

# Tividale Community Primary School

## Newsletter January 2015



### Welcome back...

A belated happy new year to all of you who I have not managed to speak to personally yet this term. I hope you all had a good break! It seems such a long time ago now as we are very quickly back into the swing of things at Tividale. The children look thoroughly refreshed and came in eager to tell me everything about their holiday. We have had a fascinating start to the term and I'm sure your children have been telling you all about the interesting things they have been discovering in their classroom and about their new projects for this term.

### Oldbury Neighbourhood Team Police Surgery

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, I am pleased to announce that we will be hosting a police surgery at school. This will run in the same way as it has done previously. The officers will be available for you to speak to confidentially between 8.45am and 10am. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to drop in and discuss any issues, concerns or questions you may have about the local community. The police are also keen to listen to any ideas you may have about keeping our neighbourhood a safe place for us and our children to grow up in.

### Events in January....

What a great start we have had to 2015....

Thank you to Mrs Dosanjh and Mrs Draper who arranged for our school choir to represent us by performing at the biggest school choir event in the world at the Genting Arena at the NEC on January 16<sup>th</sup>. They performed alongside professional (and famous!) singers and dancers, not to mention the 5000 other children! They had a fabulous day and were wonderful ambassadors for our school. We are all very proud of you, well done!

As well as this, Y4 were visited by a very mean and moody Anglo-Saxon, who taught them all about why they had to act that like. He also brought along weapons, and taught the children about hunting, living and surviving in Britain in that era.

The house point winner's trophy for last term went to Mercury. Well done! As a reward, Mrs Welch and a team of teachers took them bowling. A great time was had by all, and I am told, the teachers were especially competitive....

Finally, we were treated to a brilliant assembly by Class 7, who told us all about their learning from the Autumn term. I was especially pleased to see their fascinating work which they had been doing in Forest School. Thank you Class 7.

#### Don't forget:

- Whole school photographs will be being taken on 10<sup>th</sup> February
- Valentines Disco, 5.30-7pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Tickets on sale from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

## Winter Weather - Snowline

Should we have any seriously bad weather this winter that requires us to close the school for a short period, we will be notifying you through our text messaging system, so please make sure that we have your most up to date mobile phone number.

In addition to this, we will also be informing you on our website at [www.tivdale-pri.sandwell.sch.uk](http://www.tivdale-pri.sandwell.sch.uk).

When you log on to this page, above the photographs, there will be an announcements tape running along the screen. This will tell you as soon as possible, whether or not school will be closed due to snow. Remember, on occasion, this may even be the night before in cases of particularly bad snowfall.

Be assured though, that school will be closed as a last resort only!

## Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

As in previous years, we have now started to collect these vouchers again, so please can you ask family, friends, neighbours etc to send them our way! Over the years these have helped buy £1000's worth of games and PE equipment for our children to use both in lessons and in the playground. With ever-shrinking school budgets, collections like these are vitally important to help us out.



## Entering School

In the frosty weather, we need to be especially wary of congestion on the playground adding to potentially hazardous conditions. In the light of this, could I ask children in Years 3 - 6 to walk around the pathway, instead of cutting across the Key stage 1 playground. This will make it much safer for the younger children and their parents waiting in the playground.

## Start and end of Day, Attendance and Punctuality

I appreciate that in this snowy and icy weather it can be more difficult to prepare to leave the house slightly earlier, due to scraping cars, treacherous paths causing slower walking and later buses etc, but can I say thank you to all parents who brace the weather and continue to get their children to school and collect them from school on time. For the small number that have difficulty in this respect, please make every effort as good punctuality is again an important part of maintaining high standards. It is very important to your child's education that they get to school on time and ready to start their lessons with their groups. Children who join lessons late can often feel self-conscious and this, in turn can affect the progress of their learning. Also, it is difficult for us to supervise children who are collected late, as staff are often in meetings after school.

If your child is absent from school please, as most of you do, continue to let us know early on the first day of absence. As we at Tivdale have believed for a number of years, the Department for Education's has now recognised that if children do not attend school regularly their learning and progress is badly affected. In this respect, raising attendance is one of the governments highest priorities and Education Welfare Officers are visiting the parents of children who are absent from school without good reason.

Signed:

*E Burnell*

(Headteacher)

30<sup>th</sup> January 2015