



# Yatton Infant School

## News

8<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Dear Parents,

Is that really 6 weeks gone?! I hope you all had a good summer and I am very pleased to see the children back and in such high spirits. My staff and I are hoping for another successful and happy year. We have many plans for the year that we hope will continue to make this school an exciting place to learn for all your children.

This newsletter will be duplicated on Parentmail as soon as they have updated our class organisation. In the meantime, everyone will be given a hard copy of this newsletter and attachments.

### Celebrate!



#### Amazing Awards

We have had much to celebrate since the end of last year. We have been awarded with the International Schools Award and the Silver Sing-Up Award. I would personally like to thank Mrs Lamb and Mrs Taylor for the huge amount of work they put into co-ordinating these two areas of work and the rest of my staff. Both these awards are only given when the school has worked on international and singing themes throughout the whole curriculum and have significantly changed the learning experiences for all the children. We aim to continue this work this year and are very proud indeed.

#### Great Learning!

We are also celebrating great learning this year. Our Year 2 children who have just started in the juniors were very successful in the SATs and bucked against the reported trend that was in all the national papers of dropping standards, especially in writing. Well done to them and the teachers from Reception up that have contributed to their success. A summary of results can be found at the end of this newsletter.



#### Great Garden!



We were very pleased to be awarded with the Yatton & District Horticultural Society



Schools Shield for our garden this year. We will display this shield in the entrance hall all year. The judges were particularly impressed by the good knowledge and high involvement of the children in all aspects of the development of the garden. We would like to say a big well done to the Gardening Club, Mrs Sewell and Mrs Lamb who have worked hard to keep us blooming!

#### Animated Film Short List

For the second year running we are very pleased to announce that a group of six children supported by Mrs Hardy and Mrs



Whybrow have made a film which has been shortlisted for the North Somerset Film Awards called the Noscars. Their film Mission: Save the World in Around 80 Days will be judged against other shortlisted schools and we will find out at a posh ceremony (red carpet and everything!) on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September. We wish them the best of luck!

#### Parent Voice.

Thank you so much to all the parents who took the time at the end of last year to fill in the questionnaire. It was fantastic to see the high level of satisfaction across all areas of school from health and safety, leadership, enjoyment and achievement to involvement in the community. The results to this questionnaire will be available on the website in the next couple of weeks.

Parents who replied also gave us some very useful suggestions on what we can do to improve further. We have begun work on many of these already:-

1. To inform parents of events/activities in advance

We have devised a Year Planner which can be stuck on the fridge that has all the main activities and events for the year. We will also try to inform parents earlier for specific activities such as dress-up days or fun days,

one of the ways we will do this is by posting reminders on Parentmail. If you have not already signed up for Parentmail and are one of the parents who feel that they are not informed about events, we would really recommend that you give it a try. We hope this helps.

2. Parents would like to know what the children are learning each term.

We have devised curriculum maps for both Reception and Key Stage 1 (Y1 and Y2) which list the main learning objectives for that term in all subjects so that you know the work your child will be covering. Information on the curriculum and how we teach it will also be given in the Parents meetings (refer to Year Planner) this term and again I recommend you attend if you can.

3. No sweets on birthdays, please!

I would be the last person to ban sweets outright and as you know my staff and I all have a sweet tooth! However, we do understand that in some weeks there is a birthday nearly every day which ends up with sweets being given out. Not only is this unhealthy but also puts a pressure on families to provide these treats. I would therefore ask parents not to provide anything on your child's birthday to give out to their class.



**Advanced notice! Talking Hands Club**  
Talking Hands is a club run by Laura Parsons and Michelle Dymond, two of our LSAs, to teach members of the school community to use Makaton (a simple sign language used in school). The club is open to everyone including adults and will run on Wednesdays (starting on 4<sup>th</sup> November) from 3.30pm-

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At the end of last year we asked our children what they would like to learn as part of a new project called the Learning College. Many children made suggestions and from these suggestions a set of courses have been planned for the children for this term. Just like in college, they will choose their favourite course and study it for 6 weeks. We aim to provide these courses in other terms as well, if this first try is successful. The aim of this project is to provide children with a variety of learning opportunities of their choosing from the breadth of learning experiences available. Some courses will be run by outside teachers/coaches which is also, very exciting. One course, Wild Ramblers, which aims to introduce children to exploring our local environment and learn about the local nature found at Hangstones, Strawberry Line etc. urgently needs 2 parent volunteers to help support this course. It will run on Wednesday afternoon from 1.30pm to 2.30pm (ish) come rain or shine. If you are interested please let me know asap. More information on the courses and what your child has chosen will be communicated in the next couple of weeks.

SATS Teacher Assessment Results July 2009 (Percentage at each level)

	W	1	2	2c	2b	2a	3
Science							
Boys	3	0	57				40
Girls	0	0	68				32
School	1	0	63				35
National	2	9	67				22
Reading							
Boys	3	7		3	17	30	43
Girls	0	5		3	16	18	58
School	1	4		10	15	26	43
National	3	13		13	22	24	25

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