

News on the Nineteenth

Ponsbourne St Mary's Primary School
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www.ponsbourne.herts.sch.uk

January 2010



Wishing you all Happy New Year. It's lovely to see the children back safe and sound. We would like to welcome Leah in Reception and Natalia, Daniel and Reggie who have all joined our Nursery class.


THANK YOU

A big **THANK YOU** from all the staff for the lovely presents given to us at the end of term.



Your kindness is really appreciated.

LACROSSE

The Lacrosse coach will be in school on Wednesday afternoons to work with  KS2. Children must have appropriate kit and footwear in school.

SWIMMING



As children are away at Kingswood, a trip to the Furzefield centre will be available to children in Year 2 on Monday 1st February where they will be able to swim and use the dance studio. Please send a cheque for £3-80 in an envelope. If you have any concerns please speak to Mrs Messer.

KINGSWOOD

Children should arrive at Ponsbourne School at 10.45am. on Sunday 31st January 2010.
The coach will leave promptly at 11am.



UNIFORM

Please label all children's uniform. If you need uniform, please hand into the porch, your order and money in an envelope marked **school uniform** on a **Thursday**. Cheques should be made payable to Ponsbourne St Mary's. Order forms are available from the porch.
Plimsolls/indoor shoes are **ESSENTIAL** at this time of the year. We do have some for purchase. Coats, hats and gloves are needed for outdoor work and play.

SCHOOL SECURITY

Many parents still risk their children's safety by failing to CLOSE school gates when entering or leaving the premises. ALL PARENTS must act responsibly, as we do not have a caretaker to constantly check after them. Please help us to ensure that all risks are reduced by being aware of good safeguarding practices. The road outside school poses the biggest risk to our children's safety. School practices ensure that risks to children are minimal; please use the crossing carefully as this is the safest route across the road. Remember, although it's a crossing drivers need to have stopped to ensure the safety of children and we know from experience that this is not always the case.

ASSEMBLY IN CHURCH

We will continue to have our Monday morning assembly every week with Reverend Pauline in the church. Parents are invited to join us and stay for coffee.



EASTER SERVICES

GOOD FRIDAY: Activities for children at Bayford church 10am-12noon.
GOOD FRIDAY: Service at Little Berkhamstead at 12noon
EASTER SATURDAY: Service of Light at Ponsbourne church 7pm.
Easter Sunday Parish Communion at 9.30 a.m.
All welcome.

YEAR 6 HEIGHT & WEIGHT

Children in Year 6 will have their height and weight checked by the school nurse on 24th February. If you have any objections, please send a letter addressed to the school nurse stating your objection.



RECEPTION PLACE

January 29th is the deadline for a Reception Place. If you have a sibling wanting to start the school, please ensure your application to HCC is handed in or applied for submitted online on time.

National Science Week



15th - 19th March 2010

We are planning lots of exciting events and activities for National Science week. We are organising school trips and activities during this week. Details will follow nearer the time.

JOY OF READING

Children in Years 3 and 4 will be visiting the University of Hertfordshire. The aim of this annual event, entitled the Joy of Reading, is to inspire children in the joys of reading and writing stories. Copies of his book are in the Pioneers classroom if children would like to purchase one and have it signed on the day. We ask for a £2 per child contribution towards the coach.

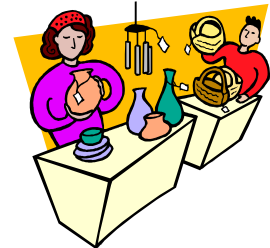
MAY FAYRE

Your opportunity to develop Community Cohesion.

This year's May Fayre will be on the 16th May so please put the date in your diary. We will need volunteers to help plan for the day, collect supplies, bake cakes, supervise bouncy castle, run stall, set up, etc.



Please offer your support as this is an important fund raiser for the school, church and village, and many hands make light work.



Meeting in school **25th January at 7.30pm** -
All Welcome so please attend to share ideas.
Thank You.

JEWELLERY

REMINDER: that **NO** jewellery should be worn to school with the exception of a small cross, a watch or stud earrings.

CONSULTATION ON SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2011/12

The Local Authority launched on the 4th January a consultation on school admissions arrangements for 2011/12. This is open until February 28th.

Parents can access the consultation paper at:

www.hertsdire3ct.org/havesay/consultation/crtcnslt/consultations/consadms1011/

FRENCH

French Club runs on Mondays after school. If you are interested in this activity please ring Sue Stratford on 01707 251632 or email Sue at sue.stratford@live.co.uk.

FEELING GOOD DAY

As part of Hertfordshire's Feeling Good Week we are planning a Feeling Good Day on Friday 12th February to promote a sense of well being in our children. We intend to offer a range of *different* activities that children can choose to take part in: cookery, painting, ICT, Yoga, music etc. We will finish the day with the school Valentine Disco.

Valentines Disco

This event will be held in Discoverers classroom and a letter has been sent home with parents. Please speak to Jayne Clarke or Paula Darby for more details.



The disco will be held on 12th February at
5.30pm - 7.30pm

Extreme Weather

Please check the school website if there are extreme weather conditions and you are unsure if the school is open at www.ponsbourne.herts.sch.uk. Information will also be posted at: www.hertsdirect.org
As there are occasions when the school is unoccupied during severe weather and telephone calls are unanswered the best means of contact is via the school email : admin@ponsbourne.herts.sch.uk

CHILDREN GET DEPRESSED TOO!

Lorrayne Fraser, our Parent Support Worker has organised a workshop/drop in session for parents on 12th February between 9am - 12 noon. Hints on how to recognise signs and suggestions of support available. Lorrayne will be situated in the Conservatory. No appointment needed.



Haita Appeal

Dear Parents,

Thank you for raising money for Hatia, it is so sad to see all the poor people without homes and food. The pictures on the television of all the children who are hurt are very upsetting too.

In total you helped raise £260.07. Thank you for raising so much money for Haita we really appreciate it.

Harry and Andreas
on behalf of Pioneers class.

FLORA



From January to March 2010, Cooking with Schools tokens will be available from special packs of Flora which can then be exchanged for cooking equipment. Every token counts, so the more people who get involved the better! Please send your tokens into school marked for the attention of Mrs Stubbs.

QUEENSWOOD

Queenswood School will be holding a number of tour mornings and recently introduced weekday breakfast events. The next weekday event is on 19th March for prospective parents and girls. If any child wishes to sample a taster day or sleep-over, please ring 01707 602 645.

More details are on the website
www.queenswood.org

TELEPHONE SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

Parentline Plus is offering a new Extended Telephone Support service in Hertfordshire. This is in addition to their free 24hr helpline 0808 800 22 and is a DCSF funded project.

The service offers parents and carers the opportunity to have up to six 45 minute sessions, to talk to a trained support worker over the phone to discuss ways to overcome parental concerns. These would include a child having sleep problems, violent behaviour or involvement in alcohol, drugs or gangs.

The support is free and the calls are confidential.

Details on the website under Extended Telephone Support www.hertsdirect.org/parents

Email: ETS@parentlineplus.org.uk 207 284 5513



Poetry Performance Evening Wednesday 27th January 7pm.

An evening of Poetry Performance by pupils, staff and parents? Come and join our social evening and learn about the schools new initiative to improve writing the "Big Talk" Look out for separate letter and booklet on its way home.

PONSBOURNE ST. MARY'S Primary SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009 - 2010

Summary of priority issues for action

<p>PRIORITY 1: To develop speaking and listening skills to impact upon writing attainment by:</p>	<p>1.1 Introducing a weekly 'Big Talk' to complement the 'Big Write' 1.2 Promoting oral story telling by professionals, staff, parents and children 1.3 Continuing with weekly drama and puppet work 1.4 Introducing Poetry performances and recitals 1.5 Continuing regular Philosophy 4 Children sessions</p>
<p>PRIORITY 2: To be credited with the Artsmark Bronze Award by:</p>	<p>2.1 Collating evidence in order to apply for the Artsmark Award 2.2 Planning in detail a year's itinerary of arts activities and learning opportunities 2.3 Completing the school's Sculpture Project with the local artist and install the Inukshuk sculptures at the entrance to the school</p>
<p>PRIORITY 3: To plan a more creative curriculum by:</p>	<p>3.1 Reviewing our two year rolling programme for foundation subjects with an intention to plan a more creative curriculum with increased cross curricular topics, and increased pupil choice, influence and participation 3.2 Responding to recommendations from the Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum - Final Report 3.3 Considering areas of learning (multiple intelligences) as opposed to subjects</p>
<p>PRIORITY 4: To establish excellent provision in the newly built EYFS unit by:</p>	<p>1.1 Establishing appropriate indoor and outdoor space according to requirements of EYFS provision 1.2 Completing and attaining the Herts Quality Standard Award for Early Years</p>
<p>PRIORITY 5: To develop processes for evaluating Collective Worship by:</p>	<p>1.1 Gathering stakeholder views about the school's acts of Collective Worship 1.2 Trialing methods of evaluating Collective Worship with children 1.3 Identifying areas for development</p>

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES

New amendments have been made in green.

20 th January 2010	Mercury newspaper to photograph Adventurers
25 th January 2010	FTS meeting 2pm in Conservatory - All welcome.
27 th January 2010	Poetry Performance Evening - Village hall 7pm.
31 st January 2010	Kingswood
3 rd February 2010	Joy of Reading Years 3/4
8 th February 2010	Feeling Good Week
12 th February 2010	Valentines Disco
12th February	Workshop for Parents with Lorryane Fraser - Children get depressed too!
15 th -19 th February 2010	Half Term
22 nd February 2010	Inset Day
24 th February	School nurse height/weight Year 6 children
25 th February 2010	Knex challenge KS2
3 rd March 2010	FTS meeting at Viv Owen house 8pm.
3 rd March 2010	PARENTS Evening FROM 3.20PM Parents surgery - please book an appointment to see the Head and Chair of Governors via the school office.
7 th March 2010	Gala concert Royal Albert Hall
11 th March 2010	Y5/6 Netball/Football tournament all day
15 th March 2010	Governors Meeting
17 th March	School individual photos
31 st March	Chris Rodis in school for Music lessons
1 st April 2010	Finish school at 1.15pm.
2 nd -16 th April 2010	Easter holiday
19 th April 2010	Inset Day
20 th April 2010	Children return to school
27 th April 2010	BAG2SCHOOL
3 rd May 2010	May Bank Holiday
7 th May 2010	FTS fashion show
10-14 th May 2010	SATs week (KS1/KS2)
31 st May -4 th June 2010	Summer Half Term
7 th June 2010	Children return to school
22 nd July 2010	School concert
23 rd July 2010	Finish school @ 1.15pm
1 st September 2010	Inset Day
2 nd September 2010	Children return to school

20 th September 2010	Governors Meeting
19 th October 2010	BAG2SCHOOL
25 th - 29 th October 2010	Autumn half term.
15 th November 2010	Governors meeting
17 th December 2010	Finish school @ 1.15pm
20 th December - 3 rd January 2011	Christmas Holiday
21 st Feb - 25 th Feb 2011	Half term holiday
8 th April 2011	Finish school @ 1.15pm
11 - 25 th April 2011	Easter holiday
26 th April 2011	Children return to school
2nd May 2011	May Day Bank holiday

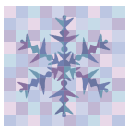
Question of the Month?

What services would be useful for your family through the extended schools partnerships?

Reply by letter or email to: admin@ponsbourne.herts.sch.uk

Village Art Competition.

Children are invited to draw, paint, create a picture of an aspect of their village. Entries should be received in school no later than Friday 29th January 2010.



Snow warning!!!

We are on the edge of an area at risk of snow tonight 19th January 2010. We hope it doesn't arrive but please be aware and if it arrives travel if only safe to do so.