

Dear Parents

The **School Fair** starts at 12 noon on the 14th. The previous day (Friday the 13th!) is non-uniform in return for a bottle or tin which can be put in the hall before the children go into the playground in the morning. Please remember the “**jumble bags**” which need to be returned to us by the 17th June.

There has been a good response for **school dinners**, which means that we are going to go ahead (subject to tenders) and build a new kitchen in the summer. It is hoped that we will be operational early in the new term... within the first week or so. Thank you for the support.

Child care gets even more interesting and seems to change daily. We are extremely confident something will be in place as planned, and there are even very strong rumours that we may be able to have a new building. I'll keep you in touch as things develop.

Pam Gooding, who has worked with us in school for over twelve years, has unfortunately had to stop coming in to school for personal reasons. The children will certainly miss her as will we.

Good news! For many years now (as some may remember) we have fought the closure of the **resource base** and particularly its funding mechanism. The local authority has agreed that there is now no longer any issue over its future (although the others closed) and has renewed its commitment to what is the only fully integrated (and dare I say, extremely successful) primary base in Somerset. This is marvellous news after three or four years of fighting for its survival and is something which is of benefit to all pupils.

Forgive me a pointed comment about **swimming donations**. I have recently been informed that there is some talk “at the school gate” by a parent trying to encourage others not to donate to swimming lessons next year. The school only ever asks for voluntary donations, but as we are given no budget for school trips or swimming by the government we have to rely on these voluntary payments coming in. Parents are of course free to choose whether or not to donate, but if we don't get the money the activities would cease. Swimming is extremely expensive as it includes transport, tuition and entry fees, and we never cover the costs. However if we lose one year's donation for five children this is the equivalent of the whole school's “class curriculum” budget for the year! I then have to take the money from other parts of the curriculum which affects all pupils. If you find it difficult to pay please see me in confidence; that is not a problem. If you don't wish to pay that is your right, but please don't encourage others because swimming could then cease as a result.

Unfortunately due to lack of interest the two day cycling awareness course has been cancelled.

Finally a big thank you yet again to Mr and Mrs Amor for the wonderful tubs of flowers around the school.

Neil Dalton