



St. Martin's Garden  
Primary School

## NEWSLETTER NO 17

22 January 2010

Dear Parents and Children

This is the time of year when some of you may be planning your summer holiday. All the evidence points to better life chances for children who have good school attendance.

Please do everything you can to ensure your child attends school regularly and on time. If your child is ill or otherwise unable to attend, please notify the school by phone or email before 9.30 am. If you wish to take a holiday in term time, please collect a holiday form from the school office and note that, unless there are any exceptional circumstances, holidays taken in term will only be approved if your child has achieved attendance of over 90% in the current academic year.

*Philip Pope*

### Dates for Your Diary & Forthcoming Events

#### Author Visit Monday 25 January!

Author and illustrator Thomas Docherty will be visiting the school on Monday and spending time with both the Infants and the Juniors. His beautiful book "Little Boat" was shortlisted for the Greenaway prize for illustration.

**Books will be on sale**— buy one and get it signed!

Little Boat	£5.99
To the Beach	£5.99
Big Scary Monster	£10.99

**INSET DAY**  
School will be closed  
**MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY**

**HALF TERM**  
**15-19 FEBRUARY**

#### SCHOOL TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2011-12

These dates will be on the Bath & North East Somerset website for consultation [www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES/educationandlearning/schoolsandcolleges/termdates/](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES/educationandlearning/schoolsandcolleges/termdates/)

### PARENT TEACHER FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

#### Valentines Ball



Look out for tickets for the Valentines Ball which will be held on Thursday 11 February 6.00-8.00

#### Spring Fair



We will be holding a Spring Fair this year and will need donations for the plant stall. If you are planning your planting for the garden now please could you grow a few extra for us. Many thanks

### HOMEWORK REVIEW



Many of you took part in the survey and meeting that we held earlier in the school year on homework. Since then I have been doing surveys of the research and other publications, as well as interviews with sample groups of children. We are being this thorough as we really want to get things right when we reform the present system.

The review is almost complete, and will be presented to governors for the first time on Monday at the Curriculum Committee meeting. We plan to hold another meeting for parents soon, to announce the findings, as well as making available the final report for those who wish to see it. So watch this space! *David Turvey*

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Lemony Snicket Reviews

As you heard in last week's newsletter, children and staff had an excellent time at the Lemony Snicket event last week. Here are some comments from children who were on the trip:

My favourite part was when he stood in front of me describing the hook-handed man to everyone

Sam Styles

The funniest part was when he pulled the crocodile out of his

Jayden Fowler

The most surprising part was when he started playing the accordion and singing a song.

Toyah-Louise Truckle

My favourite part was when he was meant to walk out from the curtains on the stage and then he turned up at the back of the room.

Whitney Griffin

My favourite part was when he pretended he wasn't Lemony Snicket and lay on a table pretending to be paralysed from the armpit down.

Rhiannon George

Find out more about Lemony Snicket at: [www.lemonysnicket.com](http://www.lemonysnicket.com)

### Kids Big Bath Read

Children have been queuing up in the library to take out "Cosmic" by Frank Cottrell Boyce. If you want to find out more about this book and its author, why not book tickets to hear him speak at the Bath Literary festival on 2 March more information at: [www.bathlitfest.org.uk](http://www.bathlitfest.org.uk)

## HAITI APPEAL

Thank you everyone for your very generous donations today. We raised a fantastic total of £300 which will go towards helping the children of Haiti.

### BIKES & SCOOTERS IN SCHOOL



It's great to see so many of the children coming to school on their scooters and cycling now that we have the facilities to park them safely. However some children are still bringing them into class. If you want to bring to school you must have a lock so that you can secure them in the racks provided

