

Beaver Road News

www.beaverroad.org.uk

www.allabouteachother.org.uk

Welcome back

Welcome back to the final seven weeks of the School Year 2008-2009.
A quick reminder of some dates for your diaries:

- Tuesday 2 June 6.00 pm - New Reception parents
- Wednesday 3 June 6 00 pm - New Nursery parents
- Thursday 4 June - School is closed for children (EU Parliament elections)
- Saturday 6 June - Didsbury Festival
- Thursday 25 June - Open Evening
- Friday 3 July - Children's School Reports sent home
- Tuesday 14 July - Sports Day at Manchester Stadium
- Friday 17 July - School closes for the Summer
- Thursday 3 September - School re-opens for children

Four Seasons Garden and an Endangered Species

The Four Seasons Garden (Y3/Y4 quadrangle) continues to develop as a major resource for environmental science and ecology. The Garden is already visited by birds such as greenfinches, blue tits, sparrows, mallards and robins. A sparrow hawk on hunting patrol passed through a week ago. Just before the Whitsun break a humming sound inside a compost container immediately triggered action to remove a wasps' nest (as we thought). Pest controllers from the Local Authority arrived to discover a nest of bumble bees. These little creatures are becoming increasingly rare and are an endangered species and cannot be moved - so we now have new additions to our Beaver Road family! Our resident expert Miss Greenhouse identified them as White-tailed bumble bees. They have a long nesting season and visit a wide variety of herbaceous and shrubby garden plants. This bumble bee is found in gardens and hedgerows and often nests underground. A large colony will support several hundred bees. Only the young fertilised queen survives the winter, having hibernated in a protected place such as in a hole or under moss. She emerges in spring and starts up her own colony or takes over an existing one. They are not aggressive unless disturbed so our children are giving the nest a wide berth for the moment.

Our European visitors

On the Wednesday before Whit our School hosted a visit from our partner schools in Germany, France, Spain and Northern Ireland. The visitors observed lessons in different age groups and watched performances from our Reception and Year 1 classes. Around the school the

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children had prepared lots of welcome displays, presentations and information in the visitors' home languages.

Our visitors toured the city of Manchester (yes, it poured down!) and met the Lord Mayor of Manchester Alison Firth at the Town Hall. They visited the Science Museum, Castlefield and Lyme Park during their stay.

Natalie Marshall Chair of Governors, hosted a traditional English 'teatime' at her house. Raj at the Gurkha Grill put on a brilliant feast of food for the visitors and our staff on Wednesday night.

Our visitors brought with them the brothers and sisters of Bravo our own School bear, much to the delight of our children who 'borrowed' them to teach them all about Beaver Road and Didsbury.

Take a look at our international website www.allabouteachother.org.uk

Can anyone help?

I received this email from one of the parents of the Amaior Ikastola School in Pamplona:

Hello Mr How:

We are the parents of a teenager girl living in Pamplona. We have known that you participate in the Comenius programme with the Ikastola Amaior and we wondered if it would be some parents interested in improve the level of Spanish of their children by having a Spanish student at home, helping them with children and homework.

Our daughter is going to be 16 in November and is deeply interested in learning English. She deals well with children and she is a very responsible person.

It will be possible as well to interchange students, if someone of similar age is interested in coming to Pamplona.

We think Manchester is a good place to go for a Spanish student because other places like London are crowded with Spanish students in summer.

Our daughter will be able to travel in July, but if anyone is interested in our proposal we can contact with them for next year as well.

Excuse us for take your time and for our incorrect English. I hope you can help us.

Thank very much.

Begoña Zabala & Pedro Olaiz

Please contact me in School if you are interested.

News from the Friends of Beaver Road (FOBR)

Friends of Beaver Road will be holding their AGM at the School on **Wednesday 3rd June at 7.30pm** in Y5/6 block at rear of School.

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If you want to become more involved with organising FOBR events or just want to find out more about what we do, then please come along. We also looking for a new **Chair** and **Secretary** as Sophie and Rachel will stand down from the Committee at the end of this School term. So if you are able to give up some of your time or know someone who might like to give it a try, please let us know and come to the AGM. Over the last 4 years FOBR have raised over £30,000 for the School. The money has been used to purchase outdoor play equipment for the Early Years Outdoor Classroom and the School Playgrounds. The money raised this year will be used to purchase new books for the new School Library opening in September.

Mural News

At the time of going to press, the painting should have started and we would like to thank all those who have helped so far on 9th and 16th May. We would particularly like to thank Rosana for all her efforts in sorting out all the materials and organising the work.

Didsbury Festival on 6 June

This year, we will be selling curry and home made lemonade thanks to the very generous offer of one parent to arrange this for us. However, we would also be grateful for any cakes etc, which always sell out. You can either bring your donations to the School on Friday 5th June or bring them to the stall on the day. Please label any tins or containers, which you would like returned to you and once again many thanks. Our stall raised over £600 last year.

Table Top Sale

Thanks to all those who helped with or attended the Table Top Sale at School on Saturday 2nd May. We had a lovely sunny afternoon and were able to hold the event outside in the playground. The children had a great time, parents with tables were able to sell on unwanted toys for welcome cash to buy yet more and we raised 344 pounds for School. The money will be added to the funds raised from the Spring Ball to improve outside learning and playing facilities for our children.

Fundraising

Finally, a very big thank you to Ann Guy whose hands free massage raised over £120.00 and also to Pixies who raised £150.00 from the sale of School uniform.

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