



## Newsletter

Friday 11th December 2009



### SCHOOL DINNERS FOR TERM 3 AND TERM 4 2010

As you are aware, the school is lucky to have freshly cooked lunches available each day. The food is well balanced and nutritional and excellent value for money. The cost of a hot two-course lunch will remain at **£1.60** per day, **£8.00** per week for the next two terms and the current 3 week menu continues until Easter.

If you wish to pay for Terms 3 and/or 4 in advance the amounts are as follows:

TERM 3 – Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 – Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2010 = 29 days @ £1.60 per day = **£46.40**

TERM 4 – Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2010 – Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010 = 29 days @ £1.60 per day = **£46.40**

Total payable for Term 3 and 4 together = 59 days @ £1.55 = **£92.80**

Any refunds due to absence will be returned to you at the end of term.

Dinner money must be sent into school on a Monday morning with the oldest child in school in an envelope; please write your child's name, class and days staying on the envelope. Cheques should be made payable to South Gloucestershire Council.

### **Longwell Green Walking Bus**

In this week's Friday folder you will find a consent form that needs to be filled in if you would like to make use of the new walking bus that will be starting after Christmas (date yet to be confirmed). This walking bus is designed to help encourage children to walk to school and the route agreed upon begins at the back of the community centre, at the basketball courts. Your child needs to be pre-booked on to the bus, so the consent form is essential before any child can be placed on the register. There will always be at least one driver and conductor, all will be parent volunteers who will be fully CRB checked with a good understanding of the route and possible hazards. The route has been risk assessed by South Gloucestershire Council.

Please return the consent forms by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. We will let you know the start date at the beginning of term 3.

The School Travel Plan Group

### **Next Week's Diary**

Tuesday 15th December 10.30 -Key Stage 2 Christmas Celebration at United Church of Longwell Green (parents welcome)

Tuesday 15th December pm Infants Christmas parties (Reception, Y1, Y2)

Tuesday 15th December 3.30-4.30- Last session for Mad Science

Wednesday 16th December 10.00- Key Stage 2 Carols for the Local Community

Wednesday 16th December pm Y3/4 Christmas parties

Thursday 17th December pm Y5/6 Christmas parties

Mr Horn will be in B5 all week

### **Mrs Karen Llewellyn**

I am pleased to confirm that Mrs Llewellyn will be joining Longwell Green School Office as an Administrative Assistant at the beginning of January. Karen will be in school during the coming week and I hope you will join me in welcoming her, and wishing her every success in this new post

### **Parenting workshops available**

We published details of some parenting workshops in last week's newsletter. They were: 'The Incredible Years'; 'Strengthening Families' and 'Parents Plus'. If anyone is interested in attending these, please contact Jenny Hatcliffe, Family Mentor (in school) or ring 01454 866330.

### **Art Exhibition and Sale**

Cherry Art Centre are holding an exhibition and sale on Saturday 26th December between 10.30 and 5pm. The address is 18-20 Ellacombe Road, and entrance forms can be obtained from Cherry Art Centre by ringing 0117 932 4321

### **Longwell Green video conferencing**

Children from different KS2 classes had a new experience today– singing Christmas songs via video link to children in another school, St Mary's in Yate. This video conference was set up by south Gloucestershire and is the first of a series of links planned. George, Jessica, Josh and Ben in M6 were really excited by the link: 'It was really good because we could compare uniforms and songs; it was nice seeing another school singing; I would definitely do it again!'

## **Infant Nativity**

This week Longwell Green School has been visited by two young Ofsted inspectors during the Infant Nativity play! Amazing singing and wonderful acting performances were seen by all who came to see the three concerts this week. We would like to congratulate all the children on their fantastic accomplishments and to thank the staff and parents for all their hard work on preparing the costumes and learning all those tricky lines. Finally we would like to say a thank you to all who came to watch which made our nativity a truly special event that the children will remember for ever.

## **Reception & Key Stage One** **Christmas Party Arrangements 2009**

The **Christmas Party** for Reception & Key Stage One children will be held on the afternoon of **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>.Dec.**

The children will play Christmas games in the hall then have some party food kindly provided by the 'Friends of The School' and be ready for collection from the usual places at **3.15pm.**

The children should wear party clothes that they will be comfortable in all day, and need not bring special party shoes as we will wear our indoor shoes in the hall. Thank you

## Play at Longwell Green School

The school is developing its play policy to help promote what is called 'free range play'. This is new way of looking at play that is being encouraged by both central government and South Gloucestershire Council, as part of 'Every Child Matters'. Staff in school and the Governing Body support this approach.

### What is **free range play**?

Free range play is 'play where pupils are given permission to use and explore the school grounds or at least part of them without direct supervision.' This requires the school to risk assess its grounds to see which parts may be accessed in this way, and what hazards there may be. The school will then need to look at training children to undertake their own risk assessments for activities so that they build up their independent awareness of what they can and can't do safely.

The school has already got good levels of supervision in place for break and lunchtimes; this new approach would mean that we would have direct supervision of some parts of the play-ground (e.g. the climbing bars) and remote supervision of others e.g. the field.

### What **age of children** can play safely as part of free range play?

Guidance from South Gloucestershire is that children under 5 (ie those in Reception) should not have free range play because of their lack of physical development. Their play could be exploratory but monitored more closely by supervisors.

### What might be the main differences if we adopt Free Range Play?

Children might get muddier..... but we could help with this by making sure children have boots and waterproof trousers.

Children might climb trees... but we could protect our trees by having a rotation system of active/ inactive areas

Children might have more fun... this would be great!

If you want to hear more about this approach and to ask questions, you are very welcome to come to a special parents' evening on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30**. The meeting will be led by Michael Follett, play advisor for South Gloucestershire Council, and it replaces the cancelled evening planned for 10<sup>th</sup> November.

If you would like to attend please let us know by returning the reply slip below.

Thank you.

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### Reply slip

We would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place (s) for the meeting on Play on Tuesday 12th January 2010.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's name & class: \_\_\_\_\_