

PILGRIMS POST

UP TO DATE NEWS FROM PILGRIMS PRE-PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ISSUE DATE: 7 MAY 2010

The children have all settled back into the summer term and despite the unseasonably chilly weather it is lovely to see them in their summer uniforms. They are all enjoying the freedom of the field at playtime and lunchtime and it is wonderful to see so much outdoor learning going on during the school day.



Staffing News

You have all had the official communication about me leaving Pilgrims at the end of the summer term. It was with mixed emotions that I decided to look for another Headship. I have had a wonderful 6 years as Headteacher at Pilgrims and it is a fantastic place to work, not least because of the people who I work with and the fantastic children. I shall be very sorry to leave but I know that the Governors are currently in the process of appointing a new Headteacher and Mrs Webster will do a stunning job as Acting Head during the autumn term. If anyone would like to buy a large renovation project on Bushmead Avenue please let me know!



We have two staff who are retiring at the end of the summer term. Sara Foss-Smith has been at Pilgrims since its foundation ten years ago and has taught children in Reception and Year One. She has held many roles including Science Coordinator, SENCo and Library Coordinator. Sue Holloway is also retiring. Sue worked at Walmsley House before moving to Pilgrims in 2000 and she has had a huge impact on the lives of the children she has worked with. Initially she ran the nursery and latterly she has worked as a Nursery Nurse in Reception. Both staff will be much missed and we hope that they will return again to help out with supply work.



I am delighted to tell you that Miss Goodwin's expanding waistline is due to her pregnancy and not the school lunches. Kim and Trevor are expecting their first child in September and we are all delighted with their news. Kim will start her maternity leave at the end of the summer term.

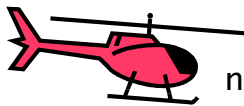


Jo Simons from Little Pilgrims and her partner Daniel are now the proud parents of a baby girl, Esmee, who was born on 26 April.

Harriet Ball will be leaving the Baby Room at the end of May to take up a position of Learning Director at Samuel Whitbread School.

Birthday Celebrations

Next week Pilgrims is celebrating its 10th Birthday and we have lots of activities planned throughout the week. Attached to the newsletter is a summary of events in Main School.



Children from Nursery upwards will be having their class photographs taken on Monday in front of a helicopter (weather permitting). Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing full summer uniform, including blazer, for the photograph. Girls should wear short school summer socks only please. On Wednesday children may come to school in their party clothes ready for the street party at lunchtime. There will be an opportunity for your child to have their face painted before the party. If you do **NOT** wish your child's face painted, please let their class teacher know. On Friday we are anticipating a large number of guests so please be patient when trying to park. If you are not planning to join your child at the school for the picnic lunch on Friday please inform their class teacher and please ensure you have ordered them a sandwich. Parents of children in Little Pilgrims will already have had separate information about their activities during the week.



Please may I remind parents to lock their car doors and keep valuables out of site when picking up and dropping off. We had an incident recently when someone was seen trying all the car




doors. He was seen off the premises quickly by Mr Frater. However, please remove temptation by concealing your belongings.

On the subject of parking, a grey BMW was damaged in the car park on 23rd April between 3.30pm and 3.40pm. If anyone witnessed the incident please speak to the ladies on school reception.

May I remind parents that children who are in school will be expected to swim unless they have broken limbs! If a cold is not bad enough to keep a child at home then they can swim.



 **Y**ou may recall that, for various reasons, we have had to postpone the Mind Mapping evening several times. It is now firmly back in the diary for Wednesday, 26th May. The evening starts at 7.30pm and is due to last around an hour. Please could you email school if you are intending to attend so that we can organise refreshments.

This half term will finish on 28th May with Grandparents' Afternoon. This was an exceptionally well attended event last year and I hope that we will have as many visitors again this year. The invitation is to all grandparents of children who are in nursery or older. Unfortunately only nursery children who are normally in on a Friday afternoon will be able to invite their grandparents. Further details of the afternoon will be sent out in a few weeks.



I hope to see many of you next week at the 10th birthday celebrations. Let's hope we have good weather!

Maxine Shaw
Headteacher

