



Fishergate Primary School
Fishergate
York YO10 4AP



NEWSLETTER No.2

17 September 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your support at the start of this new school year. The children are enjoying learning about different cultures as part of our Global Fortnight. We are looking forward to Global Evening on Friday, starting at 6.00pm. This will be an opportunity to see something of what the children have been doing and enjoy some tasty food together. I do hope you are able to join us.

Developing a Skills Curriculum

During this year, we will be further developing our creative curriculum with a special focus on skills running through the school curriculum. These skills are general (Key and Thinking Skills) and also specific to subjects (English and Maths skills for example).

At the Training Day at the beginning of this term, all staff began this work by thinking about Fishergate School's Aims. We have begun to share ideas about what we want to see developed in our children as they leave and move on to Secondary School.

We shared ideas about the attitudes and characteristics that were important to us here at Fishergate. Staff felt attitudes and abilities like respect for all, understanding, having an enquiring mind, being emotionally resilient and embracing challenges were some of the qualities we wanted to see developed in a typical Y6 learner.

I have also asked the children in assemblies at the end of last term for their ideas. It was great to see how many were similar. The children had very sensible and mature ideas.

Now I want to give parents and carers the opportunity to share what they think. There is a brief form attached to this Newsletter. If you would like to share what you think are important qualities to develop in all children, please jot them down and return them to me via the office. I would be very grateful for your ideas and I will share the revised School Aims with the whole community once they are drafted.

Nut Free School

We now have 2 children in school, one in Early Years and one in Y2, with severe allergies. Many schools now have moved to being completely Nut Free and I would like us to do this at Fishergate too. This will be a huge weight off the mind for the families of these children. **I am asking that parents help by ensuring their children do not bring any foods with nuts or nut traces into school. This will include packed lunches and in any other good brought into school.** Signs and posters will be placed around school in due course. Thank you; your help with this will be much appreciated.

Dates for this Term

Please make a note of the following dates which have been arranged so far. More will be added:

- 24.09.09 - Photographer in School for individual/family photos
- 29.09.09 - York City Football Club - working with Y3-Y6
- 05.10.09 - Book Week begins
- 06.10.09 - York City Football Club - working with Y3-Y6
- 12.10.09 - **Writing Week** - focus on developing children as writers through Special activities (more information to follow).
- 13.10.09 - York City Football Club working with Y3-Y6
- Half term begins Monday 26th October, children return on Monday 2nd November**
- 03.11.09 - Choir singing in concert in York Minster
- 06.11.09 - Anti-Bullying Conference for children
- 09.11.09 - Choir singing in concern in York Minster
- 16.11.09 - Start of Music and Enterprise Week
- 25 -27.11.09 - Y5/6 Residential Visit to Robinwood
- 04.12.09 - Christmas Fair 6 - 8pm
- 14.12.09 - Carols by Candlelight 6.00pm

Other Christmas events to be arrange. Also Parents Evenings' after half term - dates to be arranged

After School Clubs

Information about the range of lunchtime and after school clubs taking place this term will follow. We have separated these into Sports Clubs (co-ordinated by Mrs Ekers) and other Clubs (co-ordinated by Mrs Engleman). We believe these are valuable opportunities for all children to learn new skills and build relationships with each other and with staff.

Some clubs are taken by trained coaches and have a small charge to cover some costs due to time and resources. Others are completely free or fully subsidised by school. We believe all children should have access to the school clubs and would encourage you to think about them with your children. **Turn up to the first session next week to register.**

School Dinners - Just a reminder - School meals are now **£2.25 per day £10.75p per week.** **Can we also remind parents to send the money in at the beginning of the week in an envelope with the child's name, class teacher and the amount?** This would really be appreciated. The school has worked hard alongside the cook, children and parents to ensure the children have the food they enjoy, which is also very healthy and nutritious, and we feel also, still good value for money. If your child has not already tried our hot dinners, perhaps this would be a good opportunity for them to try!

Library Books - *Can we ask parents to check to see if they have any school library books at home which haven't been returned from last term. Children will not be able to change books until these are returned.*

Family Learning Courses - Two Family Learning Courses are taking place this term: 'Learning Through Play' on Tuesday am and 'Sharing Maths with Babies and Young Children' on Thursday am. There are still places available, if there are parents interested in either of these courses all you need to do is contact **Natalie Burnside on 07785 546366**.

Finally, our resident band, Whyte Fyre, is playing a local gig at **Edinburgh Arms on Sunday 27th September from 8.30pm onwards**. **Andy Burt and Helen Deighton are running in the Great North Run this year**. Andy is running for Marie Curie and would appreciate sponsors! Please see him if you are able to support this. Please see Helen on reception if you would like to support her too.

Best wishes

Andy Herbert

School Aims- Responses From Parents/Carers

1. I think the following qualities and attitudes are important to develop:

2. These should be our aspirations for every child at Fishergate School

Name: (Optional).....

Signed (Optional).....

Thank you for your ideas and thoughts