



RIVINGTON PARK
~Independent School~

School & Nursery Newsletter September 2009

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A new year in Nursery and School!!

We have had a terrific start to the Autumn Term both in school and in nursery. Perhaps one of the best features so far has been the really genuine commitment of so many people to helping support and develop our small community. A sense of real community spirit has begun to grow this summer.

Parents have continued to help with the development of the school grounds. Our next day of work and maintenance around school is on **Sunday 11th October**. If anyone is at a loose end and would like to join us it will be nice to welcome you to our community action group. Our older

children have also enjoyed sharing in some of the activities around site where they get the chance to feel part of an active community working together for the benefit for the whole school and nursery.

Suzanne Gough (Nursery Parent) has joined our PTA group over the summer and we would be delighted to include even more nursery parents to this thriving parent group. Our PTA (Friends of Rivington Park Association) exists to help support school and nursery. It is a lively group and is open to as many parents as would like to participate, so don't be shy!

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Stunning 2009 GCSE Results

Our GCSE results were excellent yet again with 100% 5 A-C pass rate and 75% of pupils getting A/A* grades. Perhaps even more important than these headline numbers however is the underlying added value results relating to individual ability and compared to other children of the same age and ability in the state sector. I attended a recent results presentation at a leading local independent school where the school identified an average gain of 0.8 of a GCSE grade in each of the subjects normally taken by pupils in their school compared to the state sector.

If we look at the pupil results for our

children who have been with us for two years or longer we actually achieved added value of 2.5 GCSE in each subject. The difference between a grade D in every subject and a mid B.

It also has to be considered that we do not select at admission and therefore for our children this represented between 25-32 EXTRA GCSE grades than would be expected based on ability.

These results are the outcome of small class teaching, flexible learning and happy children. Well Done to all the pupils and staff who have made it happen,.. again.

Next Farmers Market - Sunday 4th October 2009

Our first September Farmers Market was a terrific success and we hope that it will now build up further as the number of stalls and customers increase.

With fresh, organic produce on sale, all sourced from local producers and artisans

this is a great way to enjoy a spare hour on a Sunday morning and stock up with a few basics and tasty luxuries.

Don't miss out on the café downstairs!! The rave reviews from the last market were well deserved.

Nursery Quality Accreditation

Nursery has signed up to the new Lancashire Quality accreditation programme. This involves partnership working between LEA advisors and our nursery staff to share best practice and move the nursery towards those 'outstanding features' which are so difficult to attain. A key element of this is closer working with our community, which obviously starts with our own parents and children and extends outside school and nursery.

It is some time since we had a nursery or school 'Family Fun Night'. I have enclosed a slip for you to indicate your interest and any suggestions.

To get the ball rolling I am proposing a Bonfire Night Event detailed below. Please do not hesitate to email your suggestions or use the suggestions box which is located on the bookshelves near the library entrance.

Bonfire Night—Friday 6th November 2009—6.30PM onwards

We invite all our parents and children in nursery and school to come along to the Bonfire Party on Friday 6th November. We will provide a modest bonfire within the grounds, traditional bonfire night catering and a small firework display which will be set up within an enclosed area of the site.

Nursery children will be able to watch the display

from outside or from the library if sensitive to the noise levels!! It is not possible to bring your own fireworks. There is a small ticket charge of £2.50 per head to contribute towards food and firework costs.

The more the merrier so bring your families along and enjoy an opportunity to relax and socialize.

School Parents Information Evening—Tuesday 29th September 2009

The Information Evening for school parents is on Tuesday starting at 6.30PM. A short presentation from the head Teacher will outline some of the approaches to teaching and learning in school, including how school supports children pastorally and assesses individual pupil progress.

The emphasis is to improve understanding of how school works by showing parents how the small class teaching approaches leads to accelerated pupil progress. Most impor-

tantly it is a chance early in the first term to ask questions about the school. The short presentation and question and answer session will be followed by an informal chance to mingle with teaching staff and ask individual questions of teachers.

Nursery parents curious to find out a little more about how school works are very welcome to attend.

Forthcoming Events- Autumn Term 2009

Friday 25th September—Junior CAT3 Testing

Tuesday 29th September 2009 (6.30PM) - Parent Information Evening (School)

Sunday 4th October 2009—9.00AM-3.00PM Rivington Park Farmers Market

Sunday 11th October 2009—Parent Community Action Group (ALL DAY)

Wednesday 14th October 2009—GCSE Parents Options & Information Evening (Yr 8&9)

HALF TERM Monday 19th October –Friday 30th October inclusive

Friday 6th November 2009– Bonfire Party 6.30PM

Friday 20th November 2009—Hadrian's Wall Trip (Junior Class)

Sunday 6th December 2009—Combined Xmas Fayre and Xmas Farmers Market 9.00AM-3.00PM

Tuesday 8th December—Nursery and School Parents Evening from 3.30PM onwards

Tuesday 15th December 2009—Xmas Dinner. Xmas Assembly 2.15PM. School closes 3.30PM

Information relating to the Xmas Production rehearsal and performance schedules this year will be issued shortly



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