



## NEWSLETTER 1

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009

### Welcome back to the new year at school!

I am delighted to welcome all our children and their families back for what is going to be a very exciting and stimulating year. The children have settled in well and have been enjoying the good weather at breaktimes alongside the chance to meet up with old and new friends. The children have seen some changes on their return and I want to go through these so everyone knows what has been happening. First, we have had significant building work over the summer, with a new boiler being installed and rewiring taking place. This has been funded by the local authority and it brings the school's infrastructure right up to date.

We have also installed a new automatic door and entry system to the front of the school, which I know has already pleased several parents with buggies!

The cloak areas for year 5 have been modernised and a new Family and Community Room has been created. More details about how this room will be used will follow soon.

The children may have told you of two other changes; we are not using the bell during the day, only at the start of the day and the end. This is to allow more flexibility regarding lesson changes, and we have also stopped a timetabled afternoon break for Key Stage 2 children. They can still get a break for some exercise when needed but it can be taken flexibly rather than the same time each day.

I want to say thank you to the staff and children for coping well with all the changes that have taken place and wish everyone a very successful school year.

Welcome meetings for parents

Parents are invited to come and meet their child's new class teacher at the following times:

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September: Years 1, 3 and 5 at 5.30; Class H2, Years 4 and 6 at 6.15.**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September: Class W2 at 5.30.**

A copy of the notes from the meeting will be made available to all parents.

The meeting will include a short recap of the maths evenings held for parents last year. It would be useful if you brought your copy of the maths booklet given out previously.

### **WALKING BUS**

A reminder about an important meeting coming up next week!!

We would like to invite anyone interested in using the bus or driving it to school, to a meeting to discuss the route and arrange CRB checks (which will be free to the volunteer Drivers).

We are meeting in the school hall on **Monday 14 September at 7.30**, and we hope you can join us.

### School car parks

For a variety of reasons, including the safety of children and the shortage of space available, I would like to remind parents that the school car parks are for school staff and school official business only. **Parents are asked not to use the car parks to drop off or collect children.** Your co-operation is very much appreciated.

**Reminder** - at Longwell Green School we save:

Used postage stamps

Copper coins or small change for our partner school Kihuura in Uganda (glass jar at office)

Nestle Cereal Box Tops for school (hand in or put in small purple box by office door)

We also participate in different schemes throughout the year.

### **Mrs Debbie Williamson**

After nearly 10 years crossing children on Ellacombe Road, Mrs Williamson will be leaving her post next week, to take up a position within South Gloucestershire Council's Road Safety team. I know everyone who uses the Ellacombe Road crossing will miss her cheery greetings and the school will miss the contribution that she has made to ensuring that children arriving and leaving school do so in the safest possible way. I hope you will join me in wishing Mrs Williamson every happiness in her new role and if anyone would like to make a contribution to a leaving gift please send this into the school office.

There will be no crossing patrol on Ellacombe Road until a replacement for Debbie is found. Meanwhile, to help the school out, Debbie and Steph Cole will continue to cover Bath Road until a replacement is found for this crossing.

### **Increase in the price of school meals**

*Just a reminder that the price of a hot 2-course meal this term has been increased to £1.60 per day, £8.00 per week. Lunch money should be sent into school on a Monday morning with the oldest child, in an envelope marked with the name of the child, class and days staying.*

*Thank you.*

**PE & Games kit:** Can I please remind everyone that the school PE kit is very simple, comprising a **white vest or T-shirt with white shorts**. Daps are required for some indoor PE and trainers can be used for outdoor lessons. Children in Key Stage 2 are also encouraged to have a track suit for when the weather is colder.

### **Extra- curricular clubs**

**Here is a list of extra-curricular clubs running this term. Start dates are given below. Please contact the office if you would like your child to join any of these clubs.**

<b>Club</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Year groups</b>	<b>Organiser</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Gymnastics	Wednesday		Kingswood Gym	9.9.09	Hall
Cheer leaders	Tuesday		Kingswood Gym	8.9.09	Hall
Morris dancing	Friday		Mrs Good	11.09.09	Hall
Chess	Wednesday	All	Mr Farr	16.9.09	Hall
Football	Wednesday	Y6	Mr Fry	16.9.09	Field
Maths	Wednesday	Y5&6	Mrs Chen-Phillips	23.9.09	Mr Farr's room
Netball	Thursday	Y5&6	Ms May & Ms McElroy	17.9.09	Playground
Tennis	Monday	Y4, 5 & 6	AJP Tennis	14.09.09	Hall
Dance & Drama	Thursday	Y3, 4, 5 & 6	Mrs Stewart	10.09.09	Hall
Football	Tuesday	Y3, 4, 5 & 6	Raphael Burke	15.09.09	Field

### SWINE FLU UPDATE

Dear Parent,

Welcome back to the start of another school year.

We thought we would give you some reassurance over swine flu. As you are aware the numbers of cases of swine flu dropped considerably over the summer but with the start of the new academic year cases may start increasing again.

NHS advice is that the best way to prevent the spread of infection is to remember the “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it “. To sneeze into a tissue, to dispose of the tissue as soon as possible and then to clean your hands.

We shall be emphasising this message in schools and hope that you will be able to reinforce it at home.

If you think your child or anyone else at home has swine flu please remember that for most people swine flu will be a mild illness that can be managed by resting, drinking plenty of fluids and taking paracetamol. If you have another health problem or are concerned ring the national pandemic flu helpline on 0800 1513 513 for information, or 0800 1513 100 for treatment. Or you can go online at: [www.pandemicflu.direct.gov.uk](http://www.pandemicflu.direct.gov.uk)

Helpline staff, or the pandemic flu website, will take you through a series of questions to check that you are suffering from flu and that there are no medical reasons why you should not take the antiviral medication. They will then give you an authorisation code and advise you where to get your antiviral medication as close to possible to where you live.

If you need to get Tamiflu do not go yourself if you have symptoms – send a friend or relative who is well. You do not need to contact your GP unless your child is under 1 year old or has an underlying condition or you are concerned.

Unlike at the start of the pandemic in the spring, if a student becomes unwell with swine flu schools will not be closed unless there is a shortage of staff.

Our current advice is that only pupils with swine flu symptoms (or have other illnesses) need to stay home from school. Those who have been in contact with a sibling with symptoms can still go to school unless they themselves are unwell. But please keep checking the NHS South Gloucestershire website on [www.sglos-pct.nhs.uk](http://www.sglos-pct.nhs.uk) for updates on swine flu and for national guidance go to the HPA website [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk) You can check the South Gloucestershire Council website for updates on individual schools and their policies on [www.southglos.gov.uk](http://www.southglos.gov.uk) Children in clinical “at risk” groups, who normally receive the seasonal flu vaccine, should expect to be offered the new swine flu vaccine in due course. Please keep an eye out for further information about vaccinations.

While we appreciate that swine flu is of concern to parents we want to reassure you that the health authorities are working with South Gloucestershire Council to provide the most effective care and protection for your child. We would like to thank you for supporting the message and the practice of good hand hygiene this being one of the best methods of protecting yourself and your family.

As the leading health organisation in the area, we are monitoring the situation closely and should numbers start to rise we will take appropriate steps to protect our communities. To ensure that you have the latest advice and guidance please refer to the websites above in the first instance.

Finally, we wish you all the best for the coming term and school year.

Dr Chris Payne  
Director of Public Health  
NHS South Gloucestershire

Therese Gillespie  
Director of Children & Young People’s Department  
South Gloucestershire Council

Mark Evans  
Covering Director  
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Health Protection Unit  
Health Protection Agency