

January 30th 2009 School Newsletter



From Justin Stone
Head Teacher

Phone
01392 276854

E-mail
**admin@st-
thomas.devon.sch.uk**

Dates

- ◆ 30/1/09 - PTA AGM/Meeting 3:30pm
- ◆ 5/2/09 - School Photographs
- ◆ 16 - 20/2/09 - Half term
- ◆ Week Beginning 16/3/09 - Parents evening.

Family Learning

Family learning provides courses that parents can access to increase their knowledge of different aspects of school life, help with literacy or numeracy and occasionally they will design a course around specific requests. I am currently working with the co-ordinator to plan a programme starting from September, so please let me or the office know if there is anything that would be of interest to you. If there are enough people with the same interest then it may be possible to organise a course to meet that need. As a school we are keen to make the best use of services that are offered to us so your thought and ideas will be valued.

Last week a flyer was sent home informing you of a course that explains SEAL (Social Emotional Aspects of Learning). This is a programme that underpins our behaviour policy and provides structure to our assemblies and the teaching of personal and social education. Jo Wilson will be running the course and it aims to give parents an understanding of a key area of learning and why the school might approach issues in a certain way. The course will begin next Thursday and there are still spaces. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

Photographs

Next Thursday the school photographer will be in to take individuals and family groups. Please watch out for a letter next week which will give more details. It has traditionally been done at this time of year because we now have all the children in school, including the January intake. However I am going to try and book the photographer for November as many families like to use the photos as Christmas gifts.

Rewards and Sanctions

Many of you will be aware that the school has a positive behaviour policy with rewards for the children when they make good choices and clear consequences when poor choices are made. Children thrive best when there is consistency and fairness about a system. To help us make the system more consistent and fair the staff felt that having an extra layer of consequences would be helpful. Rather than jumping straight at detentions if a child receives three warnings in one day (five for infants) then parents will be contacted and the child will miss one break and do something to make amends such as to write a letter of apology. If during the same week another set of three warnings are received in one day then the current consequences will be used. The rest of the behaviour policy remains the same with a greater emphasis on rewarding the positive behaviour. The school's written policy is due to be reviewed.

What the children think!

It has been lovely over the last two weeks to have worked in both the Year 6 and 5 classes. It has given me the opportunity to get to know the children better but also find out what they like about the school. Here are some of their ideas:

After school clubs

Interactive whiteboards

Sensory area

The school council is there to help

Kind children

Assemblies and singing

Feel safe all the time

The food is lovely

Star of the week

Displays are bright and colourful

Fun lessons

Good teachers

We all work together well

Sticker cards

ICT Suite

Your School Council says...

"If you see someone without a smile..
give them one of yours! Share your feeling."

This term the school council would like to organize an event to help raise money for comic relief and be involved with the decoration of the boards for the new outdoor classroom.