



City Of York Council

Fishergate Primary School
Fishergate
York YO10 4AP



NEWSLETTER No.11

7th January 2010

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back and a Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a good Christmas and the opportunity to spend time together with family and friends.

The wintry weather is dominating the news as we begin this new term. **Fishergate School is unlikely to close due to the snow as most staff live close by and all have made it in so far.** Please take care if you have to drive to get your children to school. The roads seem fine as I write but take care also on the pavements. We do want the children to enjoy the snow and play outside so we advise you to bring a change of shoes (wellies are ideal for playtimes) and spare clothes for the children too if you wish. The children have been enjoying building snowmen and dens in the snow. If the school were to close due to lack of heating for example or if less than half the staff were able to get in, we would try to give as much notice as possible. **Local radio stations give out bulletins from about 7.30am (Minster FM and Radio York)** and we would put signs up around school, as well as a message on the school website. This is extremely unlikely at Fishergate - we are a hardy lot!!



Your safety takes priority at times like this so if you are unsure about getting to school safely because of the road conditions, please stay at home and ring to let us know.



Attendance and Lateness

Clearly, where there is a lot of snow around, it may be harder to get the children to school on time, we do understand that. However, looking at class registers for last term, it was clear that a number of families were persistently late for school. **Staff will be closely monitoring attendance during this term and I will be writing to**

parents/carers if a pattern is developing this term. The school day starts at 8.45am for all children. Those in Key Stage 1 and Early Years can come in from 8.30a.m. It is very disruptive for your child if they walk in late and they miss the vital start of the school day.



Ofsted

Fishergate was last inspected by Ofsted in November 2006. **Ofsted have introduced a new Framework for inspections from September 2009** and schools that were given a good or outstanding judgement last time can expect to be re-inspected any time after 3 years. So we are due a visit! **Schools are given two days notice** and parents will have the opportunity to share thoughts about the school through a simple questionnaire which Ofsted send out. **This new Framework has significantly raised the bar for schools. It is intensely focussed on Learning and Progress, and also on other key aspects of school such as Leadership, Safeguarding and working in Partnership.** Schools across the country who have had a recent inspection under this new Framework have reported that it is rigorous and challenging. In many cases, it has resulted in a lower overall judgement for the school, in spite of continued progress and achievements, which is tough. This is the way of the world and we have to deal with it and prepare for it. Staff and Governors have been doing this since September and we wait for the 'phone call!!!

The children have settled very well as we begin a new school term. We are focussing on behaviour as children move around school especially at the start of this new term. **We have made a collective New Year Resolution!**

Lost Property

There is a considerable amount of lost property which has accumulated over the past few months! This will be displayed in the **Lower Hall on Friday 8th January from 3.00pm.** We would like to remind parents/carers that it would be very helpful if you were to write your child's name in their clothing, making it much easier for it to be returned to the rightful owner. As we all know replacing items that have gone missing is not cheap! Your support in this would be much appreciated If you are unable to come into school and look through the lost property, perhaps you could mention it to your child/ren so they can have a last look through before they leave at the end of the school day. **Lost property will be kept in school until Friday 15th after that date it will be sent to a charity.**

Get It Bright Day - Friday 15th January

The aim of the day is to increase the children's awareness of safety when walking or cycling to school, as well as promote the benefits of travelling by foot or by bike. **So wear your brightest clothes!** There will be an assembly at 9.00 by Jim Cole from **Sustrans** in conjunction with the City of York Council, developing sustainable travel across the city. in the lower hall - **parents/carers are very welcome.**

Sports Clubs/General Clubs

Please watch out for information about these clubs which are being sent out under separate cover.



Best wishes

Andy Herbert
(Headteacher)