



City Of York Council

**Fishergate Primary School**  
**Fishergate**  
**York YO10 4AP**



## **NEWSLETTER No.3**

24 September 2009

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you to all who supported our Global Evening last Friday. It was a lovely occasion once again. The children have worked really hard and settled well at the start of this new term. There is a warm and positive atmosphere in each class as the children are encouraged to work together and achieve their best.

Our focus for this year is to continue to raise the quality of learning and teaching through developing a focus on Skills within a vibrant and creative curriculum. We are developing our curriculum further by looking at 'Key Skills and Thinking Skills' as well as vital skills in all subjects, especially Literacy, Maths and ICT.

We have started to analyse the end of Key Stage 2 results in 2009 and there is much to celebrate. Our children achieved well in English, Maths and Science, especially in Reading and Maths with the school exceeding its targets. Writing is a target for improvement and we have already started to work on handwriting and presentation skills! Our analysis of writing has shown we do really well in providing exciting and creative contexts for writing and they use a varied vocabulary, but the children need to work on sentence openers and become more secure on the basics. We are confident these things can be improved very quickly through a whole school focus on writing skills!

Fishergate has sustained very good results in English, Maths and Science now for the last 3 years and the children move on to Secondary School with very good skills and a positive attitude to their work. Fishergate was the second highest achieving school in York for Maths in 2009!

### **Parents Evenings**

There will be an opportunity for all parents/carers to meet with teachers to discuss progress and find out how they can support and help at home.



There will be 2 evenings for these meetings: **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** and **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November**. Please make a note of these dates and more information will come out soon with an opportunity to make an appointment.

*Please try to make this a priority, we want to improve the way we share information and work in partnership with parents, an issue that was raised through the Parents Survey.* You will also receive information from class teachers about the topics being covered this term and how you can help and support at home.

### Y3/4 Staff

As you will know and can see! Mrs Pickering is due to give birth early in December and she will be starting her Maternity Leave at October Half term. I am delighted that Neil Pfluger will be teaching Mrs Pickering's class from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Neil has done a lot of supply at Fishergate School over the last 2 years. He has 20 years experience as a teacher and worked at one school for 14 years where he held a Senior Leadership position. Neil has taught in Y3/4 classes last year and the children loved him! He is keen to work at Fishergate and will make an excellent addition to the staff team.

Mr Pfluger is attending staff meetings this term and will be working with Mrs Pickering to

ensure there is a smooth handover. We want to take this opportunity to wish Debora well as she nears the end of her pregnancy.

### School Travel Plan

This year we will be working to update our School Travel Plan with colleagues from the Council and also in Partnership with St. George's School. Anna Young will be leading this work and she will be looking for some parents to volunteer to meet with her as she consults to find out the views of parents/carers and children.

Please let me know if you have a concern for Travel issues and you want to contribute to the work to encourage sustainable ways to get to school and help reduce our carbon footprint.

### School Meal costs

Well done for those of you who spotted the deliberate mistake!!!

Unfortunately, there are no prizes!! The cost of a school dinner is **£2.15 a day not £2.25** as mentioned in Newsletter No 2 (£10.75 per week). Most parents are sending the money in on a Monday, but there are still a few who are sending it through the week. It would be really helpful and appreciated if **all** dinner money could be sent in on a **Monday**, it will help to reduce the administration time spent sorting it out. If you do forget, you can send it in the **following week**. There are some parents who prefer to pay half termly in advance, or even monthly, so whatever is easiest for you.



Finally, another date for your diary and for information. Mrs McConnell is developing ideas for a Music Project Week which will start on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November and end with a performance at the Railway Museum on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November. Some classes will be involved with this - look out for more information soon.



Best wishes.

Andy Herbert  
(Headteacher)