

S.P.S.N.

Silverhill Primary School Newsletter

33/2010/2011 (20th July 2011)



As the academic year draws to a close I thought I would reflect on the progress and achievements made by the school. So much has happened it would be impossible to recall everything but I have tried to pick out the highlights

The children have taken part in a number of sporting events, Tag Rugby, the 7-a-side League and the Under 10s, 5-a-side Soccer. I would particularly like to thank Simon Brundish for giving up his time to coach the football in the Upper Juniors. We were very successful in the city wide virtual bike race and the children really enjoyed their prize of riding all the different bikes in the pod!

Our health week culminated in the Food Fayre which was a wonderful event and is already in the calendar for next year.

The impromptu visit by Miley Cyrus in November had to be one of the most wonderful experiences for the children and I am sure will remain in their memories for a long time. Whilst on a musical note the choir were the winners of the Westfield Competition and have sung at a number of venues this year and the dance club performed extremely well at the Assembly Rooms.

The children have enjoyed many visits out as well as residential trips which are such valuable experiences for all. I would like to extend my thanks to all the staff who give up their time to organise and supervise these visits as they take a huge amount of time and involve a great deal of juggling of home lives. We have also been visited by many other people including the very lovely Miss Ecuador. The money raised by the school to support her sponsored school in Ecuador has been very gratefully received.

The PTFA have continued to work tirelessly raising funds for the school to support the development of the Grounds for Change Project. The outdoor classroom is being used every day and enjoyed by all the children and staff. I would like to thank all the members of the PTFA for their incredible efforts in organising such a range of functions as every event takes a huge amount of planning and commitment of time. A particular mention goes to Zoe Thomson who has been a dynamo this year. The staff and pupils truly appreciate the additional resources that are purchased for the school through their fund raising.

We consider ourselves to be so fortunate to have such strong parental support at Silverhill. I would particularly like to thank all the parents who come into school to help the children with their learning on a regular basis. It really is very much appreciated as is the day to day support you give your children in all that they undertake.

On rather a sombre note: despite the numerous reminders and pleas in the Newsletters over the years I am amazed at the inconsideration of so many parents as they drive to school and park either illegally or dangerously or both. The local residents are often put in an impossible position with cars blocking driveways. If you need to drive to school please leave in plenty of time and park away from school and spend a few minutes walking into school together so that your child is ready to learn.

Please can you ensure that when your child returns to school in September they are in the correct named uniform and that their footwear complies with the agreed uniform code.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers and teaching assistants for their dedication in providing the children of the school with such high quality learning experiences, the governors for their continued support and assistance in helping the school to run effectively and all the support staff for their commitment and hard work which ensures the school runs smoothly.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and relaxing holiday and you are all safe, warm and well.

Please note school finishes on THURSDAY 21st JULY and reopens on TUESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER.



Some ideas to keep the children busy over the holiday!

- Create a bird feeding station.
- Plant natural bulbs and flowers.
- Inspire your children – find things out with them. Read about the outdoors to your children – learn together. There are so many websites packed with information.
- Place a board in the garden, leave for a few weeks, what is hiding underneath?
- Be a cloud spotter.
- Establish a family “Green Hour” – go for a walk, look at things, flowers and insects with your children.
- Adopt sunny days – go out and do things, but even if it is raining there are fun things to do – stamp in the puddles, race leaf boats.
- There is no such thing as bad weather – just the wrong clothes.
- WALK - Prepare your children by taking small children on short walks and gradually build up their stamina. We are so fortunate in that we have many country parks and areas of outstanding beauty.
- Keep the children amused on a walk by playing nature games -- find 10 snails, birds, insects, flowers, etc.
- Go for a family walk when the moon is full. Take a torch. Listen to the nocturnal creatures, turn your torch off and marvel at the stars.
- Collect things on the walk that are ‘dead’ and make a collection or a collage at home.
- Encourage your children to use all their senses at the same time -- describe what you can see, hear, smell, touch, what does the air taste like?
- Try wildlife photography.
- Take a rucksack on your walk and include pens and paper and encourage the children to draw what they see.
- Adopt a tree in your garden or one on the way to school – carefully watch it change.
- Take a nature journal when you go for a walk or record the different birds that visit your bird feeders.
- Plant a small garden with your children, even in containers. Grow herbs and vegetables, pots on the window sill are a great idea if you haven’t got much space.
- Help maintain the butterfly population by planting indigenous scented and colourful flowers.
- Collect stones and learn about stones, gems and fossils.