



## High Spen Primary School Newsletter

8<sup>th</sup> February 2013



### Valentine's Disco

Not long now - remember our annual Valentine's Disco is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

The EYFS/KS1 disco runs from 5:00 until 6:15pm EYFS children are very welcome but must be accompanied by a parent.

The KS2 disco runs from 6:30 until 8:00pm. It will be pitch black long before the end of the KS2 disco so most children tend to be collected. If you are expecting to walk home alone you **MUST** bring a note from home to explain this.

Entry costs £1 (you can pay on the door). Hot dogs and Halloween cupcakes will be on sale at 50p . Juice is free all evening, and glow sticks are available to buy for 20p each.

### Burrell Begg!

Hello my lovely friends! I am at home recovering and thinking about after half term. When I return F.W.D.'s topic will be 'Cars and Karts.' I vaguely remember promising that we could build a go-kart using pram wheels, boxes, wood etc. So.... I am looking for....

1. Able Dads, Grandads, Mums etc who know how to do this
2. Pram/small bike wheels and other components
3. Did I say someone who knows how to do it?

I hope we can find some willing victims... I mean volunteers to help.

I look forward to seeing you after half term.

Mrs Burrell

### Eco-topic (Some things are worth mentioning TWICE!)

Children (and staff) from Reception up to Y6 have been enjoying our Eco-topic this half term and hopefully they have amazed you with some of the fascinating, and perhaps frightening facts, that they have learned. Next week we have a couple of celebrations to look forward to:

#### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February - Open morning**

From 9am, parents of these children will be able to visit classrooms to see just what children have been getting up to. Parents and children will also be able to visit the other classrooms around school to see what wonderful delights have been going on. Each classroom will be showcasing what they have been doing, along with providing some interactive activities which means that younger siblings are more than welcome to join us.

At 10am, there will be a mini-theatre production led by Class TY. This production has been a joint project between Melanie Howd and Class TY and has taken place in only 6 weeks (aahh!). The children have had a massive input themselves: writing the scripts, creating the costumes, sound effects, advertising and much more. It promises to be an entertaining way to learn about looking after our environment. **Please make sure you have let the School Office know if you are coming to join us.**

#### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Green Day**

We would like to celebrate the last day of our 'green' topic by inviting everyone in school to wear something green (or everything green!) on this day. There is no charge for this and we certainly don't expect people to buy clothes for this event. If you don't own many green clothes, you are more than welcome to make accessories such as hats, wristbands etc or if you really want to get into the spirit you could make a costume out of reusable items. Whatever takes your fancy - it is all just for fun!

## **Kite Watch**

Friends of Red Kites have informed us that our local Red Kites are now starting to pair up for the breeding season. So get outside, look up and watch out for pairs of Red Kites flying about together.

If you are lucky enough to spot any, then please report where you have seen these kites hanging out by adding a comment to the school website. This information really helps the Friends of Red Kite Volunteers to monitor what is going on in our area. If you are interested in finding out what else has been going on, then click on the Red Kite newsletter which is now available on our school website.

## **A Message from Ben the Bike It Officer**



High Spen are taking part in the Big Pedal 2013!

### **What is the Big Pedal?**

The Big Pedal is a giant inter-school cycling competition happening in schools all across the UK from 28 February to 20 March 2013. It's powered by UK charity Sustrans ([www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)) and funded by the Bike Hub ([www.bikehub.co.uk](http://www.bikehub.co.uk)).

It's totally FREE to enter and we'd love parents, pupils and staff to all get involved!

The Big Pedal works a bit like the Tour de France. Each day is a new stage taking pupils who cycle or scoot their usual journey to and from school on an imaginary route all around the UK. Schools record how many pupils, parents and staff cycle and scoot to school each day and the more that do, the faster their time will be for that stage. The winning school is the school that completes the whole race in the fastest overall time.

### **Let's all get involved**

The more of us that take part, the better we will do in the competition and the higher our chances of winning some brilliant prizes, not to mention the health benefits for everyone. Another bonus will be less congestion around the school gates during rush hour!

### **What to do**

The best thing you can do is encourage your child(ren) to cycle or scoot to school every day during the race, and to join them in doing so.

### **Why we're taking part**

We think it's a fantastic way to promote healthy travel in our school and to get more pupils riding their bikes. What's more it's a fun, sociable way to start the day and we'll be competing to become one of the UK's top cycling schools!

### **Great prizes too!**

There are some brilliant prizes up for grabs for our school this year including cycle storage from Cyclepods and Acer Engineering, as well as bike stunt shows from Team M.A.D., the UK's No. 1 mountain bike display team, and professional BMX freestyler Matti Hemmings. Ski and snowboarding clothing company Dare 2b are also donating a number of yellow jerseys. There are separate categories for small primaries, large primaries and secondaries, so there are lots of opportunities to win prizes both nationally and within England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland!

### **More information**

For more information about the Big Pedal and to keep track of how we're doing during the competition, visit the Big Pedal website: [www.bigpedal.org.uk](http://www.bigpedal.org.uk).

Please get in touch if you have any questions about the Big Pedal.

Enjoy the ride!

Ben