



ELMBRIDGE JUNIOR SCHOOL

18th September 2009

Dear Parents

Staying safe

Following on from the recent communication from the local police, I would like to remind parents to avoid stopping at the zebra crossing on Elmbridge road to drop children off whilst watching them go into school. I am sure you can appreciate the hazards that this can cause. Thank you.

Excellence and Enjoyment

Thanks to Mrs Reedman, we will have polling booths set up in the hall early next week for the children to vote for their school council representative (one from each class). 'Pupil voice' is an area we are going to develop this year and any candidates should prepare a short speech, offering reasons to why they should be elected. Watch this space...

Community

For our harvest contribution this year, we will once again be supporting the 'Food Bank'. This organisation collects and donates tinned and dried food to help individuals and families in crisis who live in the Gloucester area. On Monday, they will present an assembly, encouraging children and parents to donate items of food. More details will follow this presentation.

There is a 'Jobs and Information' event at the Gloucester Rugby Club, Kingsholm, on 29th September between 10 am and 8pm. Phone 01452 450023 or visit www.gloucesterworks.co.uk for details.

The Longlevens Autumn Show will take place this Saturday from 12-3pm on the Longlevens Junior School field, Church Road. There will be live music, bouncy castles, an ice cream van, bbq, beer tent, craft stalls and most importantly a range of vegetables and crafts on show in an 80ft marquee!

Heplers for Year 5 swimming required!

As we are very short of parents to help with Year 5 swimming this term (Mrs Austin, class 7), it would be much appreciated if any volunteers could contact the school office. The dates needed are 30/9/09, 11/11/09, 18/11/09 and 25/11/09. Parent helpers need to be at school by 1:10 pm and will return to school at approximately 3:10 pm. As with all our adult helpers, volunteers will have to undergo police clearance checks.

Morrison's Let's Grow Vouchers

The 'Eco-council' is desperate for your 'Let's Grow' vouchers in order to purchase items for our new Greenhouse, (soon to be delivered) bought from our prize money last term. We have a collection box in the reception area. Thank you.

On-line payments for Educational Visits

Following the successful introduction of ParentPay to pay for school dinners online you will now be able to use this facility to pay for educational visits. Parents have a secure online account that is activated using the same unique username and password that has already been issued for paying dinner money. If you have mislaid this information please request a copy of your activation letter from the school office. To assist you a copy of the "Quick Guide for Parents" issued by ParentPay is available on our website

www.elmbridgejuniorschool.co.uk. Using ParentPay will help to reduce both the risk of children losing money and the burden of income collection in the classroom and school office.

The introduction of ParentPay does mean that we will no longer be operating a weekly savings scheme in school. However, parents will be able to pay for trips in instalments and make online payments whenever and wherever they like. ParentPay holds an electronic record of payments for you to view at a later date. Please note that any balances currently held on your child's savings account will be transferred into ParentPay towards any visits arranged and you will be notified accordingly. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions regarding the foregoing.

Absence Requests

Can I please take this opportunity, early in the academic year, to clarify that all absences should be explained either by telephone or in writing. Absence for which no explanation is received will be recorded as unauthorised. Any requests for holidays during term time must be made from the parent with whom the pupil normally resides using the school's holiday request form. This is available from the school office or can be downloaded from the school website. Leave of absence will not be granted retrospectively and any absence without advance permission may be recorded as unauthorised. Permission will not be granted for Year 6 children to be absent during SATs week scheduled for week commencing 10th May 2010. Punctuality is regarded as being of vital importance and parents are asked for their assistance in ensuring that children arrive at school on time between 8.35 and 8.50 a.m. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Best wishes.



Glen Tharia (Head Teacher)