

2009-2010

School
Newsletter

Issue 2

Holy Trinity
Newark

Dear Parents and Guardians

Hathersage 2009

Year 6 had a great week on our residential visit to Hathersage in Derbyshire last week. The weather was brilliant for us and the children were fantastic - wonderful ambassadors for Holy Trinity. It is certainly the best week of the year for me and certainly the most tiring! The children went into the Treak Cliff cave at Castleton and then climbed the steep hill of Mam Tor on the first day.

On arriving at St Michael's Environmental Centre the children were given their dormitories with their friends which caused great excitement. Then after dinner we went out for an exciting night walk equipped with our torches. On Tuesday after breakfast and making sandwiches we went on an all day walk and climb to Stannage Edge stopping at an old mill pond and also visiting the cave of Robin Hood to look across at the wonderful and beautiful countryside of Derbyshire.

The next day we went orienteering on Brookfield Manor and then river dipping, capturing a few creatures, then under the microscope we drew them and then returned them to their river bed. Swimming in the local lido was next on the agenda!

On Thursday we walked over the peat moors to Eyam. We watched a video at the local museum and learned about the courageous story of the people of Eyam during the plague of 1665. That night after a fish & chip supper we held an eventful talent show which was great fun indeed.

Friday arrived so quickly and after packing we went off to Rufford Park before returning home to Newark - exhausted but happy. A fantastic week and one the children will always remember. They had to learn to live as a community - drying dishes, setting tables, clearing floors and being friends with each other. I must thank my staff who accompanied me; they worked so hard preparing and serving all meals, sandwiches etc, watching and minding the children for 24 hours a day. They supported and comforted those who felt a little homesick, and were always on hand to listen to the stories and jokes as we walked and accompanied the children throughout the week. All of the above my staff did with great humour and dedication, so a sincere and heartfelt thank you Mr Short, Mrs Hyde and Mrs Waters for without you Hathersage wouldn't be the same. We missed Mrs Hayes who usually accompanies us, but due to university studies she couldn't come with us this year. And of course 'thank you children - for being yourselves'.

Friends of Holy Trinity

Playground equipment update

You may have noticed that the new piece of playground equipment has been closed and I would like to clarify that after installation, and before it was open for use, it passed all health and safety checks. We made the decision to close the equipment after concerns were raised about low lying concrete alongside the sports area; so for safety reasons over and above statutory guidelines we decided to remove the concrete surrounds. We have now reopened the equipment for use.

Friends of Holy Trinity AGM

You are all invited to the annual general meeting of the Friends of Holy Trinity on Tuesday 13th October in the school hall at 7 p.m.

Flintham Show

Over 80 children from Foundation 2, Year1 & 2 visited the Flintham Show yesterday. They came back buzzing of sheepdogs, cattle, owls and so much more. Holy Trinity scarecrows came second in the competition. I haven't heard half the news yet but I know the children won 22 prizes for their pictures, vegetable animals and ginger bread men. Thank you to all those parents and grandparents who accompanied the children during the day; we couldn't take so many children on such a trip without your help. Thanks to staff for their hard work and to Mrs McMenemy who organised the trip for us. A trip like this stimulates imagination and motivates children to talk, draw and write from fantastic first hand experience.

All Saints' Catholic School

Mrs Cobbett, head teacher of All Saints', has invited Year 6 parents to see this very good school in action over the next few weeks. As you know the school achieved very good GCSE results. I thought you might be interested to know where some of our ex pupils have gone after leaving All Saints' this year – Anna Moss is at the University of East Anglia studying environmental geography; Alice Rose is at Newcastle university studying dentistry; Hannah Fisher has gone to Birmingham University studying environmental management; Catherine Brett to Lancaster University studying psychology and Hannah Dixon to Liverpool University doing combined studies. All the ex Holy Trinity pupils have done well.

If any other parents with pupils at Holy Trinity, in any year, would like to meet Mrs Cobbett and some of her staff, and hear about the work of All Saints' School, I have invited her to Holy Trinity on **30th September at 6 pm**. Please do come along, you are all invited.

Daily Homework

Times Tables

Mr Short, our mathematics coordinator, has become concerned that many children do not know their multiplication tables as well as they did a few years ago. It is essential that children who leave us in Year 6 have a very confident grasp of their tables before leaving for secondary school. If your child is in the juniors (years 3 -6) please, please, spend a few minutes every day practising tables with your child - in the car or on your walk to school every morning for example. Obviously year 3 & 4 children would not be expected to know all their tables – your child's teacher will advise you which tables they should learn. By the end of year 5 they should know most of them. When your child is confident saying one of the tables – test them on your morning walk or drive by mixing them up – upside down and back to front. Children get a Bronze award if for example they know the 4x table in order, Silver for knowing the 4x table out of sequence and Gold if they know that 24 is six fours and also four sixes.

As you know yourself, learning your tables is a skill and knowledge that is used in many different aspects of life.

If your child is an infant, my staff suggest that you practice number bonds such as two numbers adding up to 10 (5+5), 20 (14+6) etc.

Foundation staff would appreciate your talking about the numbers on doors and singing lots of number rhymes etc.

Reading

I know how supportive you all are when your child is learning to read. Without your help we would not have the success we have in teaching reading. Thank you. However please do continue to encourage your child to read once they have that fantastic skill. To increase a child's ability to decode the written word, no matter what age they are, is a vital life skill. A good knowledge of reading is an essential skill that enriches and opens many different aspects of life for your child. We know that often it is boys who would rather be doing other things, but please do encourage them to read comics or even the sports page of your newspaper – it is all reading!

Questionnaires

Thank you to all those parents who have returned the questionnaires about school life. I will let you know the results in my next newsletter. We will read and take heed of all your comments. So far, from the 100+ responses, I have been very pleased indeed with your undoubted support of Holy Trinity.

First Holy Communion Programme

Father Michael has asked for any willing volunteers to act as Catechists for this wonderful programme. Don't worry, you will get plenty of advice and support so please contact him if you are interested. Don't forget that if your child is in Year 3 or above and you would like to him/her to receive their First Holy Communion, you must contact Father Michael at the end of any weekend Mass.

Class Mass

Father Michael celebrated our first school Mass with Mrs Freeman's class in the hall on Wednesday. The children prepared the Mass and read the readings, singing beautifully and praying reverently. Parents and parishioners joined them in their celebration. You are always invited to attend any of our class Masses and liturgies – just look in the weekly parish bulletin for dates and times.

Beaumont House

How would you fancy a sleep walk in your pyjamas with your child and many other families on Friday 10th October? This sponsorship fun walk is for the aid of Beaumont House. Someone from this worthwhile charity will come into the school to tell the children about the event shortly. Last year 400 people took part - why not you this time?

Mrs Coombes – Everest Base Camp

Thank you to those parents who have already agreed to sponsor Mrs Coombes. As I said in my last newsletter, she will be trekking for 12 days in total and hopefully arrive at the base camp of Mount Everest on day 9. Mrs Coombes is trekking in aid of Cancer Research UK and there is a sponsor form in the office if you would like to support this worthy charity. Mrs Coombes will leave for Nepal next Friday (2 October) and we wish her a safe and successful mission!

Barry P Doran
25 September 2009