

# DUNANNIE THURSDAY LETTER Issue 4

29<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Dear Parents

What a wonderful Badley Celebration we had last weekend! I think everyone thoroughly enjoyed working on various projects, sticking, gluing, weaving etc. We now have beautiful willow woven stars hanging in the trees and colourful paving stones outside the classrooms. I have been assured by our gardening experts that the new plants around the Dunannie gateway are fast growers so we shall soon be fighting our way through the ivy and clematis.

I would never have thought that such stunningly designed creations could materialise so quickly and with so little! An enthralled audience watched in amazement as our models – with outfits such as The Carabessa, Aqua Surprise and The Nacher - took to the Dunannie catwalk...who needs London Fashion Week! Of course it would never have been the success that it was without you, our parents, coming along and working so enthusiastically with the children and, of course, the Dunannie staff who worked so hard to put everything in place for the day. Thank you everyone! Look out for a display of photographs of the day which will be going up shortly in the Design Studio (the newly named challenge room).

In next week's letter I shall be giving you details of our Harvest Festival but in advance of that I should like to invite the Friends of Dunannie and Year 3 parents to the celebration and also to lunch afterwards.

Unfortunately Dunannie staff have been struck by illness this week. It is indeed very rare that they fall victim to a bug...but this one floored them. I am glad to say they are on the mend and we hope for a normal week next week. Through all of this, the children have been amazing and have risen to the challenge of a change of routine. Well done!

I shall not be in tomorrow as I am at a Headteachers' Conference in Canterbury but if you do need any help Julia and Marian will be here.

Best wishes

Jo



## REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

- 🌱 **Nursery Packed Lunches:** Could any children bringing in their lunch please remember not to bring nuts or seeds. Also, **NO** sweets, chocolate or crisps – the contents should be as healthy as possible!
- 🌱 **Red Riding Hood Performance:** You will remember that 30<sup>th</sup> September was in the date list for this performance: regretfully it has been cancelled but a new production is being booked.
- 🌱 **Nit Check:** There will be one shortly.
- 🌱 **Absence:** As already mentioned, Jo will be out of school tomorrow at a conference. In her absence for any emergency please contact Julia Brown or Marian.
- 🌱 **School Closure Procedure:** Although we are seemingly a long way away from the snows of last winter, may we remind you now that in the case of emergency closure of the school, there will first be a text to parents (both parents - and nannies if this request has already been made), then an email to say that there is a closure and the Bedales website will be updated regularly with the status of the school or schools in question. For this reason and for best health and safety practice, please always remember to keep the school informed of current mobile and other numbers and email addresses. The school will not be telephoning parents.
- 🌱 **Parents' Evenings:** The sign-up sheets for the evenings of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November will be put up in the entrance hall on Monday.
- 🌱 **Individual Photographs:** Please remember that any orders have to be in by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October.
- 🌱 **Year 2 Music :** Please can parents ensure that Year 2 children bring their recorders into school on a Friday.



## RECEPTION NEWS



Reception have been having a lovely time making the most of the sunshine in the last couple of weeks. Last week we went for an 'adventure' all around the grounds, looking for autumn leaves and other interesting things. We explored in the woods and the children were very observant, noticing different plants, blackberries and moss. They were keen to find the largest, smallest and most beautifully coloured leaves – we have some budding scientists in this group! Some children were keen to make collages with the leaves that we had found, on return to the classroom. We have also enjoyed some den making in the outdoor area, using blankets and fabric: this led to much discussion and problem solving about how to fix the den materials together and how to make the dens 'stay up'. Next week, as part



of our project, we are hoping to have a campfire with Bridget and may be able to cook something tasty for snack. We have discussed fire safety with the children and they have come up with some sensible suggestions for keeping safe. We will also be finding out about some more effects of 'heat' on Thursday during our cooking activities – we will be choosing apples from the orchard and then making apple cake. Please do let us know if you would like to help us with cooking: we plan to cook once every week or two.

In our literacy sessions we have been working very hard at learning letter sounds and also beginning to use the sounds that they know to read simple words, by blending the sounds together eg 'map', 'and', 'sat' etc. The children have also been learning to form the letters correctly and are steadily showing an interest in writing: we have been pleased to see them 'writing' notes and important messages on

clipboards as part of their play outdoors this week.

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At the moment in our maths activities we are working at numeral recognition and ordering of numbers, including non-consecutive numbers. Next week we will be looking at money, recognizing the different coins and counting using one penny coins – any experience at home playing/shopping with coins is always really helpful.

Thank you very much to all the parents who came along to the information afternoon – if you could not make it, do ask if you are unsure about anything.

Julia, Nicola, Georgina and Bryony

