



STRAND NEWS

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NEWSLETTER –12 Autumn Term 2009

11th December 2009

Nursery Christmas Performances

We hope Nursery parents and carers enjoyed the fabulous Christmas concerts in Nursery today. The children were extremely confident in their first public performance and we were very impressed with their clear audible voices, great singing and actions.

Thank you to Lewis Allen and Father Michael

Many thanks to Lewis (Pastor, Gunnersbury Baptist Church) who visited the KS1 children in Assembly to talk about Christmas and as usual engaged them in ever innovative ways, this time dressed as a mad professor! We would also like to thank Father Michael from St Pauls Church, Grove Park. Father Michael told the Christmas Story to children with nativity figures and answered some very interesting questions from the children.

Finding out about Hannukah in Year 1

Once again we welcomed Norma to Year 1 this week to talk about the Jewish festival of Hannukah. Norma brought a Menora to school and the children learnt all about the celebration.

A Christmas Challenge – Guess the weight of the Cake

Have a go at guessing the weight of the fabulous Christmas Cake in the entrance way downstairs. The cake has been donated by Grove Park Deli and will be won by the person with the closest estimate. 50p a go!

Handy Hero Update – the GSK handwashing project

We have reached the end of our Handy Hero Handwashing project this week and Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children have all graduated. Please do support your child with regular reminders to wash their hands, particularly before eating and after visiting the toilet. Encourage your child to remember soap and to thoroughly wash their hands.

Toilet Update

The contractors are working hard on internal areas and we have started work on the electrics this week.

Christmas Fair

Many thanks to all of you who were able to co-ordinate, help or attend the Christmas Fair. Particular thanks are due to Louise Martin for organising the hugely successful raffle, the Junput family for their delicious Thai food and to Cecilia Thwaites for organising the Christmas Fair. As usual it was an enormous success, incredibly enjoyable and raised around £7,000 for the school. Also a big thank you to all of you who donated delicious cakes for the cake stall. If you have any feedback on how we could improve the Fair in the future please contact Cecilia on ceciliathwaites@googlemail.com. Please also contact Cecilia if you would like to be more involved with the overall organisation of the Summer Fair next June. We are looking for someone to work with Cecilia on the Summer Fair with a view to then taking over from her for next year's Christmas Fair.

During the Christmas Fair you may already be aware that Mr Newton and some of the children were part of a record breaking tree planting challenge. In support of this national venture the children planted their tree between 10.00-11.00 and the photographic evidence taken will be sent off and hopefully help to meet the tree challenge!

Christmas Trees

If you have ordered Christmas trees via Friends of Strand, they will be ready to collect from beside the Nursery area from 10 am to 12 noon this Saturday, 12 December. If you have arranged to have your tree delivered to you, it will arrive shortly after this time.

Mufti Day and Cake Sale

Next Friday, 18 December, will be Mufti Day. Children can pay 50p to wear their own clothes to school. There will also be a cake sale in the Infant hall at 3.30 pm. Please bring any cake donations to the school offices that morning.

News from the Juniors

Over the past couple of years, the Junior school has developed links with Villebarou School in Blois, France. This week we were able to 'parlez francais' in person with one of the teachers from Blois, Gaelle Loreau, who came to visit and spent time in Year 3. The children really enjoyed the visit, particularly the video postcards from Gaelle's class where the children had filmed greetings in both French and English. Class 3R and Mrs Ristic, who looked after Gaelle, really immersed themselves in French, learning lots of vocabulary and perfecting their French accents! The links will continue throughout the year via emails and letters. 3R will also send photostories about life in Strand and we're all looking forward to finding out about life in France in return. Sadly for Mrs Ristic and the Year 3 team there are, as yet, no plans for a return visit!

Junior Open Day

If you have not yet had a chance to visit the Juniors, we have a dedicated Open Day coming up on 28th January and would love to see you there so watch out for your individual invitation at the beginning of the new term.

Autumn Term Teacher Led Clubs

We hope your children enjoyed Sewing, Drama and Choir this term. Many thanks to Mrs Kaya, Wendy, Mrs Bevan, Mrs Beaufls and Miss Purser who have all run these clubs on a voluntary basis.

Spring Term Teacher Led and External Clubs

Please see the new list and application form (sent home in hard copy and Parentmail today). We have a really exciting range of teacher led clubs for next term. As usual we will run it on a first come/first served basis and ask you to prioritise your choices to ensure that as many children as possible can participate in at least one. You will need to return your slips to the black post box outside the Office as soon as possible.

Bottle Tops!!

We need your help to build up a large number of bottle tops for an upcoming art project. Please bring in all shapes and sizes of tops/lids and caps from bottles and jars (shampoo tops/washing liquid caps, vitamin caps etc). There will be a large container in the office area from Monday, please rinse the tops/lids and caps and drop them in there for us! Thank you once again for your support (don't forget to save them up over the Christmas holidays as well. A wide selection of shapes, sizes and colours are needed!).

Parent/Carer Views

Please find attached the summary of the questionnaire analysis from our November questionnaires. Your views and ideas are important to us and we are always considering ways to improve – some of our planned Actions from your comments are detailed at the bottom of the analysis.

Remember if you have comments or concerns you may leave these on our website comments box or even better, come and talk to us directly. Usually the class staff can answer your comments or questions. You are also welcome to talk to our Year Group Leaders Miss Bradburn (Year 2), Mrs Dwyer (Year1), Mrs Moxom (FS Leader). If you concerns are not resolved at this point you can arrange to meet with Miss Purser or Mr Newton.

Forthcoming Date Reminders

Mon 14 th Dec	2.00 KS1 Christmas Concert (Siblings invited) – tickets needed for adults
Tues 15 th Dec	9.30 KS1 Christmas Concert (No siblings) – tickets needed. 2.00 Rec Christmas Concert (Siblings invited) – tickets needed.
Weds 16 th Dec	9.30 Rec Christmas Concert (No siblings) – tickets needed. 2.00 KS1 Christmas Concert (No siblings) – tickets needed. CHRISTMAS LUNCH – deadline for orders is Friday, 11 December Nursery AM and PM Christmas Parties
Thurs 17 th Dec	AM Reception Christmas Parties PM Flying Pizza Christmas Show
Fri 18 th Dec	AM Y1 and Y2 Christmas Parties TERM FINISHES

Have you paid?

Check the list below for orders, payments and deadlines for this term:

- Christmas lunch order deadline – Friday, 11 December
(we will still take orders on Monday AM)
- KS1 Christmas Flying Pizza show deadline – Tuesday, 15 December
- Milk money deadline - Wednesday, 16 December

Winston's Wish – Our Christmas Charity

Following the success of last year's fundraising we have decided once again to support the Winston's Wish Charity. This special charity raises money for children and their families who have suffered bereavement. We have set up a display of silver stars – we are asking parents/carers and children to make a donation of a £1 to write their own message (on a star) to someone they love over Christmas and hang this on our display.

We will also be collecting at the end of each Christmas Performance.

***** KS1 STAR AWARDS *****

**All children were stars for their Christmas performance
rehearsals**

Remember 8.56 am is LATE for school!



Summary of Responses to EY Parent Questionnaires (Nov 2009)

106 responses (63%)

Reasons for choosing Strand-on-the-Green (parents could choose more than one)

Good reputation	65%
Recommendation from other parents	11%
Sibling already in Strand Schools	45%
The most local school	49%
Impressed by tour	16%
Recommendation from pre school setting	2%
Press	3%

The Starting Arrangements

80% were happy with the starting arrangements. All parents thought their children had settled extremely well. However about 13% of parents found the staggered start was too gradual and did not fit with their working arrangements (7% did not comment).

Many parents commented on the high quality of the home visits and felt this early meeting of practitioners contributed to the success of the settling process. They felt their children in particular enjoyed this process.

Introductory and Curriculum Meetings

There were many very positive comments about the Curriculum meetings at the beginning of the year and no suggestions for improvement.

The Website

There were many positive comments about the school website although only about half of Early Years parents/carers had looked at it. Comments for improvement included keeping it absolutely up to date and putting term dates on the website (these are already there under Future Events). Some parents suggested information on uniform would be useful.

Other comments

'I am so impressed with this school – what a wonderful place for children.'

'My child is happy and the teachers are fantastic.'

'The teachers are super!'

'It seems like such a nice, caring and stimulating environment.'

'We are just delighted'

Actions for the School

We will review our starting arrangements but will continue to base our decisions on what we know works really well for the children, even if this may unfortunately be difficult for our working parents. We base our starting arrangements on advice from the Local Authority and we tend to start children earlier and settle them quicker than other schools.

We will continue to work hard on our fabulous website. If you haven't looked please do so;

www.strandinfantandnursery.co.uk

We will add information on uniform. You can already find term dates under 'Future Events'



Summary of Responses to KS1 Parent Questionnaires (Nov 2009) 117 responses (65%)

The Curriculum Meetings

About 60% of parents/carers attended the initial curriculum meeting and all had found it useful. Those who could not attend said they had other work commitments or appointments instead. Some parents said an evening meeting would be helpful and some suggested a handout for those who could not attend. Some said they didn't come because they attended previously for an older sibling.

Reading Routines

About 77% of parents were clear on Reading routines. There were some parents/carers who were only partly clear on the routines. Some parents asked that the reading books were changed more regularly and were keen for even more feedback on their children's reading.

Future Curriculum Information Meetings

We asked parents and carers which curriculum areas they would like to hear more about to support them with their child's learning;

Mathematics and Writing was the most popular. Many parents were also interested in additional information about Reading. A few parents were interested in Science, ICT and personal, social and emotional aspects of learning.

Understanding the next steps in their child's learning

80% of Y2 parents and carers understood this (possibly following our Expectations at end of KS 1 meeting – there has been very good feedback from this).
53% of Y1 parents and carers understood this. Some parents asked for more information about this.

NB Questionnaires were filled in before the parent/carer consultations and hopefully following the parent/carer consultations parents were clearer about this.

Transition/Settling to the new year group

About 80% of parents said they were happy with transition from R-Y1 and Y1-2. About 18% did not comment. The few individuals who were not happy with arrangements for their child were content that their child had settled now.

Comments included:

'Enjoying school very much, my child is confident and loves his teacher.'
'School is excellent, teacher is brilliant. Thank you so much for everything.'
'My child is happy and really enjoys learning.'

Actions for the school

We will consider ways to support parents/carers with Reading routines next term.
We will consider a Y1 meeting to share end of Year 1/ end of Y2 expectations later next term.

In the meantime if you are not clear on Reading routines or the next steps for your child's learning please do see your child's class teacher.