



The Two Way Street



Welcome back to the new academic year. This year is already proving to be very busy! We are currently planning more aspects where you, the parents and carers, can become more involved with school activities. This is so that we can forge even better links between home and school, giving you an insight as to what your child does at school all day! You could also get an opportunity to use your talents in school! Watch this space!

Even though it is only September, we are planning ahead for Christmas activities (no groaning please!). This year, we are holding a 'Christmas Market' instead of our usual fair. Some of the favourites will still be included (such as the grotto, games for the children, tombolas etc), but we are adding some little extras. If you have a talent/passion and would like to take part in our event by having a stand to display your wares (e.g. jewellery, cup cakes, paintings, decorations, soap, woodwork – anything really!) for just £10 you could take orders so that visitors can purchase Christmas gifts from you. The event will run on the Friday evening of November 29th, 5.00 until 7.00. Please let us know well in advance if you would like a pitch (so that we can plan floor space for you all) by ; -

- ❖ Telephoning the office 01543 452197
- ❖ Email via twowaystreet@st-johns.walsall.sch.uk
- ❖ Speaking to the office staff
- ❖ Sending in a letter with your child

If you leave us your name, contact details and give us some indication of what you will be offering, we will get back to you as soon as we can.



Heart of England In Bloom.

At the end of last year, a parent approached us asking if we were interested in the 'Heart of England In Bloom' award. This initiative will be going live for 2014 in a few weeks, so we have decided to become involved. This is a whole school initiative that will involve all pupils and any parents that wish to take part.

This is a copy of the mark sheet, showing the areas that they will be investigating; -

Quality of School Grounds
A welcoming entrance with the overall appearance of the grounds demonstrating respect by staff, parents and pupils.
Flowers/ Vegetables/ Fruit



The involvement of pupils (with support from teaching staff / parents / volunteers) in the growing of a range of edible and ornamental plants to include propagation, planting, maintenance and harvesting (edibles) will be taken into account as will the number of pupils involved whether in school clubs or class.

Sustainability

Where there is little or no scope for the provision of natural areas in the school grounds then involvement of pupils in an off-site local habitat resource will gain marks

Innovative ideas having impact on pupils understanding of environmental issues in the school grounds will gain marks

Use of Grounds for School Curriculum

Examples of pupil's work clearly showing the educational uses of the grounds will be sought.

We are already well on the way to achieving many of the standards, but would really like to make the school even more inviting, including aspects such as recycling and sustainability. The adventure playground has recently been overhauled, with rotten timbers replaced and wood treatments applied for preservation. The reception outdoor learning environment has been tidied up and we have had a team of litter pickers removing all the litter that has blown in over



the summer holidays. We have ordered some new bins, one of which will be placed at the front of school and a working group has been set up so in the near future, years 1 to 5 can be involved in an eco club on a Monday evening! We are also asking for any donations of bulbs so that each child in the school can plant their own ready for the Spring. We are also hoping to make some specific

wildlife areas, and are seeking any parents with carpentry skills so that we can make bird boxes!



If you can offer any bulbs, please send them in as soon as you can. If you do have any services to offer or if you have any ideas that could help and support us in achieving this award, (and as a result, having a lovely, educational environment surrounding us) please contact us using any of the methods shown below.

If you have any comments, concerns or questions - why don't you email us on our brand new address specifically for the 'Two Way Street'

Email address:

twowaystreet@st-johns.walsall.sch.uk

