



Have a great holiday

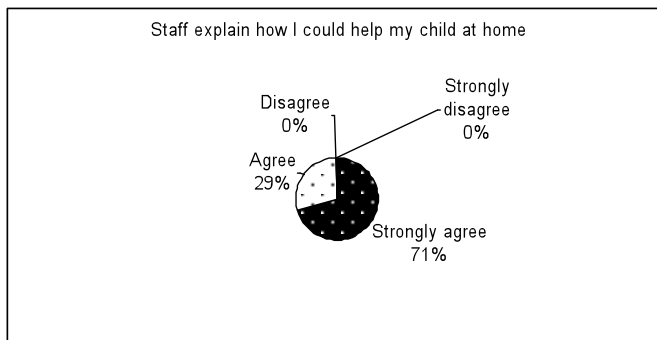
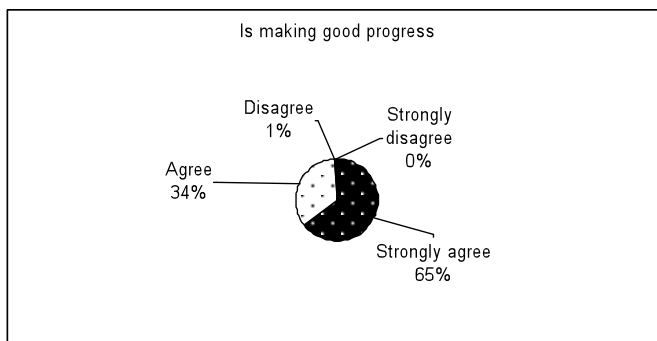
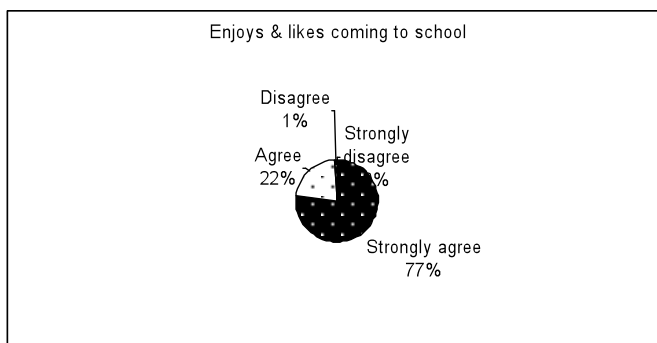
July
2009

TIDEMILL NEWSLETTER

www.tidemill.net

Parent Questionnaires

Once again, your comments and responses on the parents' questionnaires has given the school invaluable feedback about your feelings and views regarding Tidemill. As you can see below, there is a great deal to be celebrated! 77% of you "strongly agreed" that your child enjoyed and liked coming to school, 79% of you "strongly agreed" that the teaching was good and a gratifying 71% of you "strongly agreed" that staff explained how you could help your child at home. As parent/carers, the vast majority of you feel the school is managed and led well. Thank you to all the staff for your hard work and commitment.



There are some important results from the questionnaires that the parent governors would like to explore with you all over the coming academic year. A small percentage of you (8%) felt bullying was an issue and 216 of you expressed an interest in having even more information about attendance, punctuality, behaviour and interventions/support.

The parent governors held their first open coffee morning in May and this is something we would like to continue next year. These parent forums will give us the opportunity to hear your views and discuss these things with you further. Details will follow in September about the next parent forum. We look forward to seeing you there! Thank you for taking the time to complete these questionnaires!

Wendy Stanbury, Parent Governor

Congratulations!



This year Tidemill has taken part in two different programmes, the Graduate Teacher Programme and Teach First, both involving training people to become teachers.

All three participants, Josi Horne, Russell Morgan and Edward Wickstead, gained their Qualified Teacher Status. They have all worked hard this year and have passed with very high results both in their practical and written work.

This is reflected in many ways including the following highlights: Josi and Russell were both asked to speak at the Institute of Education about personalised learning and had very positive feedback and Ed has been involved in training teachers in several schools across London in the area of Modern Foreign Languages. I am pleased to say that all three teachers will continue at Tidemill Primary School as newly qualified teachers next year.

A thank-you also needs to go to their mentors for the excellent support they received: Alwyn Rees, Claire Bird, Harry King and Christian Ellis.

Lorraine Stewart

Congratulations to Year 2

Just a few weeks ago all the children in year 2 had to take a range of tests and teacher assessments to find their end of KS1 results.

I am very pleased to report that all the children have made progress ranging from slow and steady to excellent progress.

In reading 68% of children achieved level 2 and above, 63% in writing and a massive 84% in maths. We also had several children who achieved a level 3 in reading, writing or maths.

Well done to all of you.

Alwyn Rees

KS1 Phase Leader

Summer Term 2009

Inset Day: Monday 20th April

Tuesday 21st April - Friday 22nd May

(Spring Bank Holiday will be taken on 4th May)

Half Term: Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June - Wednesday 22nd July (1.15pm)

Autumn Term 2009

Inset Day: 3rd & 4th September

Monday 7th September - Friday 23rd October

Half Term: Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

Monday 2nd November - Friday 18th Dec (1.15pm)

Spring Term 2010

Inset Day: 4th January

Tuesday 5th January - Friday 12th February

Half Term: Monday 15th - Friday 19th February

Monday 22nd February - Thursday 1st April (1.15pm)

Summer Term 2010

Inset Day: 19th April

Tuesday 20th April - Friday 28th May

Half Term: Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

Monday 7th June - Friday 23rd July (1.15pm)



New Arrivals

I would like to welcome Isabelly Petzem Saofelice, who joined Apple Tree Class this term. We hope you have had a happy first few weeks at Tidemill.

We would all also like to say a huge Tidemill welcome to the following children who are joining us in September from Charlotte Turner:-

Lisa Turner



Religious Education helps children to have a greater understanding of themselves and of others by exploring different belief systems. It challenges pupils to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues. This helps them to have a sense of identity and belonging which in turn prepares children to be understanding and respectful of others.

This year, the Foundation Stage, as part of the Knowledge and Understanding of the World have organised workshops for Chinese New Year and Diwali. These workshops have proved popular with the parents. The children also took part in a very successful Nativity Play along with children in Year 1 and 2.

During the autumn term Year 1 and 2 visited St. Paul's (our local church). The children have been so enthused learning about RE that they have been bringing their prayer books, and other religious artefacts to show during assemblies. In October 2009 Key Stage 1 will be having a special Harvest Assembly. I would like to thank Mrs. Seloua Izeboudjane who demonstrated the importance of Wudu (preparation for prayers) during one of our assemblies.

Key Stage 2 have visited religious buildings which cover all the major faith groups. Their RE has been closely linked to other curriculum areas. Through discussions the children in Key Stage 2 have expressed how much they have enjoyed learning from religions.

Diana Grant, RE Leader



Trip to Natural History Museum

In June we took year 1 and 2 to the Natural History Museum. We attended a workshop called 'Green Leaves', this took place in the amazing wildlife garden at the Natural history Museum.

The children collected lots of different leaves so that they could keep a diary of the different species that they found. We also looked around the rest of the museum, which is very big. It was a fun day out for everybody.

Miss Robertson (Maple class)

Roll-over Day

On Monday children spent an hour and a half with their new teachers, teaching assistants and classmates. This is an important time and ensures that children are aware of the changes they will face in the new school year.

We were particularly pleased to see the many children that will be joining us from Charlotte Turner. This session was followed by a staff meeting where children's current teacher met with their new teacher to discuss important information about their new class to ensure the smoothest transition as possible.

Lorraine Stewart

Science Night Trip



On Friday 19th June some of Year 3 and 4 were lucky enough to go the Science Museum for a sleepover! Whilst we were there we took part in workshops and went on a fact-finding mission.

Before going to bed we made paper rockets to shoot into the solar system - the team which fired the most rockets into space won! When it was time to go to bed we set up our sleeping bags on the museum floor and went to sleep among the museum exhibits.

In the morning we got up and made our way to the IMAX cinema, where we put on our 3D glasses and watched an amazing film called 'Fly me to the Moon'. I had an excellent time!

Shane Hassan, Ebony class

Dads and Kites

On Wednesday 15th July a few of our Dads came in after school to build kites with their children. The children were really happy to work alongside their Dads/Grandads.



It was such an enjoyable event that I would like to do more of these type of workshops in the future. These sessions are open to all male carers, family friends and relatives, so please let me know if you would like to take part and if you have any ideas of other fun activities.

Lisa Turner

Spectacular Science

Just because you're out of school it doesn't mean your science adventures have to end. There are hundreds of places where you can find out more about the wonders of science, places to visit, websites full of WOWS!

Take a look at some of the fantastic activities in and around the Lewisham area. There are also plenty of things to do at home. Try out some of the experiments or have fun completing the online activities.

<http://webfronter.com/lewisham/science/>

Elaine Pinnock

Rainforest Day

On Wednesday the 8th of July 2009, year 3 and 4 had a Rainforest Day to wrap up their topic work on rainforests.

All the students had to be in groups and they all got to do 3 activities. The activities for them to choose from were tie-dye, yoga, drumming, dancing, singing, and smoothie making.

In the afternoon the students watched Ebony's fantastic play and then they had a disco to celebrate the end of rainforest day. It was a great success and all of the students enjoyed themselves!

Muna Sharif (year 4 student)

DLR Safety Talk



All of our Key Stage 2 children enjoyed a visit from Dennis from the Docklands Light Railway this term. He gave a lively talk in assembly, explaining the meanings of different signs we see around us that help us stay safe. He gave us useful advice of how to stay safe when using the railways and shared some of his local history knowledge with us.

Mr Ellis

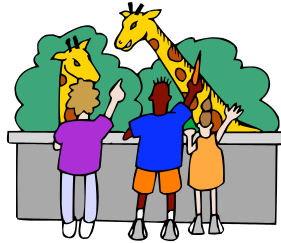
**Remember
School re-opens at 9am on Monday 7th
September. Don't be late!**

Staying at home

Many pupils are fortunate enough to attend school journey which is an extremely valuable learning experience. Due to various circumstances each year there are a number of pupils that can not attend the trip and each the year the school arranges as many learning opportunities outside of school as possible at as little cost as possible.

This is how we spent our week this year:

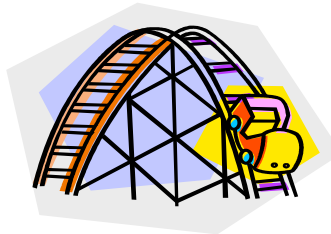
Monday: We spent all of Monday in Greenwich Park. In the morning we enjoyed the playground and participating in sporting activities. In the afternoon we split up into teams and did some competitive orienteering organised brilliantly by Miss Rosemond. Jack (learning mentor) and his team led by Jhefrey were the winners. Well done!



Tuesday: We travelled to London zoo where the children explored animals that they wanted to see. The purpose of the trip was to learn about animals from all around the world as well as examine the importance of zoological conservation and the living conditions of the animals. Not only did we spot lovely animals but celebrities too as also spotted Britney Spears enjoying the zoo with her children.

Wednesday: A short trip this time to Mudchute Farm. Here we explored the farm meeting and greeting the animals around the farm. Most of the animals were friendly although a group of year 6 boys did get too close to a baby cow and were chased of by the mum! After visiting the farm we discussed why we have city farms. I shared my countryside farm experiences. When returned too school the pupils compared the living conditions of the zoo and farm animals and spent time learning about their favourite animal from the two trips.

Thursday: Finally our big trip of the week had arrived! Chessington World of Adventures here we come! After an hour on the train we arrived at Chessington. First we went to a brilliant talk by Sue McCormack the education officer at Chessington who showed us great presentation about mechanisms using the rides at Chessington as models. Where Abdul showed us his amazing potential as an engineer! After the talk we split up into groups and went to experience the rides for ourselves!!



Friday: We stayed in school and put into practice what we learnt at Chessington by trying our best to design and make models of rides.

It was a fantastic week and all of the children behaved beautifully and were great ambassadors for Tidemill. I would just like to say a big thank you to all of the teachers, teachings assistants and parents that helped out with these trips!

Miss Siu

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS REPORT (01/09/2008-10/07/2009)

Class	Attendance	On Time	Late	Authorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence
Cherry	92.8	91.1	1.7	4.9	2.3
Plum	94.3	91.9	12.4	5.1	0.6
Maple	95.9	94.2	1.6	3.5	0.6
Chestnut	96.2	94.4	1.8	2.6	1.2
Magnolia	96.1	94.5	1.7	3.1	0.7
Apple Tree	94.8	93.0	1.7	4.1	1.2
Spruce	96.2	95.8	0.4	3.1	0.7
Ebony	95.2	94.5	0.8	4.3	0.5
Oak	95.4	94.4	1.0	3.6	1.0
Tamarind	96.1	95.3	0.8	3.0	0.8
Mimosa	94.6	93.1	1.5	4.4	1.1
Bonsai	94.4	93.1	1.3	4.8	0.9
TOTALS	95.22	93.8	1.35	3.8	0.95

These are the percentages for the school year Sept 2008- July 2009.

Well done to all classes who scored higher than our 96% target (in bold).

The only absences that are authorized are when your child/ren are unwell, at medical appointment or certain religious occasions. All other absences are registered as unauthorized including any holidays or extended sickness without medical proof.

Lisa Turner

Parenting Group

Approximately ten Mums attended a ten week course hosted by Welcare. The parents reported that they gained a lot from the course and would recommend others taking part in future groups.

Lisa Turner

100% Attendance Award



A huge well done to the 18 children who managed to achieve 100% attendance for this school year. We awarded them all a ten pounds book token and went along to Waterstone's Bookstore in Greenwich. All the children behaved beautifully and enjoyed selecting books of their choice.

Lisa Turner.

How Sweet...



Congratulations to Rachel Bower, Assistant Head, who gave birth to a baby girl on 28th of June.

Thank-you to all of the children who suggested names for Ms Bower's baby, she decided on Daisy Anne.

The whole family are doing well and Daisy's big sister is even helping with the nappy changing!

Lorraine Stewart

Outstanding Teacher Programme

This term Mr. King, Miss Rosemond and Miss Flynn participated in the Outstanding Teacher Programme at Ravenswood School in Bromley. The course challenged the teachers to reflect on their practice and provided them with the opportunity to observe outstanding instruction in another school setting.

Part of the course focused on providing the teachers with skills required to become effective coaches. This will enable Mr. King, Miss Rosemond and Miss Flynn to work with teachers from Tidemill and from other schools on improving their classroom instruction. All three teachers are excited to be able to apply their newly acquired skills in the coming school year.

Lorraine Stewart

Year 5/6 passport trip

As a reward for excellent behaviour all term, year 5/6 went on a fabulous trip to watch "Night at the Museum 2".



Everyone thought the film was hilarious and we all had a wonderful time.

We feel passport trips help us behave better in school because we know we'll be rewarded for our good behaviour.

Night at the museum 2 is a great film and I would definitely love to watch it again. I would recommend this film to everyone.

Rosie Stanbury

Vacancies for General assistants, and casual staff



Pabulum our catering contractors are looking for staff who would like to join their team in the coming September term, we will possibly have vacancies for lunchtime general assistants, and casual staff who would be interested in working with a nil hours contract, and would be phoned on the day to cover sickness of staff. These posts may suit someone whose child is just starting school, or nursery. As well as being rewarding serving the children with a balanced meal, they would be part of a busy versatile team and would suit someone needing a route back into the workplace.

All candidates would be trained to the company standard, and need to have a full criminal disclosure. All aspect of their duties would be in the busy environments of a flourishing school kitchen, therefore they will need to be flexible in their approach to the job. With a possibility of changing to a full time contract, as and when vacancies appear in our units in Deptford and the Lewisham area.

Tracey Simmons, Pabulum Area Manager

Year 3 & 4 visit to Kew Gardens



A cannonball fruit!

The sun shone and we headed to Kew Gardens to find out more about our topic on Rainforests. Kew Gardens has beautiful plants from all around the world. We visited a huge and humid greenhouse called The Palm House, which contained hundreds of plants and types of fruit from the rainforest. Some of the trees were really tall and had massive drip-tip leaves. We were able to walk up some steep stairs to see the different layers of the rainforest. We also climbed to the top of the recently opened Tree-top Walkway which was really scary. It allowed us to walk high above the trees and see the world through the eyes of animals who live in trees.

We enjoyed lunch by a beautiful lake and Daniel bravely rescued his sandwich back from a gaggle of geese.

Ruth and Iieoma - Spruce

Holiday Play Scheme

Schoolfriendetc will be running a holiday play scheme here at Tidemill for 4 weeks from Monday 27th July. They have some fantastic trips and activities lined up - please see the attached schedule.

You can book your children in for odd days here and there to give them some fun activities to break up the holidays or you can book them in for particular days to tie in with work shifts. There are no registration fees to pay and the club costs £15.00 per day. To make it easier for parents, you can even pay on the day.

Becki, schoolfriendetc

Improving Teacher Programme

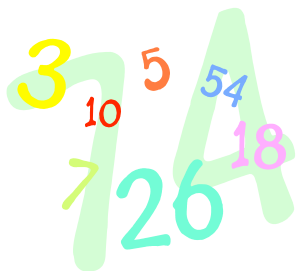
During the Summer term Claire Bird and I facilitated the *Improving Teaching Programme*. The course was for teachers across London. Feedback was excellent and has made a real impact on teaching and learning beyond our own school. The participating teachers were involved in many activities designed to enhance their teaching including regular observations of our teachers. This proved to be a highlight of their experience.

A huge thanks goes to all of the Tidemill team for their part in improving the education of children throughout London.

Next term, Michelle Rosemond, Christian Ellis and I will run the *ITP* as well as the *Outstanding Teacher Programme*.

Lorraine Stewart

Springboard.



This half term I have been on a refresher course for the Springboard maths intervention programme.

This intervention allows children to spend extra time in small groups developing their confidence and knowledge of given numeracy tasks. This now gives us the resources to carry out Springboard on a regular basis across KS 2.

Amanda Fredrickson

Sports Day Report



Our P.E. and Sports calendar ended with a wonderful Sports Day on Thursday 16th July. The Key Stage two children went to Ladywell arena while the Key Stage one and Foundation Stage children stayed in school. It all started with the Key Stage two children leaving school between 9:15 and 9:25. On arrival, the children sat in their year groups were given instructions, as to the events that they would be competing in. Each child competed for his/her house; Yellow, Red, Blue or Green.

Being fortunate that the weather was good, the children went off to compete in events such as Water Relays, Sprints, Seated Ball Throw and Long Jump. After some fantastic performances and the completion of these events by all four year groups, we broke for lunch.

After lunch, we had the sprint finals, 300 metres, relays and open races for parents and teachers. When each event was completed, the first, second and third place finishers were given gold, silver and bronze ribbons, respectively, and points were awarded to the houses. The years five and six children who didn't compete in the sprint finals were give the option of competing in the 300m races. It was great to see the stamina of the runners over such a long distance.

On completion of all the events, the points were totalled. The winners were Red house with 118 points. Last year's champions, Yellow house, had to settle for second place. Green house came third, with Blue house fourth. However, all the children should be proud of the commitment that they showed.

It was a pleasure being at the arena to witness the brilliant effort put in by all the children. Well done to all of them for trying very hard. We were lucky to see some very talented performers. We may have witnessed the beginning of stardom, based on the talent that was on show.

Thanks to the whole staff for doing such a magnificent job in ensuring that everything went smoothly. Thanks to the parents came and supported their children, helped with their safety and helped with the events. Special thanks to Miss Rosemond for her great help and support. Also, to past students, Thu and Patience, for doing so much in helping to get everything ready.

Some very important things that were evident were how well Tidemill School can behave when they go out, the enthusiasm they participate with and the sportsmanship that they show.

Courtney

Mar-great!



On Tuesday 14th July 2009 KS1 enjoyed a trip to Margate. We had a relaxing coach journey to the south east coast, and enjoyed a few sing songs and spotted some farm animals on the way. After asking "are we nearly there yet?" nearly every ten minutes, the children could not contain their excitement when they caught a glimpse of the sea in the distance!

Even though it rained at the start of the journey, we had our fingers crossed for good weather and we definitely brought the sun to Margate. It was a beautiful warm and sunny day.

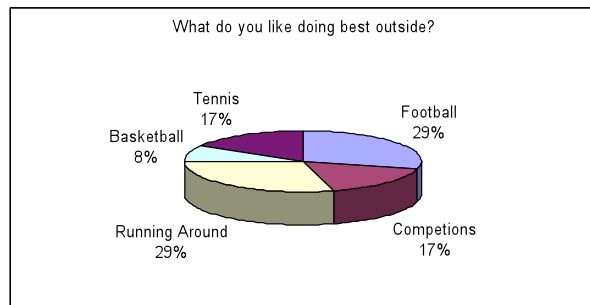
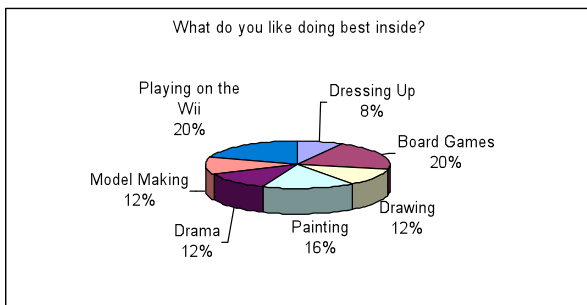
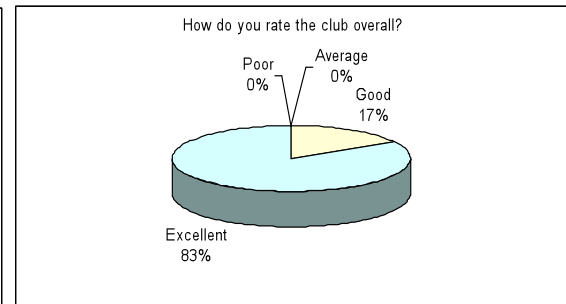
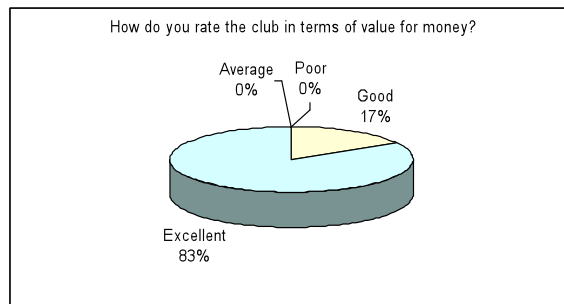
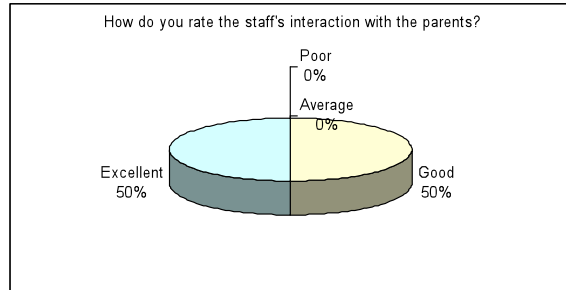
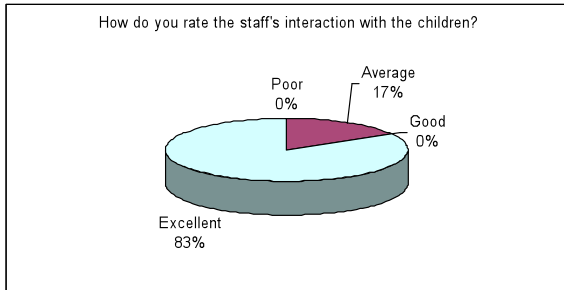
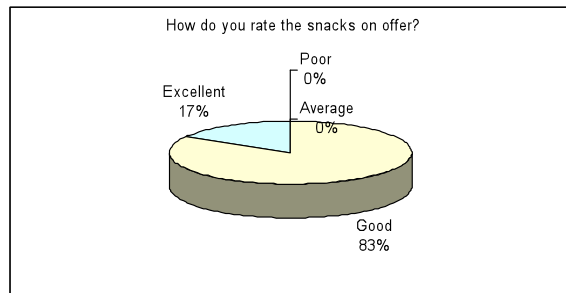
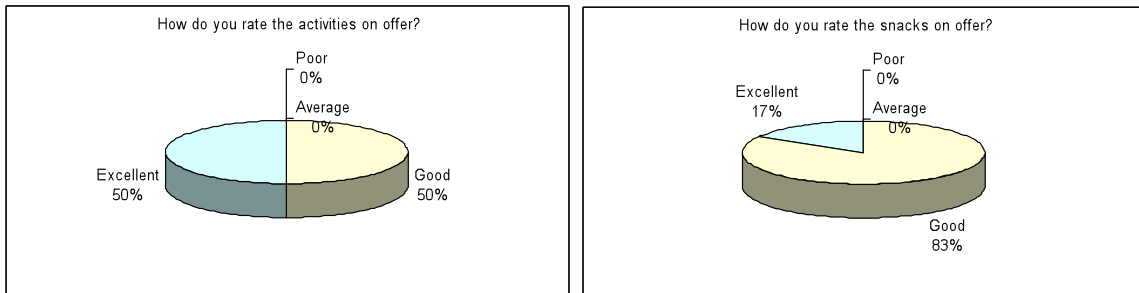
We all enjoyed feeling the warm golden sand between our toes and hurried down to the sea and had a little paddle in the ice cold waters. The sandcastle building competition was a real highlight of the day. There were so many brilliant entrants that it was difficult to find two winners but we got there in the end.

Playing beach games like Frisbee and cricket kept smiles on faces! I didn't think catching a Frisbee could be so difficult and so much fun! The day's activities had obviously taken their toll on the children, so the coach journey back to school was a very quiet and peaceful one.

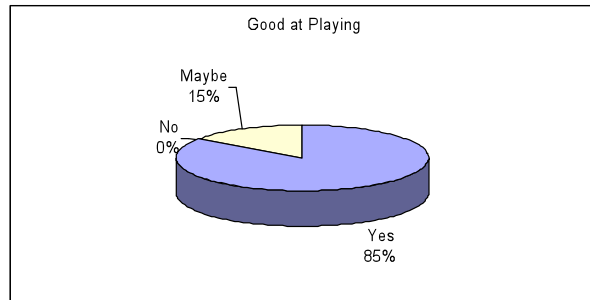
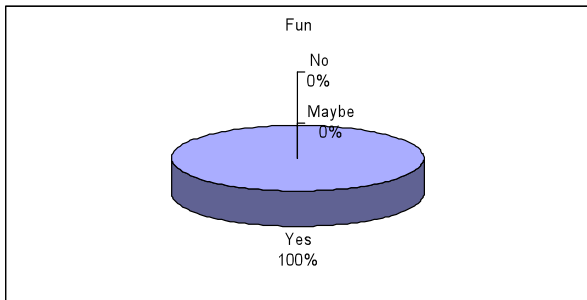
Aisha Grant - Apple Tree Class.

After School Club - Feedback from First Term

We met today with Amanda, Stephen and Becki from schoolfriendetc (our breakfast, after school club and holiday play scheme provider) to discuss how everything has gone in the first term. Feedback we have had from parents and children has been excellent:-



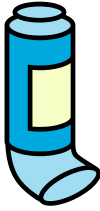
What do you think of the play staff?



Parents Meeting - Wednesday 7th October at 6pm

Both schoolfriendetc and the school are keen to get more input from parents and find out from them what has been going well and other ideas. We would therefore like to invite parents (both parents who use the service now and those who are thinking about using it) to an inaugural "Schoolfriendetc" meeting on Wednesday 7th October at 6pm. There will be refreshments and things for the children to do, although we would love their feedback as well if they want to join in! We hope to see you there....

Medication - being sent home, please check, clean and return



If your child has medication in school it will have been sent home with them today for you to check expiry dates and clean / replace where necessary. A consent form will also have been given to your child to bring home which we need you to complete and return with the medication on Monday 7th September when we return. This consent form is important as it gives us the authority to administer the medication on your behalf and also stipulates the allowed dosage and at what point we need to contact you.

Rachel Delacy-Taylor

5/6 Tate Britain



Year 5 and 6 went on an exciting trip to the Tate Britain Art Gallery. The reason we went on this trip was to see how artists drew water and other objects.

In the gallery we saw the J.M.W. Turner exhibition. One of his pieces included a painting of a party by the Thames. It gave us some great ideas of how you draw or paint water. We all really enjoyed the trip and found that it really helped us with our art lessons.

Joseph Palin

New Senior Admin Officer

Some of you will have seen a new face in the office this week.

Elaine Pinnock is our new Senior Admin Officer . She has joined us from the world-renowned University of Manchester where she worked as an HR Advisor and brings with her a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience.

Elaine is currently working towards a certificate in School Business Management which she hopes to complete in the very near future. Please join us in welcoming her to Tidemill.

Rachel Delacy-Taylor

The Forest



This term the whole school worked together to produce art work for an exhibition called 'the forest'

All the pupils at Tidemill made something in this exhibition; each and every one of them worked hard to produce an artwork for the show.

Reception children made massive bugs and creepy crawlies, year 1+2 have build two metre high trees and made animations of growing seeds, year 3+4 have produced amazing tribally decorated rainforest leaves and year 5+6 pupils have painted a transparent river.

Throughout the school pupils have been learning about growing and changes, creepy crawlies, bio-diversity, de-forestation and our affect on our environment. All of their artworks will combine to build an immersive installation; a forest full of creatures, plants growing, sounds of the rainforest and little child like creatures exploring each others artworks.

The exhibition was a huge success, all the kids visited the show and had a look about 'the forest' and on Parents evening 100 children and their parents visited the gallery to see the show.



Jack

Inspire Workshops

Inspire Workshops were such a success this year because of all the parent and carer support and involvement, a big thank you to you all. We had great feedback and hope to use this to make the workshops even more appropriate and successful next year.

A big thank you to all the teachers who put in such a fabulous effort but especially Diana Grant who has been in charge of the Inspire Workshops this year, I hope that I can follow in her footsteps next year.

The first workshops for the new academic year will focus on welcoming you and introducing you to staff in your child's team. We will also go over the behavioural expectations for the children, PE days and other specialist lessons and the structure of the Year Level your child is heading into. Please find below the dates for these workshops.

Year 3/4

Wednesday 16th September 2009

Year 1/2

Thursday 17th September 2009

Year 5/6

Friday 18th September 2009

The Early Years Foundation Stage will also hold an Inspire Workshop but we will let you know these dates when new Nursery and Reception Children have settled into their school routines. We will be looking at promoting parental involvement at home and how this can link to their school foundation profiles.

Thank you again and have a safe and happy holiday.

Sally Meyers

Swine Flu

Over the past 2 weeks, we have had a number of children who have been given Tamiflu following a potential diagnosis of swine flu. In most cases, children have only had mild symptoms and have been able to return to school after they have been symptom free for 2 days. It appears that in some cases, the Tamiflu medication has caused side effects including nausea which has been making some of the children receiving it feel quite unwell but this doesn't seem to have been the case for everybody.

As the spread of the virus has gathered pace, the advice has changed considerably and schools have no longer been asked to close. However, the feeling is that the summer holidays have come at exactly the right time and there have been discussions about schools being asked to stay closed in September in an attempt to halt the pandemic. Whilst this seems unlikely, if we do receive any notifications during the holiday (or even if we receive warnings that this is a more than a possibility), we will obviously make contact with parents by email and text to keep you informed.

The government are about to launch a new website which parents may like to check during the holidays which will be giving out the latest information and advice. Please listen out for radio and television announcements. In the meantime, please do check http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Swineflu/DG_177831 if you have any concerns or want advice on how to protect your family during the holiday.

Rachel Delacy-Taylor

Sounds-Write.

Throughout this term Mrs Diedrick and I have attended a five day course to enable us to improve the way the Sounds-Write interventions are delivered in KS 2.

This was a very intense and involved course which provided invaluable guidance and resources. This now means that we are able provide more effective support to those children involved in the Sounds-Write programme.

Amanda Fredrickson

Year 5/6 Thames Barrier Trip



All the year 5/6 had a fabulous opportunity to learn about the amazing Thames Barrier. This trip helped us develop our understanding about our topic, Rivers.

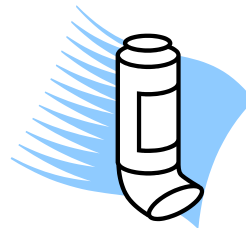
We learnt that the Thames Barrier has big gates which close when the tide is high. These big gates stop London from flooding and protect our way of life.

We also learnt that the Thames Barrier helps people with transportation. We had a wonderful time and learnt a lot.

Annie

Reminder to Parents - Asthma can

Even if your child has not had an asthma attack since their were diagnosed as a baby, it is still important that we have an asthma pump for them in school.



If they do start to have an attack, we need to give them their inhaler as quickly as possible and cannot wait for you to get home, find the old (probably out of date!) medication you have and bring it into school. Having been through this recently with my own son and finding out that all my out of date medication wasn't having any effect, I cannot stress how important this is.

Please do use the time during the summer holiday to visit your doctor and get a prescription so you can bring in an inhaler for us and sign the consent forms when we return in September.

Rachel Delacy-Taylor

Thank You

There are 3 people that we need to say a huge thank you to. Patience, Thu and Jide are former pupils from Tidemill who have been helping out over the past few weeks and they have been absolute stars. They have been running around helping out and have coped admirably with all the challenges and stresses of the end of term. We have asked them to give us a short write-up about their experiences!

Jide

I recently furthered my education at Christ The King Sixth Form College and have just finished my A levels and currently waiting to study Physiotherapy at Kings College London.

Coming back to Tidemill Primary as a temporary member of staff, has been challenging but a fantastic once in a life time experience as I have had the rare opportunity to see and work alongside old teachers of mine. This experience has been expedient as I have had the chance to build new relationships.

Thu

As I have just finished studying for my GCSE's and am currently waiting for my results, I thought it would be worthwhile to earn a little bit extra pocket money and help Tidemill get through their last few weeks.

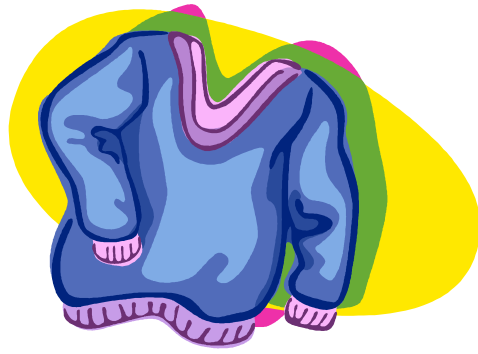
With the help of my good old friend Patience, I got a temporary job working in the office at Tidemill and ever since then I have been very busy. Although I have been tired, it has been a worthwhile experience and I have enjoyed it thoroughly.

Patience has been too busy looking after Year 6 to write us something for the newsletter but I hope she has enjoyed her time with us as much as we have enjoyed her being here.

Thank you!

Mark Elms

Uniform



The office will be open on Thursday 4th September between 9am and 2pm for parents who would like to buy uniform. In response to the parent feedback we received on the end of year questionnaires, we are hoping to launch an online ordering service early in the new term. We will keep you posted.

Rachel Delacy-Taylor

London Central Mosque



Our trip to the London Central Mosque earlier this term was very interesting. We were given a tour by Omar and he showed us around the mosque and explained to us the five pillars of Islam. We went inside the Prayer Room where we had to take our shoes off in order to keep the carpet clean and as a mark of respect to the Islam faith.

The decor within the Prayer Room was stunning. After visiting the mosque we went to Regents Park for lunch where we played parachute games and saw lots of ducks and geese. We had a fantastic day out and would recommend this trip to anyone.

Kishana and Jenia (adapted by Mr. Wickstead)

Music Update



It has been a busy half term for Tidemill's musicians. Well done to all the clarinet and saxophone players who performed to the whole school beautifully in assembly. Some of these brave children also enjoyed playing in Mountsfield Park, at Lewisham People's Day in a Lewisham Borough band. There will be a few spaces becoming available for group clarinet and saxophone lessons in September.

Our Parent and Carer Steelpan Band performed at Lewisham Borough's first Steel Pans Festival at Deptford Green School. They were fantastic! Thank you to all involved, especially our talented Steelpan tutor and parent, Desrine. We hope to keep this band running next year and would love new members, all are welcome. This band takes place on Tuesday after school from 3.45 - 4.45pm.

Mr Ellis
Music Subject Leader

What is Makaton?

Some nursery parents may have noticed their child has been learning to sign certain words or phrases this term. As part of my involvement in the Every Child a Talker project I have been fortunate to receive Makaton training and have started to teach the children in the nursery how to sign.

Makaton is a very simple language based on a list of everyday words, which uses speech, gesture, facial expression, eye contact, body language, signs, symbols and words to aid communication.

For example, if you wanted to ask a child if they would like a drink - you would sign the word drink, asking the question at the same time, raising your eyebrows in a questioning look. Alternatively you could show a simple picture (a symbol of a drink) and ask the question.

If you had a child who couldn't express what he/she would like to do, perhaps they could choose a symbol to show what they wanted, from a limited choice. These same symbols could be displayed around the setting - to reinforce their meaning.

Children who have difficulty understanding and speaking will often become frustrated or withdrawn. They may communicate this through unacceptable behaviours such as screaming. By using Makaton, we are helping children to communicate in a more acceptable way.

Additional staff members are being trained to use Makaton in the classroom and with research indicating that gesture / signs promote and stimulate speech development, we are committed to further improving the provision available to the children at Tidemill so they can achieve their full potential.

You can find out more about Makaton through its official website www.makaton.org

Michelle Dawe

New school visits

Christian Ellis, Paul Doherty (community governor), Ben Parker (our ICT technician) and I went to visit two new secondary schools (Catford High and Forest Hill Boys) recently to get a feel for how their new ICT provision was working. The Lewisham ICT team have been trail-blazing on their Building Schools for the Future programme and have won a number of awards. They are planning to use the same level specification for our new school, although it needs to be adapted slightly for a primary school.

Forest Hill Boys was especially interesting as they have been in their new building now for a year and have ironed out the inevitable teething problems. The "category n" wireless network is working brilliantly and they are using "sharepoint" to give parents secure access to information on how their children are getting on and their attendance. Homework is being set and completed online using Fronter, which is the same managed learning environment we are starting to use in school. The school also has the capacity to be able to do web-based lessons, with teachers doing tutor groups with the pupils joining the lessons from home. They also have visualisers in all classes which allow teachers to display digital images of children's work on the screen, to show close-ups of science experiments without the children all having to crowd around the teacher or to even manipulate and dissect 3D images.

What is not clear, at the moment, is how this would all be funded! Secondary schools have huge budgets so they can afford to pay for the "managed service" that is being proposed by Lewisham where they have technicians on site all the time to deal with any faults and problems. They can also afford to have a rolling programme of replacing laptop batteries every 2 years and replacing all computer equipment every 4 years - a cost that would be completely prohibitive for a primary school.

The visit reassured us completely about the stability and safety of the new wireless networks and the battery life of the new laptops, but we now need to have robust conversations about money with the ICT team at Lewisham to see how their vision translates into a primary school setting.

Embracing new challenges to the Digital Curriculum: ICT Conference

This half-term Lewisham primary schools ICT Subject Leader met to discuss what is happening in our schools and look at how we are helping our children's learning through the use of ICT. We were shown the latest technologies that will soon be available to use in our classrooms and given the opportunity to talk to other experts. E-Saftey was high on the conference's agenda and Tidemill has developed a strong E-Saftey policy. Tidemill is one of the few primary schools in Lewisham who have started using the learning platform Fronter and during the day experts shared how it can be used to enhance all children's learning. I look forward to taking over the role of ICT Subject Leader next year and thank Kris Clark For all his hard work over the last few years ensuring Tidemill is leading the way with ICT.

Mr Ellis

School Journey

Well, the 2009 School Journey has finally come and gone and what a week it was for both the students and the staff!

We left school very excited and full of energy on the Monday morning and after a long journey involving three trains, one tube and a coach journey we finally arrive at St. Georges House in Devon late afternoon. Bags dumped, the children (and a couple of the staff!) could not wait to get down to the beach to have a dip and play some games on the sand.

The next three days were spent kayaking, canoeing, surfing, mountain biking, abseiling, rock climbing, doing archery and an eight mile trek up and down the hills around Lynmouth and Lynton in the pouring rain.

All of the children attempted every activity and a lot of them overcame their tears and fears by taking these challenges head on and succeeding.

On Thursday we had a great night with a Barbeque and gave all the children a chance to show off their talents in the talent competition. We had no idea we had such a talented bunch of children with us ranging from George's rap to Vanessa's hilarious 'Britains Got Talent' montage that had everyone in stitches! Even the staff got involved with Mr Elms doing a perfect handstand (on his third attempt!) All in all it was a fantastic week and all the staff who went would like to say a huge thanks to all of the children who came and made it such a success!

BRING ON SCHOOL JOURNEY 2010!!!