

News on the Nineteenth

Ponsbourne St Mary's Primary School
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Tel: 01707 872395 Fax: 01707 872779

www.ponsbourne.herts.sch.uk

February 2012



MAY FAYRE



Your opportunity to contribute to our school community. This year's May Fayre will be on the 13th May. We will need many volunteers to help plan for the day, collect supplies, bake cakes, supervise the bouncy castle, run stalls, set up, etc. Please offer your support as this is the fund raiser for the church, school and village. Many hands make light work.

We will be sending around lists for you to sign up to once we return. Thank you in anticipation.

greatest

Payments to School



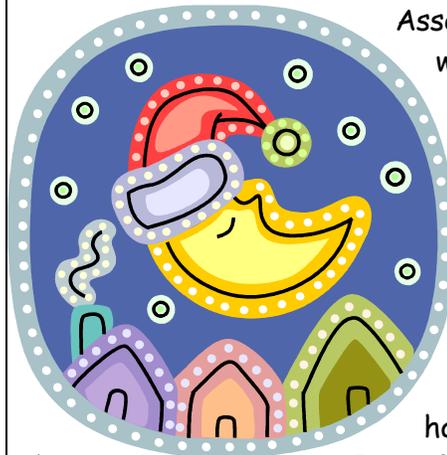
If you are sending in a payment to school, please put these in the porch.

Children 'forget' that they have envelopes in their book bags for the school office and staff do not go through book bags on a daily basis.

The box on the door in the porch is **secure** and cash payments can safely be placed in here.

Thank you.

SATS and ASSESSMENT WEEK



Assessment week for the whole school will be **Monday 14th May - Friday 18th May 2012.** Please ensure that your children are in school during this week.

Remember, children perform best when they have had a good night's

sleep.

Breakfast and a water bottle

with fresh water will also help the children to concentrate.



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

CONSULTATION EVENING

On Wednesday 21st March it will be Parent Consultation afternoon/evening. Class lists will be available at children's exit doors from Monday 12th March 2012. Please sign on the lists for an appointment and time or ring the office.

PARENT READERS - KEY STAGE 2

We already have a team of excellent volunteers who listen to KS1 readers, and would like to recruit some volunteers to listen to KS2 readers. If you can offer your support please contact the school office.



HEADLICE

We continue to have reports of headlice in school, please check your child's hair regularly.



National Science Week + 12th March - 16th March 2012

We are planning lots of exciting learning activities, with a focus on Roald Dahl's book *George's Marvellous Medicine*. We will be learning about medicines and pills (Drug Education) and finding out how they are produced. We will be involved in chemistry based activities, looking at solutions, chemical reaction and mixtures. EYFS and KS1 hope to organise a trip to a farm since *George* lived on a farm.



KINGSWOOD

Our Teachers remarked how the Year 5/6 pupils achieved real challenges with enthusiasm and courage at Kingswood this year -Mrs Bower, Miss Horncastle and Mrs Johnson were all very impressed by the bravery and enthusiasm of all children.

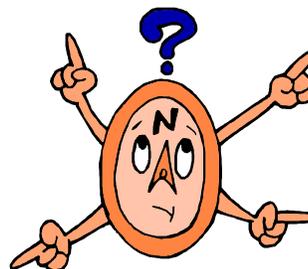
The weather was less kind to us than in recent years but the children wrapped up and it did not stop them from enjoying themselves.

The children are compiling a presentation of photographs and memories to share with our school community.

Lost Property

There is a VERY LARGE box of 'lost' property in the front porch. If you have lost anything please check here.

Children are responsible for their belongings. If items are found around school without a name they are placed in the lost property box.



MONDAY MORNING CHURCH ASSEMBLIES

Parents are invited to attend Monday morning assemblies which are held in the Church each week at 8.50 am.

After the service, tea, coffee and biscuits are provided by Mrs. Sutcliffe and parents are very welcome to stay and chat with other families and Rev. Pauline.



Earrings

Reminder: Small stud or sleeper earrings only should be worn to school.



This is a Health and Safety requirement!

A Nanny for your Needs

One of our ex pupils is offering Nanny and Childcare Services.

Her card is available in the office if you would be interested in speaking with her.

THE BIG READ

Thank you for your support with the Big Read. We have been so impressed by the children's efforts with their reading and after half term we will be able to give out our first awards.

As a reminder, KS1 30 reads/KS2 3 books = BRONZE AWARD

KS1 40 reads/KS2 4 books = SILVER AWARD

KS1 50 reads/KS2 5 books = GOLD AWARD

For each award the child's name is entered in a draw for family cinema tickets

PACKED LUNCH REQUIREMENTS

School meals are produced under healthy school guidance and packed lunches *must* also fall in line with these guidelines so here is a reminder on how to pack a healthy eating packed lunch.

Food standards for schools are mandatory which means schools must comply legally. **School dinners** must meet these standards and so too must **packed lunches** consumed in school.

Packed lunches should include the following every day:

- Meat, fish or a non-dairy source of protein
- A starchy food
- At least one portion of fruit
- At least one portion of vegetable or salad
- A milk or dairy food
- Soup
- Water or pure fruit juice with less than 5% added sugar

Packed lunches **must not** include:

- Confectionery such as sweets and chocolate bars
- Savoury snacks other than nuts, cheese biscuits, rice cakes and seeds with no added salt, sugar and fat
- Manufactured meat products more often than occasionally

Many of the foods no longer allowed under the food-based standards are associated with a growing range of child health issues including obesity, anaemia, tooth decay and diabetes.





Pancake Day Tuesday 21st February 2012

Breakfast Club Special £2.50 per child or 2 for £4

Hot Pancakes with a choice of topping, fresh fruit and fresh orange or apple juice or milkshake. No need to pre book just turn up on the day.

Attendance and Holidays in Term Time

Last year our attendance figures showed that we had moved from satisfactory to outstanding. This is because parents supported us by not withdrawing their children from their education to go on holiday in term time. Unfortunately this year there have been several families booking holidays in term time.

I fully appreciate that these are difficult financial times but please avoid taking your children out of school for holidays as this gives children the message that learning in school is not important.

Contrary to what some parents believe, absence for holidays is **ALWAYS** unauthorised unless there are extenuating circumstances as explained on the absence request form which **MUST** be completed in advance of any leave.

Parents should also be aware that absence information is passed to secondary schools upon request and checked on regular visits by the Attendance and Health Officer.

Safer Internet Day was on 7th February 2012



The theme for the next **Safer Internet Day** is *Connecting Generations* with the slogan "**Discovering the digital world together safely**".

It appears that many of our children are regularly using Facebook and Twitter and we would like to remind all parents :

- There is **NO** security when using the internet from blackberry phones etc. Do you know what your child is viewing?
- The minimum age for having a 'Facebook' account is 13 - that excludes **ALL** the children at our school!
- Images posted by children and seen as fun are looked at in a different light by others.

Parents have a responsibility to keep their children safe. Are you doing all that you can do

Tesco
Sainsbury

and

TESCO
Sainsbury's

Try something new today

Vouchers for Schools

Both Tesco and Sainsburys have launched their vouchers for schools promotions. Please place your vouchers in the boxes in the porch, each one counts. We have been able to order much needed equipment for the school from both of these schemes previously.

Sickness

Should your child be unwell we would ask that you telephone the school office **BEFORE 10 AM IN THE MORNING**. If you leave a message on the school answer phone please state the reason your child is absent. 'Unwell' is unfortunately not recognised by the computer system. Thank you



Car Parking



NOT to

park when collecting children at the end of the day. He has very kindly said that the car park can be used by parents in the morning. We would also remind parents not to park in the spaces outside church.

'Bob' from The Crown has been in to see us and has asked us to remind parents park in the Pub car

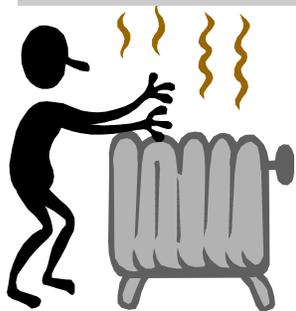
After School Club

After school club will begin after half term and run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3.20 - 5.30pm.

The cost is £6 for the first child and £4 for siblings.

Snacks and drinks will be available for the children attending.
All welcome.

Keep Warm Stay Well Campaign



Help us keep vulnerable people warm and well this winter

Hertfordshire County Council has teamed up with NHS Hertfordshire, district councils and the voluntary sector to secure a £1/2m grant from the government to help vulnerable Hertfordshire residents to keep warm and stay well this winter.

If you are in contact with families on a low income who may be struggling to heat their homes in the colder months, please encourage them to contact HertsHelp Tel: 0300 123 4044 to find out what extra help might be available to them.

AFTER SCHOOL ART CLUB

Mrs Clarkis offering to I run an art club called Smart Art. The cost will be £7 per session per child for an hour. There will need to be a minimum of 8 children in a class. £1 per child per lesson will be donated to the FTS.

She could offer a class like this on a Monday afternoon after school possibly starting after Easter.

If you would be interested, please let Michelle know in the office.

WALKING DOGS IN THE VILLAGE

If you walk your dog in the village, please clear up after your pet as one of our pupils slipped in dog mess right outside of school.

SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES TO SECONDARY TRANSFER FOR SEPTEMBER 2013

The Headteacher from **Dame Alice Owens** has asked us to inform parents of the new School Admissions Code which has required them to make significant changes to key dates affecting those pupils currently in Year 5 and transferring to Secondary School in September 2013, as they now have to inform parents of the results of their tests before parents complete the Common Application Form (CAF).

These changes will affect all applications to selective schools and partially selective schools. Key dates you should be aware of:

Monday 12th March 2012 - From this date Test Application Forms will be available to download from the school website and from the school office for parents to complete and return to Dame Alice Owen's school.

Thursday 10th May 2012 - Information evening (school NOT open for viewing).
Presentations by the Head and students at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:15pm.

Friday 22nd June 2012 - Closing date for submitting Test Application Forms to the school.

Thursday 19th July 2012 - **Open Afternoon 2 - 5 pm.** Opportunity to look around the school and hear the Head speak.

There will be NO Open Evening for prospective parents and pupils in the Autumn Term 2012.

Monday 3rd September 2012 - Entrance examination Part 1 - Verbal Reasoning

Tuesday 4th September 2012 - Musical Aptitude Test - First Round

Saturday 8th September 2012 - Entrance Examination Part II - English and Mathematics.

If you need any further help you can contact Dame Alice Owen's Admission Officer Mrs Debbie Coles on 01707 622876 admissions@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk. Additional admissions information can be found on their website www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk where there is currently a link from the homepage.

Wear what you like day. Friday 24th February.

Ponsbourne St Mary's 'Return to School' Disco
(plus non uniform day)

Friday 24th February 2012
3.20pm – 5.00pm

Please see Paula Darby, Jayne Clarke or
send money in a sealed envelope into school office clearly marked 'Disco'.

Price per child :

£5.00 x 1

£8.50 x 2

£11 x 3

* Price includes a Hot Dog and unlimited drinks
PLUS non uniform day *

