



Gilsland Church of England Primary School

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NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2009

Dear Parents / Carers,

Book Week

A Book Week was held in school on Monday 5th October. Our book of the week was Alice in Wonderland and a number of exciting projects were planned around the theme of the story. The children worked in teams to design and build "Big" furniture from card and paper. There were maths and science activities where the children tasted different flavoured crisps and had to present their information in a chart. Literacy activities included writing an account of how it felt to be extra tall or small and writing a party invitation. In preparation for the last day, the children had to design and plan the food for a mad hatter's tea party. The final day saw everyone dressed as a character from their favourite book. Great fun was had by all.



Harvest Festival



Our harvest Festival took place on Wednesday 14th October at St Mary Magdalene's Church. What a tremendous turnout! Thank you to all parents / families who were able to come along to support this event. It was clear from looking at the children's faces, they were thrilled to have someone from their family watching them perform.

The afternoon finished with a lovely sing-song from our nursery children. I thought they all did so well to come out to the front of the church and sing their song.



The harvest produce has been bagged up and distributed to senior residents in Gilsland.

Appointment of Part-Time Junior Teacher

As you will know, interviews took place on Thursday 15th October for the appointment of a part-time teacher for the juniors starting after the half term holiday. I am delighted to announce that Mr David Henderson will be joining the staff from Thursday 5th November. Mr Henderson, who lives in Brampton will be coming into school on Tuesday afternoon to meet and talk with all both the infant and junior children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss MacPherson for all her hard work this half term in working with the children and we wish her all the best in her future teaching career.

Opening of Jigsaw Nursery and Pre School

Thank you to all who came along to the opening of Jigsaw Nursery and Pre School. The year 6 children were on hand to welcome and look after visitors. They did a tremendous job. The weather was particularly kind to us and amid glorious sunshine Mrs Frances Armstrong cut the ribbon to officially open Jigsaw Nursery and Pre School. Following this, refreshments were available in the school hall. Bouquets of flowers were presented to the nursery staff and Mrs Armstrong.



Africa Link Day - Thursday 22nd October

This Thursday could you please make sure your child brings into school a 2 litre plastic bottle for the Africa Link Day. The bottles will be filled with drinking water and the children will be encouraged to use this throughout the day for both drinking and hand washing. The idea of the exercise is to make the children more aware of just how precious fresh water is to children in parts of Africa.

We will be having a non-uniform day and we ask that your child comes to school dressed in something colourful. As bright and colourful as possible!

There will be a number of activities planned throughout the day such as letter writing to children at Ngecho Primary School, cookery lessons for making chapattis, listening to Swahili fables and art and craft activities centred around safari animals and the Kenyan flag.

Parents are invited to come into school for 2.30 for the final activity of the day which involves a jigsaw challenge. Do come along and join in the fun.

Healthy Tuck Shop

The junior children run a healthy tuck shop every Friday morning break time. Healthy snacks and drinks are sold costing between 10 pence and 40 pence. If your child wants to buy something from the tuck shop they will need to bring some money into school on a Friday morning.



After School Clubs

After school clubs will start again directly following the half term holiday.

Half Term Holiday

School will be closed between Monday 25th October and Friday 30th October for the half term holiday. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a good holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Boucetla

Headteacher