

SPRING TERM 2010 - NEWSLETTER NO. 5

Open Days

'Celebrating learning for life together'

Next week, on Monday 22 March and Tuesday 23 March we have our Open Days. These are an opportunity for you to come in and see the school in action. At Hazel Wood we pride ourselves in offering a high quality educational experience to all our children. It is always interesting when looking at the progress of children to see how different groups of children at the school achieve. Some schools, for example, are particularly good at working with children with Special Educational Needs or Gifted and Talented children. At Hazel Wood **all** children in our school, including these groups, make good or outstanding progress and this is shown in our day to day assessments as well as our end of Key Stage 1 SATs.

So, what might you expect to see when you walk around next week?

- ▶ Have a look at the classroom environments, the displays and range of role play and practical resources which children access.
- ▶ Visit our outside areas; see the garden at the back of the school and look at all the things children can do to practice the key skills they are learning. All opportunities are carefully planned. The children's play is their way to learn new skills and to apply what they may already have learnt in creative and exciting ways, which are meaningful to them.
- ▶ Have a look at how all the adults at our school interact exceptionally well with all the children; supporting, encouraging and inspiring them.
- ▶ You might also like to have a look in the hall where children have assemblies, do PE and Drama. We are also fortunate to have a room next to the hall which we have set up as a homely environment where children can extend their speech and language, practice social skills or have a place where they can work in a small group with an adult.

You are welcome to walk around with your child or to simply spend some time with them in their own class base. The staff will be delighted to talk about any general questions you may have; we are proud of what we do and hope you will be too.

So please sign in at the front door for one of the following sessions on either day

10:00 - 10:45

11:00 - 11:45

2:00 - 2:45

Congratulations

We are pleased to inform you that Sally Hampton, who works one day a week in the Hedgehogs class, is expecting her second child. She will start her maternity leave in the summer holiday. Congratulations to Sally and her family.

Health and Safety Audit

Last week I mentioned our Health and Safety Audit. The Governors have asked me to share with you the Summary of Findings.

"The impressive score of 98% clearly demonstrates the extensive work that has been taken to implement a robust safety management system at Hazel Wood Infant School. The Headteacher, and other key staff, in particular the Administrative Manager Kim Buckingham, who have been involved in the work to develop such a system are to be commended for their commitment and very hard work.

The amount of work undertaken to achieve such a score is not to be underestimated and identifies Hazel Wood Infant School as a premises that has an effective and legislatively compliant safety management system in place. It is visibly evident that there is a team in place with the required drive, knowledge and approach to ensure that implementation of the safety management system is maintained to the present high standards that have been set.

There are always improvements that can be made, and some very minor areas for improvement are identified in the report for action. "

Our improvements were to look for trends in minor accidents and report these to Governors and to ensure that Brian has back up support if he is called out to the school out of hours. We have put in place systems to address both of these issues.

Our Wonderful Caretaking and Cleaning Team

Paul Godfray, our Caretaking Support Officer, visited the school in January and his report is excellent. The conclusion is as follows:

"Brian is well organised and the school benefits from his personal skills and willingness to become involved in all matters around the school. Brian carries out his duties in an effective and professional manner and is clearly a valued and popular member of the staff. Brian has become "part of the school" and involves himself in activities outside of his role. I believe that Brian's hard work and commitment to the school is appreciated by all staff, children and parents. Please pass on my thanks to Brian and the support team for all their hard work and commitment to the school."

Well done Brian and Dorota for making our school such a wonderful place for our children, parents and staff.

Kind Thoughts

A few parents have asked me if we could have a collection for Ruth Goodey and her family to get something to show we are thinking of them. If you wish to make a contribution please send it into the school office in an envelope marked 'Collection for Ruth' by Friday 26 March. Thank you.

Cathy Davies

Cathy Davies
Headteacher