

Hutton Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 5



*Believe. Achieve, Succeed.
In our hands we hold the future.*

December 2013

Dear Parents,

Dangerous Parking

I am well aware that the majority of you agree that it is unacceptable to park your car across someone's drive, disobey road signs or park on zig-zag lines. It is also dangerous for pedestrians if you park on the road or a narrow pavement forcing pedestrians, particularly those with pushchairs, to walk on the outside of the cars. And yet some of our parents are doing this.

It is illegal to drive on the pavement and it is particularly dangerous outside a school at drop off or pick up time. The parents mounting the pavement or pulling up on the yellow lines are often those of you running late and so have a tendency to be less careful because you are hassled.

We have recently had a couple of incidents of children narrowly avoiding being hit - one by a vehicle mounting the pavement outside the school, the other in the Village Hall car park (where parents are not supposed to park).

PLEASE do not drive or park on the pavements around school. Those seen doing so will be reported to the police. This is for the safety of ALL our children.

Thank you.

Impolite parking

I have also received a letter from the Village Hall committee complaining about parents from school who parked in the Village Hall car park on Parents Evening just before half term, and are parking there in the mornings. This is a private car park for those hiring the village hall and is not a public parking space. Please help us to retain a good relationship with our neighbours by not upsetting them by misusing their car park space. Unfortunately 'school' is labelled with a poor reputation caused by a few inconsiderate individuals.

Thank you.

Nativity

The Y1/2 nativity will be performed on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th December. Please be aware when ordering your tickets from your class teacher

that younger siblings and babies are not permitted on the Tuesday performance. The children in Y1/2 have worked very hard to put on this performance for you and it is not fair to those children if they cannot be heard because youngsters are making a noise! On the Wednesday performance the preschool children from both village preschools are invited to watch and any younger siblings are welcome. (Second time through it is not so scary so their performance voices are louder!) However we still ask that if your little one is upset or making a noise we ask that you step outside until they calm down.

YR Nativity

There is just one performance of the YR nativity and it will be on Thursday 5th December. We realise that parents may need to bring preschool children to this performance but we do ask that if your little one is upset or making a noise we ask that you step outside until they calm down. Thank you.

Mystery Reader

One of the ideas that the staff picked up from their Literacy INSET training day involved having a 'Mystery reader' to visit each day- to keep the children engaged with reading. Reception class are starting this off- so if any of you would like to become a 'mystery reader' (i.e. you turn up at 3:00pm and read to the class (either a favourite book or one of the thousands we have in school- we can guide you to appropriate ones if you're not sure what to choose) please speak to Mr. Clapson or let the office know.

English Meeting

Apologies the English meeting had to be postponed. It is rescheduled for Wednesday 22nd January at 6 pm when Ms Farnell will be reminding you of the grammar/punctuation rules to help you to help your child.

Believe, Achieve, Succeed System (BASS)

Our new system which involves weekly and termly maths tests for all pupils, and termly reading and writing tests is going extremely well. We introduced it in September and as we near the end of the term I am delighted to report to you that it is working very positively. The pupils are eager to know how they have progressed each week and whether they have moved from 'yellow' to 'green' bands, and I am pleased their maths skills are improving week on week! It would have been a rare day when I was at school that we reminded the teachers that we had a test coming up- yet our pupils are so motivated that that is what they are doing! They are also looking forward to their mentor meetings - 1:1 time with their class teacher - to go through their progress and look at their next targets. We have decided that this term we will send you a copy of the targets (like we did previously) so you know what your child needs to work on next, as

well as putting them in the childrens' BASS folders and in their books (which you are welcome to look at).

PTFA Disco

Thank you to all the parent helpers who helped at the disco. The pupils were as always very well behaved, and a good (if noisy!) time was had by all. We made £130 profit.

Christmas Fete

The Christmas Fete is well underway. We have stalls booked, items to sell, games to play- and a visit by Santa promised! All you have to do is put Saturday 7th December 2-4pm in your diary and turn up to spend your money! We look forward to seeing you all then.

Luci Amos, Head teacher.

Governor Update

The School Governing Body has been busy since September 2013 keeping pace with developments and progress at the school. Each Governor has a lead role covering the different aspects of the curriculum and school policy and working in partnership with the Leadership Team and the teaching staff to review progress and set targets for future development.

All the Governors have attended meetings and undertaken specific training, attended Collective Worship, accompanied pupils on school trips eg. Life Skills centre in Bristol with Year 6. They have joined new reception class parents at the indoor BBQ and attended the Remembrance Day service to name just a few. During this term the KS1 children will be seeing "The Gingerbread Man" at the Blakehay Theatre. The Year 4's are off to Bristol's, Colston Hall to see the Bournemouth Symphony play and KS2 will see The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe production at the Redgrave Theatre, Bristol. Additionally Reception, Year 1 and 2 will be performing their Nativity Plays in the School Hall.

It is so important we have your views on all the wonderful things that happen at Hutton and it would be fantastic if you could take a few moments to complete the Parent View questionnaire which can be accessed via the school website. The website has some very useful information for parents and some great photographs that capture the children in action, so please take a look, as it is regularly updated.

Finally on behalf of the Governing body I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Kay Allen
Chair of Governors