

Babraham Church of England (VC) County Primary

Newsletter spring term 2008 Number 2

Dear Parents and Friends,

Thank you to everyone for coming to our parents meetings last week. It was good to see 100% of you. It is great to know we have your full support in helping us with your child's education.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Tuesday 4th March. During this day, thanks to the generosity of the Friends, we will be welcoming the story teller Charlie Wilson. Class 1 will be in the hall from 9.30 - 10.30 and Class 2 from 10.45 - 11.45 and Charlie has told me that you would be most welcome to attend either session. Furthermore he says he has KS1 and KS2 CDs available for purchase at the end of the day. The CDs last between 60 and 75 minutes and each has interactive stories and songs, and cost £8. He will be happy to sign them if requested. You can listen to clips by going to <http://www.crickcrack.com/recordings.htm>

Other highlights of the day will be;

- Fancy Dress. Dress as a character from a children's story book.
- Book Swap. Bring one or two books that you would be prepared to swap and receive.
- Writing a book review for Borders
- A prize for reading a book in the most unusual place (photo evidence required!)
- Many classroom activities

Again you would be welcome to join us for any part of the day, especially if you have a story you would like to share with us. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to read a story.

Pupil Absences

We take the safety of the pupils in our care very seriously. If your child is not in school, we need to know that he or she is safely at home with you. If your child is unable to come to school, please telephone the school in the morning before 9.15 a.m.

Helping the office run smoothly

As you know Mrs Brown will not be working on a Friday, accordingly if you have any questions about school based issues such as uniform orders or holiday forms, please could you avoid this day. Furthermore since the school is about to become *a bank account school* we can only accept cheques or postal orders rather than cash.

Swimming

Swimming lessons have been booked for the second half of the summer term only. The cost of the swimming lessons is subsidised by the school, however we are requesting voluntary parental contributions to cover the cost of coach transportation to and from school. The cost for the coach will be £16.80 or £2.80 per lesson. The break down for the cost is as follows:

Cost of swimming teacher and lifeguard	£360
Cost of coaches	£1,230
Income from cake stalls and budget	£660

Sex and Relationships Education

We are currently updating this policy and wondered if there would be any parents who could spare some time to read it and share their ideas. This could either be as a working party after school or individuals could read the policy at home. If you are interested please contact Mrs Berry.

STARZ

The Government's target is that all pupils will be able to access a personalised online workspace, capable of supporting an e-portfolio by 2007-08. As part of the government initiative we are providing all children with an online workspace and email account. This space will use a system called STARZ (www.starz.org.uk) which has been developed by Cambridgeshire's ICT service in connection with a company called Digital Brain.

What is this space? This workspace will give the children the opportunity to upload and access work produced in school or at home. It will provide access to recommended websites including resources, for use at home and at school. Children will also be provided with an email account which will enable them to email their peers, share work and become involved in projects organised by the STARZ team. Pupils will only be able to send and receive emails from registered Babraham Primary School pupils.

What does it mean? This means that parents will be able to become more involved in their children's learning. It will also encourage children to take ownership of their own learning and use technology in creative and purposeful ways.

Internet safety is an aspect we as parents are only too aware of. This website came to our attention through literature sent to the Friends of Babraham School and I thought that you might be interested in accessing its information. www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents/cd . It is an online parent's guide which has been produced by the children's charity Childnet International with funding from the DFES.

Parent Questionnaire

As part of our school evaluation process we take your views very seriously. Accordingly the governors and I would be very glad if you could complete our annual questionnaire. It is important that as many families as possible return the questionnaire so that we can treat the views expressed as valid and representative of the school population as a whole.

Head lice

Head lice seem to be making their presence felt at the moment. Please could parents tie their girls' hair back as this is one way of children avoiding contact with these annoying insects.

Parentmail

Thanks to Kate Bendall we now have the choice for parents to receive information by email. If you would like to take advantage of this option, please contact us at office@babraham.cambs.sch.uk and we will add you to our current group.

Final Assembly

One of our Babraham traditions is to have an Easter Egg Hunt on the last afternoon of term. This begins with children chalking Easter designs on the playground; it is followed with an assembly and then the hunt itself. If in the interim weeks up to this date you should spot any small foil covered eggs, the Friends of Babraham School would be very grateful for your donations.

Dates for your diary

Celebration Assemblies (at 2.45pm)	22 nd February 2008
Class Assemblies (at 2.45pm)	class 2, 29 th February 2008 / class 3, 7 th March 2008
World Book Day	4 th March 2008
Easter Service	1.30pm St Peter's Church Wednesday 19 th March 2008
Easter Egg Hunt	1.45pm Thursday 20 th March 2008
School closes	Thursday 20 th March 2008
School opens	Tuesday 8 th April 2008

Yours sincerely