

# SHIPHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL

Turnpike Road  
Shipham  
Somerset  
BS25 1TX

Telephone 01934 843485  
Fax Number 01934 842862  
e-mail [office@shipham.somerset.sch.uk](mailto:office@shipham.somerset.sch.uk)  
Website [www.shiphamfirst.co.uk](http://www.shiphamfirst.co.uk)



Headteacher: Mrs A Gwynn MA (Oxon), PGCE, NPQH

A Member of the Cheddar Valley Group of Schools

7<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! I hope you are over the worst of the bugs and best of the Christmas indulgences. The topic focus for the whole school this term is Africa which may help take our imaginations to a warmer, sunnier place than Shipham in January.

## NEW DEVELOPMENT ...

This term is the launch of the school's 'Learning Platform'. This is a secure website accessible in school and at home for staff, children and parents. We are growing it slowly but this term each child will be given their own user name and password so that they can access their class page. On that page staff can put information, photos, quizzes and links to useful and enjoyable activities and websites. The platform is managed by Somerset and is part of a national requirement that every child has access to a 'secure web-based learning environment'. We will be holding an introduction session for parents on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February (3.20 - 4.00)** when you can find out more about how the site works and how you can help your child get the best out of it. I understand that there are (or soon will be) grants to help any families without access to a computer with broadband. Let me know if you are in this position and I will try to find out more.

## SWIMMING AND ICT

We start going to Cheddar again on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January. This term Y2 will be swimming and Y3/Y4 will go to the ICT suite at Cheddar First School. The contribution towards transport is £20 for the term. Many of you paid for both terms in September but some still need to pay for this term. Please ask Mrs Macleod if you are uncertain.

## AFTER-SCHOOL FOOTBALL

This starts on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January and will then continue weekly on Mondays for Class 1 and Fridays for Class 2 and 3. The cost is £2.00 per session in an envelope with the child's name on. Last term numbers sometimes dropped very low which is unfair on Robin. Please ensure that your child understands that this is a regular, weekly commitment. If it is absolutely impossible to attend one week please let Mrs Macleod or Mrs Gwynn know on the Friday morning so that we can cancel the session if numbers are too low.

## AFTER-SCHOOL COOKERY SESSIONS

Sessions will be held on Mondays from 3.20 to 4.30 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Children attend just one session and the idea is that they prepare their meal for that evening. This year there will be an African slant to the menu. A session costs £2.50. Please complete and return the form below if your child would like to attend. Children will be

accepted on a first come, first served basis. Numbers at each session will depend on the number of willing adults who volunteer to help..... Please have a word with me if you can help at one or several sessions.

**BOOK FAIR**

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in school on Friday 6<sup>th</sup>, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February from 3.20-4.00. Please do come and spend, spend, spend, so that we can reach the amount which enables the school to receive free books for the classrooms.

**YEAR 1/YEAR 2 FRENCH AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB**

I have recently got the name of someone who could run sessions for KS1 children in French. Would there be any interest in this? Perhaps we could try a half-term of sessions as an introduction to the language and country. Could you please indicate on the form below so I know whether or not to pursue this further.

Yours,

A. Gwynn

PS A reminder that all newsletters and forms are available on our website [www.shiphamfirst.co.uk](http://www.shiphamfirst.co.uk)

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**Please return by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

**COOKERY SESSIONS**

My child \_\_\_\_\_ would like to attend a cookery session.

My choice of dates is (please state preference 1, 2, 3)

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January  Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January  Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

I will pay £2.50 for the session when I receive confirmation of acceptance.

Signed .....

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January

**YEAR 1/YEAR 2 FRENCH AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB**

My child \_\_\_\_\_ would be interested in attending a French Club.

Signed .....