



## National Public Sector Strike

As many of you will be aware most of the main public sector unions have called upon their members to go on strike on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November. This is as a result of the changes that the Government is proposing to make to public sector pensions. Having consulted with the staff in the school it is unlikely that any member of staff at Wellesley will be striking and subsequently we do intend at this moment to be open as normal. If there are any changes to this decision we will inform you as soon as possible.

## Children in Need

Last Friday our Children in Need event proved to be very successful. The school council organised a raffle and also an opportunity for the rest of the school to throw wet sponges at them at breaktime. This was very popular with everyone involved getting very wet. In the afternoon teachers used the school PA system to pledge money to the charity in return for small challenges being carried out by the children and other adults in the building. We would like to thank our school council for all of their efforts on the day at which over £240 was raised for charity.

## Y1 & 2 Fire Station Visit

As part of their work on 'People who Help Us' our children in Years 1 and 2 visited Yate Fire Station this week to find out in detail about the important role that firemen play in helping to save our lives. The visit was very much enjoyed and the children learnt a great deal. A real highlight of the visit was the opportunity to look around one of the fire engines and also to squirt water using the firemen's hoses. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents who gave up their time to accompany the children on this visit.



## KS1 Production

This year we have organised three performances of our Key Stage 1 production. The first production is being held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm. This performance is for grandparents only (Unfortunately we do not have room for parents to attend this performance). The children will then be performing to their parents on the Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 5.00pm. We have made both of these performances slightly earlier than in previous years because of the concern raised to us by a number of parents about how tired their children get if the performance is any later. Children including younger siblings will not be able to attend the three productions instead we have organised a crèche for those who need it.

## Forest Skills

Year 3 children are in the process of undertaking a short course of forest skills activities on Monday afternoons. So far they have been very busy using natural materials to make 3D creatures and sculptures. The highlight of the sessions according to the children has been the opportunity to learn to cook simple foods on a wood fire. One of their favourite activities was making and cooking bread twists which the children found delicious!

## Healthy Eating Week

We would like to thank all of our parents who supported their children take part in our healthy eating week last week. It was very pleasing to see the number of children who participated bringing in healthy snacks and trying new fruit and vegetables throughout the week. There were a very large number of children who completed all of the daily challenges and managed to fill up their sticker charts. We would like to congratulate Ella Stevens in Key Stage 1 and Mia Williams in Key Stage 2 who were presented in assembly with special prizes for being the overall winners of the week.

## Wellesley Bear

A few years ago we had a very small number of 'Wellesley' teddy bears made for us, each bear wearing a Wellesley Primary School sweatshirt. Many of these bears were given to other schools when the representatives for Wellesley visited them. One of the bears we had remaining was added to the Children in Need raffle that we held last week and attracted a huge amount of interest from the children many of whom wanted one. As a result of this the school has purchased a large number of these 'Wellesley Bears' which we will be selling at the Christmas Fair for £10.00 each.



## Playtime Survey

We would like to thank all of the parents who returned our questionnaires relating to their children's happiness at breaktimes and lunchtimes. We had 20 responses 18 of which were very positive stating that their children always or nearly always had a good and enjoyable break and lunchtime. One parent who commented that their child was only sometimes happy left no details for us to contact them. It is of the utmost importance to us that all children have a fun and enjoyable experience at breaktimes. If for any reason this is not the case we would urge parents to contact their child's teacher so that we can work quickly to try and resolve any problems they may be having. Two parents did raise concerns regarding their children getting muddy whilst using the school field. As a result of this we have spoken to all of the children again about the importance of bringing a change of footwear to school and also the importance of bringing waterproof trousers if they have a tendency to keep falling over. We still have a limited stock of waterproof trousers in school should anyone wish to purchase them.

## Inter-House Academic Competition

Alongside our healthy eating initiative last week we held an inter-house competition challenging children to identify as many fruits and vegetables as possible. It was quite a challenge and we were amazed at how many varieties the children could remember. The final result was very close but our eventual winners were Rowan House. Well done to all of the children who tried so hard for their team during this competition.

## Parents & Fire Drills

In order to meet statutory guidelines, we carry out fire drills in school on a termly basis. These are useful in ensuring that all staff members and children know what to do in the event of a fire. All of the fire drills that have occurred over the years have all shown good practise by the staff and children and as such we have begun to hold them during more challenging times e.g. during assemblies or breaktime. In order that we can become as drilled as possible it may be that we run a fire drill when we have a lot of parents around e.g. during class assembly time or at the

beginning or end of the school day when we have a lot of parents on the playground. In such cases all of the children will need to line up on the main school playground as usual. We would ask all parents to leave the school building by the shortest route possible (closing all doors behind them) and assembly on the school playground between the entrance gate and the start of the reception playground. Parents who are standing outside their child's class should also move to this area between the entrance gate and the start to the reception playground. We do ask that parents do not try and take their children home during these circumstances until the drill has been completed and their child's teacher has released them.

## Car Parking

We have had a number of complaints from residents recently about parents parking outside of their garages at the beginning and end of the school day which has resulted in them not being able to get out. Parents have also raised concerns about the way cars are parked around the roundabout which they feel creates a danger to their children. On grounds of health and safety no cars should be parked in a way which obstructs entry into the school car park. Unfortunately on several occasions recently cars have been parked in a way that would prevent an ambulance or fire engine from entering onto school premises if they needed to. We do appreciate how limited the parking spaces are for parents, however we would like parents who live within close proximity to the school to consider whether they could walk their child to school rather than using a car. We would ask all of our parents to please be very considerate if they do need to park their cars outside school.

## Reading Information for Parents

We would like to thank all of our parents who attended our parents' information evening on supporting their children develop as early readers. Feedback from the evening was very positive and as a result we are planning on organising further sessions later on in the school year.

# Parent's Forum

## Feedback parents' forum

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November a number of parents' attended our parents' forum meeting to discuss a number of issues. Here are the minutes of that meeting:

### Parent Link Worker

The role of Mrs Day, who has very kindly agreed to work as our parent link worker was discussed. Parents at the meeting felt that it would be useful for Mrs Day to be present on the school playground at various times and also to provide the opportunity for parents to book appoints with her either by email or through the school office. It is hoped that we will be able to begin this initiative shortly after the Christmas break.

### Parent Questionnaire

Every two years the school sends out a questionnaire to all of its parents to consult on their views as to how it is performing and to gauge opinion on anything that parents feel needs to be improved further. The format for the questionnaire was discussed and agreed. Parents at the meeting suggested that it might be useful for each class to have their questionnaire printed on a different colour paper so that the school can identify concerns that are specific to that year group whilst at the same time ensuring that all of the returns remain anonymous.

### Children's happiness as break and lunchtimes

All of the parents present commented how happy their children were at breaktimes and how much they enjoyed using the playpod and playing on the school equipment. No concerns were raised regarding this issue. During this item parents did ask if the school could remind children regularly about the need to put on waterproof trousers if they had a tendency to keep falling over whilst playing on the field.

### School coats

A number of parents asked whether the school could provide waterproof coats for children with the school logo on. The school agreed to look into this.

## Diary Dates

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December Year 3 assembly

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December Christmas Fair

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December KS1 Dress rehearsal

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December KS1 performance to grandparents

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December KS1 production to parents 5pm

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December KS1 production to parents 5pm

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December Christmas dinner

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December KS2 party

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December KS1 Party

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December Carol concert 9.15am (parents welcome)

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December Last day of term

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January INSET day (No children)

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January Children arrive back