# Holy Name Beavers - newsletter Autumn Term 2011

# Dear all

# We are now well into the Autumn Term and this week we welcome three new ‘kits’ (young beavers), with three of our longstanding beavers having moved to cubs last week.

# This year, in addition to me (Homake), the leaders are Peter Maris (Mohkave), Rose Oliver (Tokala) with Jillian Rooney, Liz Hopkinson and Vicky Harte having started as Assistant Beaver Leaders. In addition Grace Oliver is a Young Leader and we welcome other post 14 year olds who are often in scouting or guiding already to help out as Young Leaders. At present we have Ellie Barrass and Maria Burns. The adults in the group have responsibility for the welfare of the Young Leaders and therefore we need to ensure that each week we have sufficient parent helpers to maintain effective ratios overall.

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# I gave out a programme for the term last week which is now on the website: [http://www.ourladyofkirkstall.org.uk/beavers](%20http%3A//www.ourladyofkirkstall.org.uk/beavers)

# which is based around the ‘Creative Challenge’ this term.

# I aim to get information and letters on the website so please check it for information. I will continue to text for immediate messages about Beaver sessions etc.

# Beavers operates around a two year rolling programme comprising six challenges (the diamond badges sewn on the front of their uniforms – Promise, Friendship, Fitness, Creative, Global and Outdoor). Along the way, the programme also includes for doing the activity badges (round ones on the sleeve) – many we do as a group provided that your beaver is present for the relevant sessions – but there are also badges that can be done at home and a small presentation then made to the rest of the group eg the hobby, animal friend, IT or swimming badges.

# When badges are given out please check where they should be sewn. I gave out leaflets at the summer barbecue and if you search the internet for Beaver Scout badge positions you will see an example. Please note that our district and county badge are combined into one. <http://scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search?cat=11,18,241>

# Should items be lost, replacement badges, neckers and woggles can be obtained but will need to be paid for please. Badges are 55p each, woggles 20p and neckers £4.15.

# Beavers is not just about badges of course, and we aim to run a balanced programme which covers many activities and introduces new interests. We try to encourage some quieter time as well as noisier games so that all beavers’ personalities and interests can be catered for. It is essential that beavers do not regard sessions as time to ‘run wild’ and therefore in common with the whole scout group we have a behaviour policy. We hope that you will support us in reinforcing this at home and when you volunteer to help at beaver sessions.

# Behaviour Policy

So that everyone can enjoy his or her time in Scouting, our Group has a behaviour policy, which is used by all Sections at every meeting.

Each Section (Scouts, Cubs and Beavers) has a Code of Conduct or Ground Rules specific to that section and worded appropriately for the age group concerned. The young people of each section were involved in writing these. These are on display during all meetings in the Hall.

Good behaviour and a helpful attitude is recognised and rewarded through a scheme specific to each Section. The points gained in each term are then issued as a reward at the end of the term by the Section Leaders. Positive reward points may also count towards being able to attend future events such as trips and camps.

We operate a Yellow Card Scheme for individuals whose behaviour continues to fall below the required standard after they have already been spoken to about it. This includes disruptive behaviour and breaches of the Section’s Code of Conduct/Ground Rules. In the event of two yellow cards being issued within a single or two consecutive meeting the young person will be excluded from the next scheduled meeting. Parents will be notified by letter, e-mail or text in all instances where cards have been issued.

For unacceptable behaviour we will issue a Red Card, which would result in the young person being excluded from the meeting immediately, and their parents being contacted and asked to pick their child up. They would also be excluded from the following meeting. Examples of behaviour where a Red Card would be issued are: - swearing; bullying; aggressive or threatening behaviour towards another individual or wilful damage to property.

In the event of an individual receiving two Red Cards in a single term they will be excluded from the next trip or event planned for that Section. In instances where more than two Red Cards are issued during their time in the Section, and after consultation with Parents,  the young person’s behaviour may be referred to the Group’s Executive Committee and District Scout Leaders and this may result in them being permanently excluded from the group.

All decisions will be taken by at least two adults and we ask for your support in dealing effectively with any situations that arise.

**Church Parade** is held **this Sunday** and the first Sunday of each month during term time). Beavers meet at 8.45 in the Church Hall and the Mass is usually over by around 10.00am. The expectation is that all beavers should come as we are part of the Parish and are provided with our meeting place free of charge. Clearly, there are times for everyone that are difficult, but please try to juggle your arrangements so that you can attend. Beavers enjoy the experience! If necessary, your Beaver can leave early in a discrete manner if they need to get to an away sporting fixture for example.

Advance notice: there is a Holy Name Scout Group bowling party to be held for Christmas on the same day as the Beaver Christmas party (**15 December**). We will therefore meet at 4.30 for the Christmas party so that those who want to attend both can do so.

Thanks for your support and interest.

Carolyn Lord (Homake)

**07885 484482** (but please note that I do work so often cannot respond immediately!)