

26 April 2010

### **Residential weekend season begins with success at Robinwood**

On Sunday 61 Y3 children returned safely from their weekend stay at Robinwood near Alston in the North Pennines. It was a great experience to witness these very young children face up to every challenge presented to them. From the overhead zipwire to the obstacle course, the giant swing, piranha pool and high trapeze our children won high praise from Robinwood staff for their commitment and enthusiasm. Going away from home for two nights is a big enough challenge in itself!

Well done to everyone and a big thanks to the school staff who volunteered to give up their weekend so that our children could enjoy an experience they will never forget.

Later this term Y4 and Y6 will be away at Ghyll Head, Manchester's own outdoor pursuit centre on Lake Windermere and Y5 go to Aberdovey in North Wales to the Outward Bound Centre on the River Dyfi.

### **Nursery places**

Parents and carers who have secured a place for September 2010 in our Nursery will be contacted this week by letter.

### **Reception 2010**

The Chairs of the School Governing Body committees and Chair of Governors Natalie Marshall will be meeting with senior officers from the Local Authority on Tuesday evening. The meeting will discuss the serious errors made by the LA in the over-allocation of places at Beaver Road for September. Governors will seek assurances from the LA for extra financial resources to support the extra staff the School will need to recruit in order to maintain the high standards in our Foundation Stage.

### **Beaver Road Parents Evenings**

Once again there were very high attendance figures for both parents' evenings last week. Your support for Beaver Road is much appreciated and is a significant factor in the continuing success of our School.

The issue of **Homework** was brought up by some parents (both too little and too much!).

There is an excellent School policy on Homework that can be found on [www.beaverroad.org.uk](http://www.beaverroad.org.uk) (click on Teaching and Learning and then scroll down to Information for Parents).

[www.beaverroad.org.uk](http://www.beaverroad.org.uk)

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The Policy sets out the Governors' views on homework and gives sound practical advice on how you as parents and carers can most effectively support your children's education.

Any parents who wish to discuss the Homework policy should contact David How the Headteacher to arrange a meeting.  
(Via School Office – Denise O' Neill, Lead Administrator).

Parents were also anxious to know about the proposed **SATs boycott**.  
Headteachers are currently awaiting the outcome of decisions relating to a potential boycott and its legality.  
We will inform you as soon as the picture becomes clear.

### **Good luck to Vicky**

Many of you will have got to know our School Office trainee Vicky over the past few months especially in her role as Receptionist. Just in time for her 17<sup>th</sup> birthday we are pleased to announce that she has secured her first step on the career ladder with a permanent post at St Paul's CofE School in Withington. We will be giving another young person from the community the chance to gain experience and develop new skills starting soon. In the meantime we send our best wishes to Vicky who leaves Beaver Road at the end of this week.

### **Fancy canoeing down the Mersey over the Bank Holiday weekend?**

Canoeing (or paddling as some people call it) is a great activity, for everyone, you can relax in a boat and view nature in the surrounding area or you can make it a real challenge and use it as a work out. There are lots of different types of canoeing which means there will be something for everyone's personal taste and ability.

Ian Sheldrake, a school parent, has just set up a canoeing business on the River Mersey based at Burnage Rugby Club in Heaton Mersey. This coming Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May he is organizing a taster day from 11am – 5pm on the section of river alongside the rugby club (by the playing fields of Parrs Wood High School.

See his website [www.messingaboutonthemersey.co.uk](http://www.messingaboutonthemersey.co.uk) for more details.

All Beaver Road families will be eligible to a £1 discount per person.

### **New Teaching staff**

Interviews are taking place this week and next to recruit new staff for September – both class teacher and school leadership posts are involved.

Apologies to parents who may experience a delay in fixing appointments to meet senior staff during this period. They are all very much involved in the selection process.

***Don't forget School is closed for children on the following days – Monday 3 May (Public Holiday), Thursday 6 May (School used as polling station) and Friday 7 May (Teachers' training day)***

[www.beaverroad.org.uk](http://www.beaverroad.org.uk)

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