



City Of York Council  
Fishergate Primary School  
Fishergate  
York YO10 4AP



## NEWSLETTER No. 1

10 September 2009

Dear Parent/Carer.

Firstly, **WELCOME BACK** ! I trust you have enjoyed a good summer and that there has been a chance for you to spend time together as families or even go away on holiday.

I have enjoyed some time in Northern Ireland, the north coast, body boarding in rough sea (freezing cold!), visiting the Giants Causeway and playing some golf!

Here is another school year starting and I want to wish each child a happy and fulfilling year at Fishergate School.

A special welcome, to those children who are new to Fishergate. We have 3 children in our Early Years Unit and another 12 have started through the school. I hope you are helped to feel at home here as quickly as possible, and that your children make some good friends. We pride ourselves as a school community on being warm and friendly to all. I do hope you find this to be a reality.

Newsletters will be sent out each **THURSDAY** and will be available electronically through the school website [www.fishergateschool.com](http://www.fishergateschool.com), where you will also find a calendar of main events for this term.

I will be phasing out paper copies of this Newsletter to those who are able to access them electronically during this Autumn Term. You will receive plenty of notice about this, those without internet or those who prefer a paper copy will still be able to receive one by arranging this. We work **very hard** as a school on communication with parents/carers, but sometimes this can go wrong! Please do see me or one of the admin staff in the office if you have any queries or concerns during this year. We are **always** happy to help!

## Welcome to New Staff

Helen Deighton has joined the admin team and will be in reception **on Monday 8.30 – 2.30, Tuesday – 9.00 – 1.00 and Friday – 8.30 – 2.30.** Please say hello to her and make her feel welcome. She will need time to get to know everyone.

Alexandra Mair is a French Teacher from Paris who some of you may know from Funfishers. Alex is working with us this year and she will be helping with French through the school as well as learning English and sharing her teaching skills.

Phil Sykes is our evening site manager, working alongside Steve Evans. You may not see so much of Phil unless you use the school during the evenings or at weekends. We are very grateful to Phil and Steve who are developing as a team following Rob Tai's move to a local Secondary School.



## School Developments

Some work has been going on over the summer to continue to improve our school building and facilities. We have had renovations to the roof, gutters and tiles. Cleaners have been busy with lights and floors all through the school.

During this term, our new ICT suite (in old Music Room) will be completed. Benching is being fitted soon and then 30 new computers installed with all other equipment to enable whole classes to have access to top quality ICT teaching and learning. We are also getting a trolley with lap tops for use in classrooms. This will further develop our work with ICT across the curriculum. We are excited about these opportunities. The current ICT suite will become a teacher's resource and preparation room and provide a dedicated space for them to meet together and prepare and assess children's work.



During this year we are planning to develop in other areas also:

- 1. School playground - markings and play equipment in zones*
- 2. KS1 cloakroom and toilets - refurbish and improve these for the children.*
- 3. Improve staffroom as a meeting space for all staff*
- 4. Build on our excellent curriculum with a focus on skills and more creativity! Look out for more about this in Newsletters!*
- 5. Assessment and target setting - continue to develop this in order to continue to raise standards for all children*

More details will be available soon, in an updated School Improvement Plan which will be on the website or available from the office.

## Friday Assembly

Some parents spoke to me last term about the need to have a regular opportunity to see the work going on in school and join in with a weekly celebration of children's achievements.

We will be holding a Celebration Assembly on **Fridays at 9.00a.m sharp** this term. These Celebration Assemblies will start on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September** with the first one focussing on what has been going on during our Global Fortnight. Please do attend these if you are able. We want to make them short and snappy (**they will be over by approx 9.20am**) and if your child has received a **Headteacher's Award** you will be receiving a slip to tell you he/she will be showing this in the Celebration Assembly.

During the first 2 weeks, each class will be working together to extend their knowledge and understanding of other cultures in our world. This year we have a 'French' theme to our Global Fortnight with classes focussing on countries where French is spoken. Our work will finish with Passport Day on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September**: the chance for children to see what each class has been doing. **Parents are warmly invited to our Global Evening on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm.** This will give parents/carers the chance to visit classes and share together in some food from around the world. **Please support this, it is a lovely evening and bring some food to share, sweet or savoury!**

## Punctuality

The start of a school year is a good time to remind parents/carers of the importance of ensuring your children are here on time for the start of the school day at **8.45am**. **Please aim to arrive between 8.35 and 8.45am.** Children in EYU/KS1 enjoy a short time with parents/carers in classes with them at the start of each day.

Children in KS2 should be dropped off in the playground in time for **8.45** when they will line up ready to come into school. Please try to be on time - it is very disruptive for your child and for the whole class if he/she is walking in late.

You will see that there is now a **new silver gate** across the playground to ensure the safety of children at Funfishers After School Club. Parents and children can use the single blue gate after school on Escrick Street. **This blue gate will be open for children and parents from 8.30am until 9.00 and from 3.00pm until 3.30pm,** so there will no longer be any need to use Funfishers gate further down Escrick Street unless you are going to Funfishers. **At all other times parents/carers should access the school through the main entrance. This will include parents picking up and dropping off children in the Early Years** The new silver gates will be closed after school at about 3.30pm.

May I wish everyone a happy and successful term!

Best wishes

Andy Herbert  
(Headteacher)