



PARENTS' NEWSLETTER MARCH 2011

New Teacher: I am very pleased to inform you that we have appointed a new Teacher for Class 3. Chloe Bond is an NQT (newly qualified teacher) who is up to date with all recent educational approaches and has also worked in a Special School as a teaching assistant. She will be supported during her induction year by Maureen Boon. Chloe is young, friendly and enthusiastic and I am confident that she will be an excellent addition to our staff team at Vranch House School.

Sign2sing – took place on Wednesday 9th February, 2011. This was a fun attempt to break the world record for signing and singing, nationally. We joined with many other schools for this attempt. The bit I forgot to mention is that we were also raising funds to help support deaf children. If you would like to send a retrospective donation into school you would be most welcome. There is no need to donate, it is entirely voluntary. We hope the children enjoyed this event; they certainly appeared to enjoy themselves. Many thanks to parents and children who attended, you really helped to add to the event, perhaps if we repeat it again next year, we will put a little more effort into the event to make it a bigger and brighter celebration of signing and singing.

Vranch Chats Visitor: On Wednesday 16th February, 2011 Stephen Knight who arranges the yearly visit to Lourdes was in school to give a talk and answer any questions for interested parents. No parents came in for this talk and so apart from the Physiotherapy Open Week, which is to be held from Monday 7th March, 2011, I have not arranged any further parent meetings. If anyone has any suggestions for talks or practical opportunities to try out equipment, ask experts about services or anything else you think of I would be more than happy to make the necessary arrangements. It could be that you would prefer to come in and see your children taking part in activities rather than hearing speakers, please let me know your ideas and we will see what we can do.

Monthly Planners: I have once again included a planner for March and April, which I hope will be of some use to you. You will see that World Book Day takes place on Thursday 3rd March and we would like to celebrate it in as many ways as possible. We will share stories throughout the day. Children are welcome to bring favourite stories, props, dress as their favourite character – anything they like really.

Comic Relief Red Nose Day: We will be raising funds on Friday 18th March 2011 for this good cause. Events will include dressing up, being very silly etc.

Scholastic Book Club: The latest edition of the scholastic book club leaflet will be coming home with the children very soon. If you would like to place an order these can be either done directly on line with scholastic or via the school bulk order. If you wish to place an order via the school please ensure that your order and payment are sent in to school by the 18th March.

Staff training: We have members of the Soundabout Team coming to train all teaching staff in the use of Soundbeam, resonance boards and a range of other activities designed to support all children in school. These training days are on 16th, 17th and 23rd March, 2011, and will include the children in school as much as possible.

Easter Bonnet Parade and tea party: We are planning to hold another Easter Bonnet Parade on the afternoon of Wednesday 6th April, 2011. This should be a fun afternoon and we will provide more details closer to the time. Proceeds raised from refreshments will go towards SignHealth which supports deaf children.

Non-pupil day: A reminder that the last day of term Friday 8th April, is a non pupil day. This has been arranged in order for us to prepare for the implementation of our creative curriculum which is designed to allow us to focus our teaching and physiotherapy activities towards the needs of individual children. It may involve mixing classes up a bit, at times, in order to target particular skills. This will be in a similar format as the powered driving and Explorers groups run at present.

Signing Workshop: I attach details of the next signing workshop that Cat Ward will be holding in school on Wednesday, 4th May.

School Governor: I am very pleased to report that parent, Michaela Wood, has come forward as a volunteer to be a School Governor and we welcome her to that role. If parents/guardians would like to contact Michaela this can be done through the school office.

DISCplus Newsletter: The new edition of the DISCplus newsletter will be available to view online at this link <http://www.devon.gov.uk/cwan-newsletter.htm> from Tuesday, 1st March. The newsletter contains news and information for families of a child with additional needs in Devon.

Jane Parsons
28th February 2011