

CHILTHORNE DOMER CHURCH SCHOOL

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Tuesday 18th April 2006

Dear Parents

Welcome back! It's been a lovely Easter break and we were so lucky to have such beautiful weather. This term promises to be exciting and full of new adventures for the children including SATs and making links with new schools for the Year Six children in particular.

Kilve camp was a huge success. It was a fantastic week which the children gained so much from (including a layer of mud which has permeated through their skin and into their bones I think). I will be booking the Kilve camp-site again for next year's residential and costs are likely to be around £150 for the week's activities. A letter will go out to all Key Stage Two parents in September with further details. There is a small amount of unclaimed property from camp still available for collection in the school hall, this includes coats, shoes and even pants! Please feel free to browse to find your child's belongings.

Just before the Easter Break, the school was represented at the Children's Parliament in Taunton. A group of Year Six children gave a presentation on bullying and its adverse effects to the panel which included several County Councillors, the Director of Education and the Member of Parliament for Taunton. The children that took part were given special certificates which were presented at a whole school assembly and we hope to see some recognition of their achievement in the local press in the near future.

Well done to Scott Mitchell on completing his John O'Groats to Land's End cycle ride in aid of CLIC. Scott and the team finished ahead of their schedule and raised a large sum of money for their chosen charities. Many thanks to all of you who sponsored him and helped to make his efforts so worthwhile. If you haven't yet paid your sponsorship, please send it in an envelope, clearly labelled, to Mrs Mitchell in the school office. Thank you.

Country Dancing will be returning next week, when Mrs Waters re-starts this popular club. The club is open to Key Stage Two children and places are limited. Please see today's letter for more details.

An Environmental Club will be being run on Thursday lunch-times by Mrs Branch and Mrs Waters, extending even further the wide range of extra-curricular clubs available to the children.

The Parents' Questionnaire results have now been collated and are attached with this letter. Some lines do not have equal totals as not everyone chose to answer all questions. As you can see, the school is very popular although there are still one or two minor issues that need to be addressed. Rest assured we are constantly working to make improvements and continue to keep your school where it is, as one of the most popular schools in Somerset.

Over Easter the school suffered some minor vandalism. If you see anyone on school premises please contact the local police station (on their local number, not 999) as they are aware of the recent events and are working with us.

Dates for the next academic year are attached with INSET days marked as circles. You will see that I have chosen INSET days which offer you greater flexibility for holidays. In particular, we will once again have a two week half-term break in October/November. This should allow you to book holidays at a cheaper rate for at least one of those weeks. I do appreciate how difficult (and expensive) it is to take holidays outside of term time.

A couple of gentle reminders...

PE is a statutory requirement and as such we do not excuse children from PE unless they have a note from parents. It is also really important that the children have the correct PE kit in school in order that they can take part safely and hygienically. We do carry some spare kit, but cannot guarantee to have the correct size or shape for all children! A full list of PE kit is in the school prospectus or can be obtained from the National Schoolwear Centre in Yeovil.

Bio-Bags are still available for purchase from the school office for your convenience.

Only chocolate free cereal bars or fruit and vegetables are allowed as snacks at break-time.

We have a wonderful school. Your support helps keep it that way. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Stewart Biddles