



STRAND NEWS

NEWSLETTER –5 Autumn Term 2009

9th October 2009

Parking and Unacceptable Behaviour

Unfortunately it has come to our attention that the ongoing difficulties with parking at drop off and pick up time is adversely affecting our local community. Residents in Geraldine Road are often blocked in by poor parking. They have also endured Strand parents shouting and swearing at them, often in front of young children. We are extremely disappointed that members of our school community are behaving in this way and we have informed the Community police. Both the Infant and Junior Schools are working hard with children to demonstrate respect and citizenship towards others and we need parents and carers to join us as good role models in communicating with each other. Residents have been advised to note down the car registration numbers of offending parents and carers and these will be passed onto the police.

We work hard to promote sustainable travel to school as part of the School Travel Plan but we understand that some of you do need to use your cars. If you do drive you must consider our neighbours and the safety of the children – please do not park illegally. If you cannot find a space then you must park further away and walk. Miss Purser (Infants) and Miss Woods (Juniors) regularly consider ways of relieving parking problems around the school and if you are interested in joining these discussions please leave your contact details at the Office.

Staffing

We are delighted to announce that Miss Oldman is expecting a baby! She is planning to take her maternity leave from Friday 29th January. We are already advertising the maternity cover position and will be interviewing candidates in the near future.

This week we welcomed Cherrisse MacSorley to our KS1 provision mapping team. Miss MacSorley has replaced Miss Butcher and will be working mainly in Purple Class. We also welcome Lara Lindsey who will be supporting a child with special educational needs in Orange Class. We are also pleased that Kylie Gallacher will be joining us, temporarily supporting an individual child in Red Class.

Next week, we also welcome Emma Aly to Nursery. Emma already works within the school at Cygnet Club and as a lunchtime teacher. She will now also work as a Learning Support Assistant supporting a child with special educational needs in AM Nursery.

We are pleased to welcome Fiona Ritchie to Green Class. Ms Ritchie is currently working towards her NVQ in childcare and will be supporting Miss Salter and Miss Sainsbury in Green.

Parent Liaison Roles

Mrs Murray and Mrs Bevan are contacting those of you who have not discussed your home school agreement with your child and have not returned a signed copy to school.

The Upper Room

Once again, we have had an enormous response to our Harvest Collection. The Upper Room, a charity supporting and feeding homeless people in west London, collected the donated food this week and were really thrilled with the vast quantities that the children have delivered to school. If there are any further donations please leave them next to our giant pumpkin and Miss Purser will deliver any additional bags next week.

Skip to the Beat

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 have had a brilliant time skipping today. As part of our Healthy Initiative we welcomed 'Skip to the Beat', a free workshop by Active Kids (Sainsburys). Congratulations to the winning teacher – Miss Alleyne with 240 skips in 2 minutes. However, our overall champion was Josiah from Lime Class who wins the Blue Jersey and a skipping rope!

Healthy Passports

We are still collecting donations from the sponsored healthy challenge last week. Remember your donations can help fund future Healthy Schools initiatives like the fabulous A Life workshop last week.

Reception Reading and Writing Meeting

Thank you to all of the Reception parents and carers who were able to attend the Reading and Writing meeting this week. We hope it was useful. Please do talk to class practitioners if you have any further questions.

Toilet Update

There is currently a high level of activity taking place in off site manufactured parts including the glazing systems, roofing detail, underfloor heating system and internal toilet furnishings. We look forward to these arriving on site shortly.

Helping at School

We are looking forward to welcoming parent helpers to class after half term. If you are planning to help we are keen for you to attend parent helper training before you do so. Mrs Moxom will be running two training sessions before half term:

EY Parents and Carers	Tues 13 th Oct	9.10am
KS1 Parents and Carers	Thurs 15 th Oct	9.10am

Reading Club

Thank you to our willing helpers who will start reading club next week. These parents/carers have been trained by Miss Bradburn and will support targeted individuals in Year 1 and Year 2

Friends Coffee Mornings

Friends coffee mornings continue every Tuesday after drop off in the Community Room in the Junior playground. These are not formal meetings, but a chance for a chat and a drink. You are very welcome to bring younger siblings with you.

Junior News - SATs Success

We are delighted to be asked to contribute to the Infant Newsletter and thought that we would start our regular slot by sharing some good news about last summer's SATs results. The results, albeit as yet unvalidated, are brilliant and a testament to the hard work and effort of both the children, the families and the Year 6 team. The results in all subjects are well above the national average at both Level 4 and Level 5 (level 4 being the age expected level). The full results are in the table below. The figures in brackets are the provisional national averages. Congratulations to last year's Year 6!

Subjects	English	Reading	Writing	Maths	Science
L4+	88%	93%	76%	90%	97%
	(80%)	(86%)	(67%)	(79%)	(88%)
L5	40%	54%	28%	40%	49%
	(29%)	(47%)	(19%)	(35%)	(43%)

Second Hand Uniform

We will be grateful for any donations of good quality second hand uniform. We are planning the second hand uniform sale on Friday, 23rd October.

Welcome evening

A reminder that the Friends of Strand schools are holding a Welcome evening on Thursday 15 October between 7.30 pm and 9.30 pm in the Community Room in the Junior playground. All parents, carers and staff are automatically members of the Friends, which is our Parent Teacher Association, so you are all invited and we would love to see some new faces there!

Don't worry, you won't be press ganged into volunteering for anything, but it will give you the opportunity to find out more about the Friends and how you can get involved, and to chat informally to other parents and carers and also to staff, including the heads of both the Infant and Junior schools. Mark Newton and Sue Harrison will talk about how they are going to spend the money the Friends raised last year, and will explain what they would like us to raise money for in the coming year.

Friends of Strand Schools: Fireworks event, 6 November

Don't forget, the deadline for entries to the poster competition is Monday 12 October. Entries should be on A4 paper, portrait layout, in colour. Pictures only please, we will add the relevant wording. Please give entries to either school office. The winner will have their poster reproduced and displayed around the local area, and will receive free tickets for the event for them and their family.

This term we are trying out a new way of judging entries for our poster competitions, in order to give as many people as possible the chance to help choose the winning design. Everyone who comes to the Friends coffee morning on Tuesday 20 October (at 9am in the Community Room) will be able to vote on all the entries. These votes will be used to compile a short list of posters which will be displayed in the corridor by the Junior school office (next time there is a competition we'll use the Infant school) through that day. Anyone from either school – children, staff, parents and carers – will be able to choose one poster from the short list to vote for up until 4pm, when the voting will close and the winner can be declared. The Office staff will ensure that no one votes more than once. Please come along to the Junior school on Tuesday and use your vote!

Tickets for the Fireworks event will be on sale before and after school, by the school offices, from Monday 19 October. Prices are the same as last year: pre school children free; Strand aged children £3; adults and older children £5. There will be no entry without a ticket.

YogaBugs

10 weeks of fun and creative non-competitive exercise for 3 to 7 year olds beginning Monday, 2nd November from 3.30 pm to 4.15 pm. Classes are funded by Extended Schools and are free for school pupils. To book your place, please enrol at the school office.

Gift Wrap Fundraiser

Northbrook gift-wrap brochures were sent home on Monday, 5th October. Our school receives 22% cash back on every item sold. If we all bought just a couple of items we could raise a significant amount of money. We do hope you will like the selection of papers, cards and gift tags and that you and your family will support our school by purchasing through us.

Uniform Labelling

Can you please check uniform labels and return anything that does not belong to your child.

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

Lime: Sharu, William, Tom **Pink:** Ronan, Sophia, Samah
Turquoise: Charles, Bella, Aya **Purple:** Oskar, Angie, Cameron
Yellow: Cade, Orla, Sophie **Blue:** Finley, Amin, Laila

Remember 8.56 am is LATE for school!