



South Bath Schools
Extending School
Provision

MORE FOR YOU.....

South Bath Schools working together 'enabling primary children in Bath to reach their potential'

Produced by Cindy Harris – Extended Services Co-ordinator. Issue Four – December 2009
07772 249760 ~ cindy_harris@bathnes.gov.uk

Combe Down CofE Primary
Freshford CofE Primary
Moorlands Infant
Moorlands Junior
Oldfield Park Infant
Oldfield Park Junior
St Andrew's CofE Primary
St Martin's Garden Primary
St Michael's CofE Junior
Southdown Infant
Southdown Junior
Widcombe CofE Junior

Dear Parents/Carers

Term Two has been a busy term for Extended Services in our Cluster. I have been compiling the results of the whole cluster parents' questionnaire (please see over the page). Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete and return the forms. It is important for us, working as a group, to gain the views of our parents, pupils and the wider community. So if you do have any ideas you would like to share please contact me, on the email above, or your own school's Head Teacher.

It was nice to see from the results of the survey that parents are finding this newsletter informative and helpful. I will continue to produce this once a term. If you know of an event for parents happening in our area and you would like it advertised to the whole cluster please contact me.

Thank you

Cindy Harris, Extended Services Co-ordinator.

E-safety/cyberbullying

The theme of **Anti-Bullying Week 2009** was Cyberbullying. **The following tips, from the Anti-bullying Alliance (www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk) can help parents protect children and young people:**

- Know which websites your children visit and help them find the 'report abuse' or 'block sender' options so they can feel in control
- Tell your children not to reply to unpleasant messages
- Urge them to keep evidence – not to delete bullying texts, emails or posts on social networking sites
- Make sure they act thoughtfully in cyberspace – comments and photos can stay online forever and texts can be forwarded widely
- Ensure they protect their password to keep their files and information safe
- Encourage them to take action and talk to you if they are cyberbullied
- Tell them not to give out personal details such as mobile number, address or email online
- Regularly check and clean their 'friends' lists on social networking sites
- Tell them to keep evidence - callers and mailers can be traced.



Parentline Plus: 0808 800 2222 can offer immediate support and advice for parents, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Parentline Plus also have a **website for parents**, who are worried about bullying in their children's lives.

I am working to arrange an E-safety information session for parents to take place just for our cluster of schools. With the Governments new 'Home Access Programme' starting in January 2010, which provides FREE computers and internet access for low-income families we feel it is important that ALL parents are aware of e-safety. Watch out for information on this session - Thank You – Cindy Harris

For information on all types of family related topics, parent support advice and up to date information on child care in your area

contact the Family Information Service, FREE on 0800 073 1214 or logon to www.1bigdatabase.org.uk.

*** KEEP THIS SHEET IN A SAFE PLACE ~ YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU, A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER MAY NEED THIS INFORMATION ***

South Bath Extended Services Parents Questionnaires 2009/10

Thank you to everyone who returned their questionnaire. The total return rate for the whole cluster was 23%, although this was not as many as we hoped, it is nearly a quarter of all the parents in our large cluster so we hope that it is representative of your views.

The vast majority of parents are very happy with the Extended Services being offered in their school.

Several parents suggested some wonderful ideas for after-school activities and each school will be looking at their own after-school/lunchtime club timetable to see if they can offer any additional 'clubs'. Watch out for your own school's newsletters on this subject. Of course if you can help in anyway, please contact your own school direct.

Affordable child care is a concern for parents, the Family Information Service (0800 073 1214) can give you details of child care in your area. And ***DON'T FORGET*** you can claim back some of your child care costs in your Tax Credits. Tax Credit helpline 0845 300 3900.

Results of the survey showed that parents were interested in 'Information sessions' run in school for parents and pupils. This could be a session on how Maths or English is taught, a course on becoming more active or a session given by the School Nurse but experience shows us that these events are poorly attended in a number of schools. If your school arranges an event for you – please make every effort to attend – it will benefit you and your child. Thank you. (*Watch out for details of the e-safety Information session*)

A few parents wanted to meet other professionals within school. Our schools do work with other agencies to support you and your family. Our cluster of schools is lucky to have two full-time Parent Support Advisors (PSA) working with us. They are available to discuss any issues you may have and they will help you get the correct help and advice. If you wish to meet with one of the PSAs please speak to your Head Teacher.

One of the questions asked, in the survey, was 'Where do you get information and advice on parenting support available locally?'. Not surprisingly; the majority of parents said friends and family gave them information and support. This confirms the wonderful community we have in our cluster.

Also a few parents use the internet to get information and the favourite websites seem to be

www.bathnes.gov.uk

www.mumsnet.com

www.1bigdatabase.org.uk

www.netmums.com.

www.parentlineplus.org.uk

And not forgetting the Dads www.Dads-space.com

If you do not have internet access at home, it is available in your local library or you can contact **UK Online Centres** on 0800 921 129 and they maybe able to help you access technology or use computers more effectively.



One in Five families miss out on their free lunch!

One in five of parents on a low income are not checking if they are entitled to free school meals and could be throwing away food worth £700 a year for their family, according to the School Food trust. The School Food Trust has previously estimated that 24% of children who are entitled to free school meals are not registered to take them.

You are entitled to claim free school meals for your child(ren) if you are receiving one of the following benefits: Income Support, Income Based Jobseekers Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit, **without any** Working Tax Credit, and an annual household income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs) that is not more than £16,040, Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit or Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. For more details please contact Bath and North East Somerset Student support on **01226 394319** or ask at your school office.