

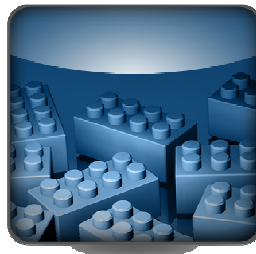
# Start of Term News

Ponsbourne St Mary's Primary School

January 2011

**Welcome back**, hope you had a lovely Christmas break. It's great to see all the children back. A special welcome to all our new families. We hope you settle quickly and soon become part of the school community. Thank you for all your very generous gifts at the end of term, they are very much appreciated but in these financially difficult times are really not expected. We wish you all a healthy, happy and peaceful new year.

## LEGO AFTERSCHOOL CLUB.



The Lego afterschool club is to be held on Monday's afterschool. Children from KS1 to KS2 will be making a whole range of Lego Robots and vehicles. The cost of the club is £40 for the Spring term.

Please send your payment into the school office. Cheques made payable to Ponsbourne St. Mary's. Places on a first come first served basis.



## Reading Challenge

The school will be issuing a reading challenge to all pupils in KS1 and KS2 this term. This will complement the 'Big Read' , a parent pupil evening to be held later this term.

Children can aim to receive a bronze, silver or gold award depending on the number of books they read. All children receiving an award will be entered into a draw for family cinema

tickets. So please encourage and support your children in their reading.

Individual classes will send home more details.

## Shoes and Socks

Our Uniform policy requires children to have a pair of black **SHOES** for School.

However since Clarks shoes look like trainers we are willing to accept black trainers. Brightly coloured trainers are not appropriate for school. KS2 children participate in 'Wake and Shake' each morning immediately after the bell. In the interests of Health and Safety girls shoes/trainers should be appropriate.

Children must have a pair of indoor shoes/plimsolls to wear in school. This helps to keep the school clean. These items should be left at school and labelled.

Boys socks should be grey and girls socks should be grey or white. Tights should be grey.

We will be pursuing correct uniform this term, please check the web site to remind yourselves of our expectations.

### Superstars.

We attach a letter we have received from Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools to congratulate our school for being in the top 100 schools in the Country.  
Congratulations to last years Year 6 pupils whose hard work in their Sats contributed to this.

### Outdoor Play.

All children work extremely hard in lessons and at break times they will go outside to play, except in very bad weather. Please ensure that your child has a raincoat or waterproof jacket, clearly labelled, in school each day. Jackets are available from the school office and cost £18.00

## Danger

For those of you who purchased new mobiles for your children as Christmas presents, please be aware that if they are able to browse the web, then nothing via a phone is off limits. Please try to talk to your children/young people about the hidden dangers.

More guidance and information from : [www.parentlineplusorg.uk](http://www.parentlineplusorg.uk)

### Curriculum

Our whole school RE week this term will focus on Islam.

Other topics this term:

Adventurers - colour shape and pattern

Explorers - Florence Nightingale

Pioneers - Communications

Discoverers - Rain Forest

If you can contribute to any of these please let us know. Your expertise is always welcome.

### BRINGING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL EARLY

Please be aware that children left in the playground are unsupervised until 8.50am. The breakfast club was set up to support working parents who need to bring children to school before this time, but is open to anyone who would like to use this facility.

### BREAKFAST CLUB

**BACON BUTTIES** will be served at breakfast club on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2011. Please help us to get the shopping right by booking your child in via the school office.



The cost is £2 for the first child and £1 for siblings.  
Please join us.

## ERROR ! OOPS

**County Dance Festival rehearsal is on 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH NOT 16<sup>TH</sup> February as stated on letter. Sorry.**

### Kingswood.

Reminder of the meeting for parents this Tuesday straight after school in Discoverers classroom. Outstanding payments to school office by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

## Game On After school club

Ponsbourne and Northaw school are offering a multi sports after school club to be held at Northaw school on Tuesdays.

Children will be able to take part in a range of sporting activities.

The cost of the 11 week club is £34.65 and transport to Northaw is FREE! Children will need to be collected from Northaw at the end of the session 4.30pm.

Places are limited so please complete the form that your child will bring home today and return to the school office to reserve a place

## Access to School.

We are aware that access to school for parents with children in buggies is difficult. However we have to ensure that the safety of pupils is paramount and cannot have the large gate left open all day. We also have to consider that this route is a vehicular route and is not the safest route into school. We do not have the staff to open and close gates, ensuring that they are locked after parents have departed.

We are looking for solutions and have engaged the help of a specialist security company to provide us with suggestions and costings.

In the meantime if parents can help one another, we will keep the side access by the main front door open - although this route encounters some steps and together we can overcome this difficulty whilst we find a suitable long term solution.

## Self service - No stairs !!

The porch entrance at the front of the school next to the Conservatory is the focal point for information for parents. The porch will be open from 8am until 5pm.

Parents can leave letters/notes for class teachers - each class has a tray. Any items for the school office can also be left here and collected daily. We are purchasing a secure letterbox for the deposit of monies. Payments for the school office should be made by cheque where possible as this makes life easier for banking etc.

Uniform request forms are available in one of the drawers and completed forms left in the uniform tray.

The **late book** will still be located in the office and parents will need to come to the office to register their child and provide a reason for lateness.

