

# Atwood Primary School Newsletter

Atwood Primary School, Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead, South Croydon CR2 9EE

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For absence reporting/lateness parents should call: 0800 072 6413

For important announcements call our emergency information line: 0870 141 7374 or check our website



[www.atwood.eu](http://www.atwood.eu)

Issue 06/10 - 28 April 2010

## Colston Court

Late on Saturday night there was a devastating fire that destroyed much of Colston Court, the homes for disabled residents situated next to our drive. The police are treating it as arson and have launched an appeal for witnesses. Details are on the poster in the display cabinet at the front of school.

## Jackie Cowie

Jackie's friends will now know that, sadly, she died on Wednesday morning, following her battle with cancer. All our thoughts are with the twins at school and with Jackie's mother. The funeral will be held this Friday (30th April) at 9.30am at Bandon Hill Cemetery, Plough Lane, Wallington SM6 8JQ.

Anyone is welcome, and the family are having flowers, or people might like to make a donation directly to St Christopher's Hospice.

## Parent Survey

It is vitally important that we continually strive to become even better as a school in what we do. In order to analyse where we are, identify areas of strength and areas of weakness, we seek the views of staff, pupils, parents, governors, and the wider community.

On this occasion we are asking parents how they feel the school is meeting the needs of their children and we have asked the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to produce a survey and analyse the results. Not only will we be able to know our strengths and weaknesses, we will be able to compare our results with the results of other similar schools in order to benchmark our school.

We are sampling a third of the school from Reception to Year 6. We have taken the 1st, 4th, 7th, 10th, etc. (every third child) on each class register. Therefore not every parent in school has received a questionnaire. If you did (last week), the deadline for its return is 14th May.

## Balls before/after school

We have a school rule that balls cannot be used before or after school (except for clubs). This is because when we last reviewed our 'playground rules' parents were concerned about them, and young children, being hit by balls.

If, before or after school, your child picks up a ball and begins playing with it, please would you remind them of this rule and ask them to put the ball away in one of the sheds.

## SATs

Most of you will have heard on the news that 'head teachers are boycotting SATs'. As a profession, we do not believe that a single set of data from tests carried out in a single week in Y6 accurately reflects a child's level of attainment. Furthermore £23 million is spent each year on SATs tests in England, and the reliability of the results is questionable. We have accurate and reliable teacher assessment that secondary schools use anyway. Similar tests have been abandoned at Key Stage 1 and 3 already, and there are no Y6 SATs in Wales or Scotland. None of us is against testing. The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has presented to the government a way forward, but at the moment there is no movement.

I met a number of Y6 parents this week to talk about the situation. However, on this occasion, I have decided that children in Y6 at this school will be taking the tests during SATs week.

There is much work to do to improve the testing situation over the next few years.

## Y5 - secondary schools

Year 5 parents should note that the open evening for Wilson's is on 29th June from 4pm - 9pm, the entrance exam is on 27th September, and applications can be made at any time between now and 1st September. Croydon High School's open evening is Wednesday 19th May, 6pm - 8.30pm. Scholarship applications deadline is 29th October and the examination is on Saturday 20th November.

[No school Monday - Bank Holiday]