



## STRATHBLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

February 2010

NEWSLETTER



### Textile Recycling

There is now a large textile recycling container in the school playground. Previously we have had very successful 'rag bag' collections which have raised a lot of money for the school. We now have the opportunity to donate textiles in this container throughout the year – so there is no excuse for hoarding unwanted textiles! Your child will be given a bag home for this purpose.

You can use the container to deposit all types of **clothes, shoes, bags, hats, towels, curtains and bed linen**. These are sent away and sorted, with good quality clothes being sent to Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe as second hand clothing. Poorer quality textiles are shredded and used for mattress filling, industrial wiping cloths, etc.

This is a great opportunity to raise funds for the school and also become more environmentally friendly. Please make great use of the facility.

For further information, speak to Traci Leven (01360 770362) or visit rag-bag.co.uk

**Parent Council** Dates for the next Parent Council meetings are:

- Tuesday 9th March 2010
- Tuesday 20th April
- Tuesday 15th June

All meetings will be at the school at 19.15.

There's now more new after school clubs. The Book Club starts on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 3:15p.m. Early next term we aim to launch a School Gardening Club.

The date of the next Fundraisers Meeting is Tuesday 23rd February in the Blane Valley at 8.00pm. Please come along, to get involved and support your school!

Beate Beck-Schwahn  
for the SPF

### Family Quiz Night

Please keep Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March free for the Family Fun Quiz night at 7p.m. You can start swotting now! Tickets will be on sale after the February week holiday.

### Student Placements

This term we will be working with two students who will be completing their placement in the Nursery.

### Active Schools Activities

#### Cross Country

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February Strathblane Primary School sent four teams to the Stirling Schools Cross Country event. Everyone did really well and looked the part in their new Strathblane Sports strips. We're now waiting in anticipation to have it confirmed how many of our pupils will progress to the finals. Well done to the Primary 6 girl's team who brought back a silver medal.

The Health workshops held, by the **Scottish Rocks Basketball Team** on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2010, for the pupils in Primary 5, 6 and 7 were a great success. **Primary 7** pupils will now be given the opportunity to attend the Stirling Jump to It Basketball Festival at the Peak, Stirling, on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**.

#### Pop La Crosse

Pupils in Primary 6 and 7 are in training for the Pop La Crosse Tournament on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March at Balfron High School. We'll be sending four teams to represent the school that day.

#### Dance taster for Primary 1

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February Primary 1 pupils will be given the opportunity to participate in a dance taster workshop. They will learn some Street Dance skills!

#### Other Sports Tasters coming up

Transition sports tasters for **Primary 7** pupils who will then be invited to participate in after school sessions at Balfron High School. The transition taster will be on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**Primary 2** will get tennis tasters on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Primary 4** will get football tasters on Mondays 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May

**Primary 3** will get rugby tasters on Wednesdays 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May.

**Primary 5** will receive their introduction to golf through the Clubgolf training at school.

#### Balfron Cluster Rotary Primary Quiz Night

A team of 4 primary 7 pupils will represent the school on 24th February.

The Quiz will start promptly at 7 pm and end at about 9 pm. There will be an interval when tea/juice and biscuits will be served. The Quiz will be held in the School Staffroom which means that there will be plenty room for parents, teachers and those supporting a team. As many supporters as possible are encouraged to attend as this adds to the atmosphere and enjoyment of team members. The emphasis is on fun and we want all team members to enjoy the evening.

### **Holiday dates**

The school will be closed from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February until Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010 (Inclusive)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February are the allocated days for the mid-term holiday. Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February are staff development days.

The government has allocated an additional staff development day to support the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence. The **staff development day** for Stirling Local Authority will be on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May**. This means that pupils will not attend school on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Working in Partnership with Parents**

Please come and meet with Ms Logan and Miss Spencer on the first Friday of each month at 2:15p.m.

- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June

We look forward to meeting with as many parents as can make it.

### **Pupil Health and Safety**

Parents are reminded to please note that children should not bring any nuts or peanut butter etc. to school. This could endanger the health and well-being of some children who have severe allergic reactions to nut products.

### **Stranger Danger**

To keep children safe at all times it can be helpful to remind them of some personal safety rules: Basic Stranger Danger rules include:

- Never accept gifts or sweets from a stranger.
- Never get in a car with a stranger.
- Never go anywhere with a stranger.
- Never go off on your own without telling your parents or a trusted adult.

#### **Safe People and Places**

Stranger Danger is not just about teaching children who or what to avoid but also includes positive rules so that children know how to keep themselves safe. For example:

- Knowing who they can trust if they need help - such as a uniformed police officer or a teacher.
- Having the confidence to trust their instincts if they have a bad feeling about a place or person.
- Being aware of their surroundings
- Learning to be assertive

- Knowing that they should tell a trusted adult if they have been approached by a stranger.

### **Internet Safety**

Following the meeting with parents, on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February, where child protection was discussed it was agreed that these Top Ten tips for Internet safety would be helpful for all parents.

The tips below come from the [thinkuknow](http://thinkuknow) website.

If you would like further information on internet safety then have a look at the think u know website which is packed full of useful tips and advice on a wide range of internet activities. Their website address is: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

Know what your children are doing online and who they are talking to. Ask them to teach you to use any applications you have never used.

- Help your children to understand that they should never give out personal details to online friends.
- Personal information includes their messenger id, email address, mobile number and any pictures of themselves, their family or friends.
- If your child publishes a picture or video online - anyone can change it or share it.
- If your child receives spam / junk email & texts, remind them never to believe them, reply to them or use them.
- It's not a good idea for your child to open files that are from people they don't know. They won't know what they contain - it could be a virus, or worse - an inappropriate image or film.
- Help your child to understand that some people lie online and that therefore it's better to keep online mates online. They should never meet up with any strangers without an adult they trust.
- Always keep communication open for a child to know that it's never too late to tell someone if something makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Teach young people how to block someone online and report them if they feel uncomfortable.
- There are people who can help. To report online child abuse go to [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)