

12th February 2010

Dear Parents,

We've had a half term on tenterhooks, constantly wondering if the snow is coming back, but I'm glad to note that after those initial few days in January we have not needed to have any further snow days. I'm hoping that we can look forward to the predicted early spring!!!

The children have organised 2 fundraising events, firstly the fund raiser for Haiti which raised £346, and then the Toy Fair raising a further £303 for Kanlungen and the School Council. The children deserve recognition for their promptness in wanting to find ways to help others around the world as well as the effort and organisation they were able to put into making these events successful. Of course we also thank the parents who helped the children with the Toy Fair and without whom it would have been very difficult to make it run so well.

On the topic of fund raising, alongside this newsletter is an invitation to join the 50/50 club. This was very successful here in the past as well as being successful in many, many schools. Apart from the Prize money, the other 50% raised will go to school fund which is used to help enrichment activities for the children. We use it towards trips, occasional prizes etc etc. I hope many of you will join.

There is also the Quiz Night on 20th March which is being organised jointly by the Friends of School and the staff. As we finish this half term with a Quiz Challenge in school this afternoon I am wondering who our adult winning team will be in a month's time!!! As well as prizes, tombola, Fish and Chips, it should be a really fun evening. We look forward to seeing you there. The event is open to all who wish to come so invite friends, acquaintances as well as family and let's have as many teams as possible.

Some of you will be aware of the tournaments we participate in, where we field a team against teams from other schools. We do very well, winning quite often, but more importantly giving our children opportunity to meet with children from other schools and other areas as well as visiting venues such as secondary schools and sports centres, which makes it exciting and varied. There are different tournaments for different year groups but to give you a flavour from one of them, the Year 6 participants have written a report on the netball competition they took part in.

Netball competition report

Thursday 4th of February was an exhilarating day for the netball squad at Cottesloe School. There were six different schools competing in the netball festival including Cheddington, Brookmead, High Ash, Overstone, St. Michaels and Edlesborough. The first match was not played by Newton Longville, though the first match we did play, we drew. We drew the second match we played as well. We were amazed to find in the third match, we scored six nil to us! Through all of the matches, we played very well and showed great teamwork.

The team were extremely nervous when they first arrived, but as soon as we started playing, we came out with lots of confidence. Each player was able to play in all of the positions, and each player had a rest between the matches. Amazingly the result was, that we came 4th out of 7 teams! We were very pleased about this.

By Leticia Holt and Chloe Millson

The playground continues to be resurfaced, slowly but surely. Many thanks for your patience and understanding as we juggle to allow the work to take place during term time, as well as keeping the children safe. As I write today I do not know what the position will be after half term and will have to assess our entries and exits on the Monday morning, so please be prepared for another change in arrangements for the beginning and end of the day.

The super climbing frame, bought and installed from the funds raised by Friends of School some years ago, proved difficult to make the best use of. It was only suitable for the younger children and the ever increasing restrictions imposed by Health and Safety resulted in a very restricted access. So children really did not get much opportunity to enjoy playing on there. The Friends of School therefore decided the best option was to sell the climbing frame and use the money thus raised to contribute to play equipment which can be enjoyed by more children and more often. Once the playground resurfacing work is finished we will therefore be installing low level equipment which will be suitable for all children and at all times.

I would like to remind you about the link from Friends of School to shopping sites e.g. Amazon, which raises money for the Friends of School. The goods do not cost you a penny more than if you went directly to the specific site, but if you access it through the School Site, the companies pay a % of your spend to the Friends of School. A couple of clicks and you have contributed to our funds at no cost to yourself. The Friends of School site is www.Newton-longville-school.co.uk

Finally I must ask parents who come by car to remember to park safely. Off the pavements and off the zig zag lines, in order to keep our children safe.

Have an enjoyable half term break

Yours sincerely,

Krys Kuzminska