



Stamfordham First School

Stamfordham, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE18 0NA
Tel/fax: 01661 886358

E-mail: admin@stamfordham.northumberland.sch.uk
Website: www.stamfordham.northumberland.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Claire McKinney

5th February 2010

Dear Parents and Carers,

- **'Opposites Day' for the Haiti Earthquake victims. Thank you to Ellie Austin, Ellie Branney, Emma Ritson and Jess Robinson** for organising and leading our fundraising efforts and for taking the assembly so well. Perhaps the girls would be keen to do assembly more often. I would certainly be supportive of that! On a serious note, although the day was great fun and enjoyed by all, I am delighted to say that we were able to send a cheque for **£101.40** to the Haiti disaster fund for which I would like to thank you all for your support. It is a fantastic total for our small school. I would also like to thank the children for the care and concern for others they have shown these past few weeks. We are very proud of all of you 'Stars of Stamfordham School' so thank you all.

(By complete chance, today is also the UNICEF Day for Change. Children are encouraged to go to school in casual clothes or fancy dress. We only discovered this when we opened our copy of First News last Friday, the children's weekly newspaper, to find this was front page news. We are certainly keeping up with current affairs!)

- **Questionnaire analysis. Questionnaire and Survey Results** are attached to this bumper newsletter. Please read, digest and grab me if there is anything I have overlooked. I do hope not as we are trying to save the rain forest, honestly! The feedback has been very positive indeed and, as with everything, we are constantly striving to improve. There are several key areas of focus for the coming terms; all are contained within our School Improvement Plan 2009-10. I hope that you begin to see us achieve targets as the year moves on. Many, many thanks for taking the time to answer in such depth. All comments have been read and discussed by the staff. You will be pleased to hear that this is not an annual quiz but we will probably come back to you in 2011 - yes, we are planning well in advance!



- **The Eco Lab Road Show hits SFS next week.** The ZooLab Team will be visiting Classes 2 and 3 on **Thursday 11th February** when we will find out more about endangered animals, what it means to be an endangered animal, and why these animals face extinction. The cost of the visit will be £3.50 per child. The children will have the opportunity to learn about and handle the animals so please complete the tear-off to the parental permissions letter, giving your OK for the (child/ren) to hold the animals. We will have more on this next week!

- **National Story Telling Week.** The children have enjoyed listening to and re-telling stories this week, but then this is the norm in our school, as story time is a well-loved and protected institution here



at SFS. Once upon a time an idea was proposed for a week which would highlight the art of storytelling, to underline the continued need for story time in schools, at a time when many were ditching class story in favour of other tasks and activities. We have never veered from our firm belief that story telling and class story time is a must in all schools, and that children, and indeed teachers, gain so much from these sessions. Story time is in no danger at SFS!

- **Class 3 visit to St Mary's Church.** Class 3 will be visiting St Mary's Church in Stamfordham as part of their RE topic about Christianity. We need to have additional adult supervision for our visit and so if you could spare 1½ hours on Tuesday 2nd March from 10.30AM, please let Mrs Gilbert or Miss McKinney know as we do still need two more parents. Many thanks.



- **Rugby Club.** The coaching staff at Kidzgetfit have once again disappointed us at the last minute. Many apologies to the children and parents for whom this creates unnecessary turmoil. I have spoken to the coaches concerned, making my views very clear, however I'm sad to report that we are not in a position to continue with our rugby sessions. A refund will be with you next week. We are hoping to re-schedule another activity in its place after the half term break. Once again, my sincere apologies.
- **Haircutting with Anneli is proving a big hit.** Many thanks to parents and children for your support with this venture. The movie is also a treat. Anneli returns to SFS on Thursday 25th March. All welcome.
- **From KidZone.** You should have all received a KidZone holiday form for the forthcoming Half Term Holiday. We are hoping to open for this period, subject to sufficient demand to cover costs (a minimum of 7 children are required per day). A half day (of up to 4 hours) costs £15 and a full day costs £20. New users of KidZone WILL NOT be charged a registration fee. If you would like to use KidZone, please can you complete a holiday form, indicating which days you would like to use the facility and whether this would be on a full or part day basis. ***Please return this form to Sheena or Janice as soon as possible. Thank you.*** KidZone Committee.
- **The Friends of Stamfordham First School** have been busy organising the event to be seen at this spring/summer, **The Masque Ball**, which will take place on **Friday 21st May at Dissington Hall**. I know that this will indeed be a night to remember. Tickets do remain. Why not get together a table of 10 and we will see you there!

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours

Claire McKinney
Head Teacher