

# AUTUMN TERM - NEWSLETTER NO. 2

## Settling in

I have just started showing around parents and children for the Year R intake of 2010. As I walk around the school I am struck by how happy the children are looking as they go about their daily routines and how much effort all the staff put into making sure that the learning experiences are interesting, relevant and exciting. In addition to working in their classes, the children also work across year groups and in small groups to support their learning in different areas of the curriculum.

I hope you find the curriculum updates in this letter useful. You will notice on the attached dates for your diary that there are opportunities for you to come in and see your child's year group in action. We also have a general information curriculum evening for all year groups on Wednesday 14 October, at 6:30 p.m.

Don't forget, your child's teacher is always available to talk to you or to answer any queries. Hopefully then in the future, your child will also be saying "I loved my time at Hazel Wood, it was really great!", which is what I heard one of our local teenage boys call out to his friend as he cycled past my window the other evening.

## INSET

Each year we hold a balance of In-service Educational Training days (INSET). These give the staff the opportunity to work on developments identified in our School Improvement Plan and to keep up to date with current initiatives. We started the new academic year with two INSET days and the remainder are set as follows:

**Friday 09 October 2009**

**Monday 01 March 2010**

**Friday 25 June 2010**

We have tried really hard to tie these in with our colleagues at Abbotswood to ease childcare for parents who have children at both schools. This year we have managed to do this with four out of the five days and I hope you will find this helpful.

## Nearly New Clothes Sale and Lost Property

I am pleased to advise you that we will be continuing with this popular event this year. On the first Monday of every month, from 2:45 in the school hall, we will be selling good quality nearly new school uniform at very reasonable prices.

We will also have on display all items of lost property that have been handed into the school office during the previous month. We receive countless un-named items each month and, as we do not have the space to store them all, any items remaining unclaimed after each of these events will be disposed of via charitable organisations.

## Phonics Evening

Thank you for attending our Phonics Evening this week. As mentioned at the evening you will all receive information about what we do at the school. This will also be published on our website.

## Children's Book Week 5 – 11 October

To kick start this year's Children's Book Week we will be inviting the children to come into school dressed as their favourite character and so wanted to give you plenty of time to get costumes ready! The children can bring in their favourite book to share with a friend and, during the course of the day, staff will share their favourite stories from childhood with the children.

We look forward to seeing your costumes on **Monday 5 October**.

## The Times/Sunday Times Books for Schools Tokens

Once again we will be collecting tokens for the Times/Sunday Times Books for Schools scheme.

There will be 12 tokens to collect each week in The Times and The Sunday Times; one each day from Monday to Friday, three on Saturday and four on Sunday. We can exchange these for free books of our choice to add to the school library. Please collect as many tokens as you can and send them into school with your child. There is a collection box in the entrance hall.

Tokens will be available from September 13 until December 6. Please ensure that we have all tokens by the end of the autumn term so that we can redeem them for new books.

We are also still collecting Morrisons Let's Grow vouchers and Nestle Box Top tokens.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Curriculum Updates

### Year R

This half term Year R's topic is 'Getting to know you'. We feel this is a very appropriate topic for the children's first half term in school. It allows the children and staff to get to know each other through exciting activities which are also fun. The children will get the chance to explore our wonderful outside environment using the bikes, sand pits, water trays, gardening, and building homes and many other fantastic models out of big bricks. We will also be getting to know the three Year R classrooms, in particular the role play house, construction area, mark making area, maths area, scientific exploration area, creative area and much, much more. Alongside this self initiated learning we will be counting and singing number songs and introducing mark making and book handling skills. This half term is also about allowing the children to establish themselves in their new environment, following new routines and ideas. The Year R environment has evolved in a way which creates a happy, safe and secure place to learn.

### Year 1

In the first half of the Autumn Term, Year One's topic will be 'People Who Help Us'. We will be encouraging the children to discuss what they would like to learn about different jobs in the local area. They will be questioning people about their jobs, researching jobs on the internet, in books and from programmes and drawing maps showing where people work.

We will also be inviting different professions into school to talk to the children about what their job involves. We will be discussing with the children their rights and responsibilities and forming a 'School Charter' for the children to follow. In Art we will be looking at portraits by Picasso, Van Gogh and Henri Matisse and the children will be making drawings of portraits from real life observations and painting Picasso style portraits.

In Literacy we will be practising and reinforcing handwriting skills.

- Learning the phonemes -

ng	ring	air	fair
nk	pink	or	for
sh	shop	oo	boot
th	thing	oo	look
ch	chat	ar	farm
qu	queen	oy	boy

- Practising sentence construction using a capital letter, full stops and finger spaces.

In Numeracy we will be:

- Reciting number names in order from 0 to 20 or more, forwards and backwards, using objects, number tracks and number lines
- Identifying which of two sets contains more objects, by matching the objects and counting the number in each set
- Reading and writing numerals from 0 to 10, then to 20
- Finding missing or covered numbers on a number track
- Finding the number that is one more or one less than a given number
- Relating addition to counting on
- Using a number track to find the number that is one more than 7, etc
- Using a number track to find and say, the number that is one less than 8
- Solving problems involving counting. For example working out whether there are enough pairs of scissors for everyone on the table to have a pair and predicting and then checking which of two containers will hold more pine cones

## Year 2

This half term Year 2's topic is 'Getting to know you/jobs'. We feel this is a very appropriate topic for the children's first half term in Year 2. It encourages the children to establish new friendships and allows them to explore and learn about different people and their lives. The children will also be looking at the artist Henri Moore and his sculptures of people.

In the last week of the half term the children will have the opportunity to learn about an historical figure and research what this person is famous for.

The children will begin phonics and start to learn new sounds that they will be able to apply in their independent writing and reading. They will be writing a variety of stories using descriptive vocabulary. In Numeracy we will be focussing on number order, partitioning two digit numbers into tens and ones and estimating.

## Governor News

It has been a pleasure to come into the school recently and see how the children have quickly settled back into school following the summer break. A very warm welcome to all our new children and parents We hope that you find your time at Hazel Wood to be a rewarding one in many ways.

The governing body are working hard to maintain our 'outstanding' grade from Ofsted and continue to help develop the curriculum further. The governors are very involved in sharing ideas and assisting in budget decisions to shape this. One example has been the continued enhancement of our fantastic school building and grounds, as a resource for learning. This is integral to the future of a varied and exciting curriculum, something which Hazel Wood continues to excel at.

I am confident that the governing body continues to plan for the future and we are all truly excited about the developments the new academic year will bring.

Our Clerk to the Governors has recently had to resign, due to her other commitments, and we are looking to appoint a new clerk. If you are interested in this vacancy please contact the school office for further details and an application form. Thank you.

Paul Wright  
Chair of Governors

## Dogs

If you bring your family pet to meet your child could you please adhere to the following code of conduct:

- ▶ Do not bring your dog onto the school grounds
- ▶ If you tie your dog to the railings, choose a site away from the gate and use a short lead. This is so children can pass safely away from the traffic
- ▶ Remember that some children and parents do not like dogs and can be scared, so make sure your dog is under control
- ▶ Keep your dog on the lead in the area around the school and if you notice one of our neighbours not doing this, respectfully remind them that children are about.

Thank you for doing this so we can all enjoy seeing some lovely animals in safety.

*Cathy Davies*

Cathy Davies  
Headteacher