!

The Launch of Eco-Schools at Longwell Green



### Yellow Woods Challenge: Recycle Your Yellow Pages at School

In the coming weeks the new edition of the Yellow Pages directory will arrive on your doorstep. This year to help us launch our work towards becoming an Eco-School we are taking part in the Yellow Woods Challenge. Instead of throwing your old Yellow Pages in the bin to be dumped in a landfill site we can recycle them; the school with the most directories per pupil wins cash prizes. The winners in our area last year achieved an impressive 20 directories per pupil, although this year there is also a special newcomer's category.

We are encouraging *everyone* to bring into school as **many Yellow Pages as they possibly can**. One member of staff has confessed to personally owning 6 directories to recycle and several more will be 'encouraging' their neighbours to take part. The Yellow Pages will be stored in the hall extension so please start dropping them off there from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September either at the start or end of the day as you come to and from school. We will initially store them in a wall formation (made of directories instead of bricks!) against the far wall of the school hall next to the side car park. We will continue the collection right up until the end of term.

Since February 2008 the children's representatives on our School Council have made great progress towards Eco-Schools status and we aim to achieve our Bronze award before Christmas. Further information about progress towards Eco-Schools status, our Eco-activities and future Eco-opportunities for children and adults and will follow in future newsletters. Our Yellow Woods Challenge is our first major Eco-Schools campaign across the school and with your help it can be a huge success. By joining in we can all reinforce the message that landfills are no longer feasible and the aim should be to recycle as much as possible.

We hope you will help your children take part in our school challenge and encourage them to ask for old Yellow Pages from far and wide. Any winnings will be spent on replenishing the lunchtime Huff-n-Puff play equipment to benefit all the children across the whole school. For further information the websites below are useful, or see Miss Flook in Year 4.

<http://www.yellow-woods.co.uk/>

<http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>

## Request for Absence during Term Time

With effect from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, if you are considering booking a holiday and wish your child/children to be absent from school during term time, you will need to obtain and complete a form from the school office, at least two weeks in advance of the planned absence. The form will then be passed to Mr Sibley, who is able to authorise 10 days absence for holiday in special circumstances. The form will be returned to you as quickly as possible.

## Your help required!

I have already mentioned the importance of the partnership between parents and school. This partnership is crucial when it comes to some of the ways in which the school tries to organise things to secure the best for all concerned. These are a few ways in which parents can help:

*1) Please remember that is school policy not to allow dogs on to school premises, and especially at the beginning and end of the school day. This is for obvious health and safety reasons*

*2) So that clearing up of the school site can commence promptly, can I please ask that parents and children leave the school site by 3.45 each day (children attending clubs are clearly exempt from this). I have also been informed by one of our crossing patrol officers that they are only available to help with crossing the roads until 3.40 each day (again, different circumstances apply to children attending after school clubs). For both of these reasons, we would really appreciate it if parents and children could help us by leaving the site promptly at the end of the day*

*3) Although I am really pleased that there has been no incidence of smoking on the premises this year, it has been brought to my attention that sometimes parents smoke while waiting outside the school for their children. Please help us by ensuring that all children can leave the site without being affected by cigarette smoke*



## MEDICAL ALERTS

### Allergies

We have a number of children who have nut allergies, two of whom have an epipen. This form of treatment is only necessary if the children concerned come into any form of contact with nuts, not only eating but also by touch, which may result in an extreme reaction which potentially could be life threatening.

We as a school would like to ensure we do our best to avoid any unnecessary incidents. Therefore, we ask for your support in this area by ensuring that lunch boxes and snacks provided are not nuts or products containing nuts.

We thank you for your consideration in providing a safe environment for all our children.

### **Measles, Chicken Pox and Shingles**

One of the children at school is receiving medication which puts them at risk if they are exposed to measles, chicken pox or shingles, and will need to receive additional medication. I am writing to ask for your co-operation by informing the school office promptly if you suspect your child has measles/chicken pox or shingles or if there is shingles in your household.

Your child is not at risk from this situation, however the health and wellbeing of the child concerned is dependent on the co-operation of all the parents. Thank you!

### **Vacancy for Clerk to the Governing Body**

From November there will be a vacancy at Longwell Green School for a Clerk to the Governing Body. This post carries an annual fee of approximately £740. The duties of the Clerk include liaising with the Chair of Governors and Headteacher to prepare an agenda and attending all meetings of the Full Governing Body (usually 5 per year), taking notes and preparing minutes as well as advising on procedural matters. Word processing skills are required for this post. If you would like to discuss the duties of Clerk or require any further information on this interesting role please contact the school office.