

Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012

# St Werburgh's CE (VA) Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year and thank you to everyone for the cards, warm wishes and gifts that were sent into school for Christmas. We have lots to look forward to in 2012 – we plan to have special events at school to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games.

**Changes to maths.** As part of our School Development Plan we are currently reviewing our maths teaching in school. Our focus is on children learning number facts. The children are being set challenges of recording the answers of number facts within a certain amount of time. Children will get a 'Beat That' score, which is how many more correct answers they achieved than their best ever score. It is important that we focus on this improvement and praise this, rather than on how many questions they did not answer or were incorrect. We are sending home these weekly challenges and we hope this will help you when you are practising number facts at home and allow you to see how well your child is doing with them. We have already presented some new 'Learn It' awards for the most improved boy and girl in each class and are now preparing to present a trophy to our overall 'Beat That' champion.

We have also reviewed our approach to calculations. Included with this newsletter is our new calculations framework which shows you at a glance the strategies we use for teaching '+, -, x and ÷'. Please feel free to come and see me if you would like to discuss any of these changes. Mrs Chamberlain and Mr Selby, our maths co-ordinators, are planning to run a maths workshop for all parents in February/March this year.

**Walk to School competition.** Congratulations to **Class 5** and **Mrs Leatherbarrow's Class** who won the Walk on Wednesday Competition last half term. All the classes did very well in making sure they wrapped up warm and made that extra effort to walk, keeping fit, helping to cut down on traffic issues outside of school at the beginning and end of the day and making the area much safer and less congested for all. The winning classes will be rewarded with a **non – uniform day on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January**. Well done!!

**Staff changes.** Welcome to Mrs Hewitt who is teaching Class 8. Miss Gibson leaves us today - we wish her well and will keep you updated about the happy event. Mrs Feetham will be returning on a part-time basis after the February half-term.

**Support Group** The next meeting is on February 1<sup>st</sup> at The Malt. Please do join us if you can. The next Support Group event is a Beetle Drive on Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a fun event suitable for adults and children.

**New badges for adults to wear in school.** We have made it easier for children to identify the various roles that adults play in school. Adults other than teachers and teaching assistants wear a colour-coded lanyard and badge to distinguish whether they are a visitor, volunteer, governor, student teacher or work experience student.

**Information regarding the Equality Act.** Please read the accompanying details about how the Equality Act impacts on the day to day practice at St Werburgh's. There is a form on the back which should be completed if you have information you would like to share with us or if you would like to indicate what we are already doing to ensure full access to services at school. This information will be particularly useful as we update our Disability Equality Scheme.

**Money to the office.** Please avoid bringing payments to the office. Dinner money, trip money and any other payments should be sent in your child's book bag, in a sealed envelope which shows your child's name and class, the amount enclosed and what it is for. Please ensure that ALL dinner money due for each forthcoming week is paid on the first school day each week, together with details of the days when lunch is required.

**Discos tonight.** Doors will open at 6:00 for Infants and 7:15 for Juniors. Please avoid coming early as it could be cold and wet waiting outside. We hope you will remember that children have been told they should only have £1:00 to spend on sweets and drinks.

**Parents Evenings.** We will shortly be sending home letters about coming to school to discuss your child's progress. There are two evenings to choose from – Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Prior to this, on Monday February 6<sup>th</sup>, you will receive a mid-year report showing the level that your child has attained in current assessments, including a grade for effort.