



Issue 29
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Newsletter



www.wombwellparkstreetprimary.org.uk

PARENT MAIL

As you know we try very hard to keep parents regularly informed about what's going on at the school, however, sending paper letters home can be rather 'hit and miss' with letters often going astray on the way!

We are also increasingly aware of the substantial cost and environmental impact associated with the amount of paper and photocopying involved.

To help improve these areas we have decided to use a service called ParentMail®, which is used by over 2,500 schools across the UK to communicate with parents by email and text message. ParentMail will be beneficial to you because:

- Messages will get to you reliably
- We can send messages directly to mums and dads at the same time
- You will quickly know about important or urgent messages and news

International Arts Week

Do you know anyone who could come into school to share their skills during the week beginning 1st February?
See Mrs Longden if you can help.

samba dance?

African Art?

Asian cookery?

Culture and costume?

To use ParentMail® we need to collect your email addresses and mobile numbers and we would ask you to complete the attached form and return it to us immediately.

Please be assured that ParentMail® is registered with the Data Protection Registrar and guarantees that all information you provide will be kept private and will not be passed on to any other organisation.

Important – When we start using ParentMail, email messages will be sent from messages@parentmail.co.uk. Please add this address to your email address books (or approved sender list) to prevent messages from being blocked by your SPAM/JUNK filters.

Parents who do not have access to email or text messaging will receive paper copies of letters as they do now but we hope the majority of parents will subscribe to the new and more reliable service.

We are holding an information briefing on 25th Jan at 2.45pm so parents can see the system first hand and ask questions. Please come along!

Pocket Warmers

Please do not allow your children to bring 'pocket warmers' to school following an incident last term.

INSET DAYS

Thursday April 15th

Friday April 16th

Monday June 7th

January 2010

11th - Y6 to Crucial Crew – **postponed, to be re-arranged**

25th – Parentmail briefing for parents at 2.45pm

February 2010

1st – 5th

International Arts Week

Week beg 8th

Y5 Bikeability

10th - Y4 visit to Magna

12th Break for Half Term

Return to school 22nd
Feb

March 2010

Week beg 1st - Parents Evening

Week beg 8th Science Week

11th - School Choir to

visit Town Hall

30th - performance

'Easter Tales'

31st – Easter Coffee

Morning

April 2010

2nd Break for Easter

23rd – Y4 Viking day in

school

May 2010

3rd May – May day
Week beg 10th – Y6
SATS week



READING TEAM

WE NEED YOU!



We are recruiting now for a new READING TEAM. All you need is a spare hour each week. Mrs Carr will run a training session for all parent volunteers and you will receive a certificate on completion.

Our reading team will be deployed throughout school to support reading development in a fun and rewarding way.

Please see Mrs Carr to put your name on the list and we will be in touch! Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Courses for Parents

Would you like to join our soft furnishing course? It will be starting on Tuesday 19th January from 1pm till 3pm at school.

Any parents interested should contact Amanda Bradshaw on Barnsley 752049 or see Mrs Hitchens who can call on your behalf.



School Closures

On rare occasions, I have to close the school to pupils. The recent heavy snow prompted such an occasion. I wanted to take this opportunity to explain what happens 'behind the scenes' when such events occur in order that you may appreciate why decisions have to be taken at short notice.

The majority of our teaching staff live a considerable way from school (Wakefield, Doncaster, Sheffield, Penistone, etc.). When heavy snow and icy weather conditions hit our region, staff may find that they are unable to make the journey into school, despite their very best efforts. Staff will always try to make their way into school each morning but, on occasions, find that the roads are impassable. At this point, I receive a phone call from the teacher to explain the situation. The decision to close the school is taken when I do not have enough staff to adequately supervise the children during lesson, break and lunchtimes. By the time teachers have tried to make their way into school only to find that they will not be able to make it safely, it can be quite late. Parents often ring school early to find out if we are open and I cannot always give a definitive answer.

I fully appreciate that parents need to know if school is open or closed as early as possible but I cannot generally make any decisions until at least 7.30am, when all staff have rung in. Please note that there is very little point ringing school before this time, but I will always endeavour to make a final decision by 8am and this will be published on the school website (remember to press F5 to refresh the page). We ring Dearne FM and Hallam FM but there is always a delay between this call and the announcement or update on the website so please be patient.

I hope this helps to explain why I cannot make decisions the day before or even several hours before school is expected to start – it is always so I can try my best to stay open if possible. Closing is always a last resort. We were one of the very few schools who managed to stay open until about 2pm on the 5th January for the 46 children who made it in – we made some fantastic snowmen and had some great fun!