



MEADFURLONG SCHOOL NEWSLETTER NO 261

Milton Keynes Council

NEWSLETTER NO 261

15th December 2011

AUTUMN TERM 2011

Dear Parents,

We are now at the end of the Autumn term at Meadfurlong. This has been a very interesting term with many events happening that are not likely to be repeated.

First of all the process of amalgamating Meadfurlong and Penwith has continued to step forward with the appointment of a new Headteacher, Mr Tony Berwick, who will be taking over the new school at the end of the summer term in 2012.

The weather has been unusually mild up till now but I hope we will not suffer for this in the first half of the Spring term.

May I thank you all for your understanding and cooperation during the strike action. I can assure you that I was left with no other choice but to close the school on that day in November and I am sorry if it caused a great deal of inconvenience.

HMI Inspection

Many parents will recall that the school was involved in an OFSTED inspection in May 2010; as part of their monitoring of all inspections HMI randomly select about forty percent of schools who are 'satisfactory' to monitor their progress.

On Tuesday December 6th Meadfurlong had an unannounced HMI inspection and I am pleased to report that the school was judged to have made good progress on all the key aspects highlighted in the OFSTED inspection conducted in May 2010. If you would like to see the full report it will be on the OFSTED web site in the early part of the new year.

Photographs

This is advanced notice that FOTEK will be in school on Wednesday January 25th to take photographs of your children that you will then be able to buy.

Cold Weather Clothing

We have noticed that some children are coming to school without suitable winter clothing. Please do your best to provide hats, scarves and gloves so that the children do not get too cold when they go outside. Many parents complain that gloves, scarves and hats are going missing, may I suggest that the children put gloves and hats carefully into their coat pockets and slide the scarf into one of the sleeves so that they do not fall onto the floor.



Lates

Once again may I remind all parents that school begins at 8.40 am, even in bad weather; all children should be in school ready to start their lessons. Lateness is much worse on a Monday morning; please make sure that your children are up early enough to get to school on time.

It is the responsibility of all parents to get their children to school on time each day.

School Shirts

Would parents please note that the children should be wearing a white polo top during the school day with their sky blue top being kept for their P E lessons.

P E kit is a sky blue polo top or T shirt with black shorts. Children should be provided with a track suit and trainers for their outdoor lesson so that they do not wear their normal school clothes to keep warm, particularly in the winter months.

Children in Need

Thanks to the efforts of the children and staff who came to school dressed in something spotty, the school was able to donate £225 to Children in Need.

Operation Christmas

The organisers of this charity would like to thank the parents and children of Meadfurlong for the 100 plus shoe boxes filled with toiletries and goodies for under-privileged children.

Dick Whittington

Once again, thanks to the generous of parents and friends the school raised £200 in ticket money and £71.50 for the raffle. This money will go into school funds.

Procedures for closure of the school in bad weather

A lot of parents phone the school during snowfalls to find out whether or not we are open but are not using the website or local radio to find out this information.

May I remind all parents that if it is necessary to close the school then it is clearly displayed on the Milton Keynes website.

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/school_closures.

Parents can also sign up for an automatic text messaging service which will alert you to any closure. All you need to do is enter the name of the schools you wish to receive alerts from by using this web site.

This information is also broadcast on the local radio stations 'Heart FM, 103.3' and Three Counties radio 90.4, 92.1, 94.7, 95.5, 98, 103.8 and 104.5.

There is also a link to all school closures on the Three Counties website at www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties.

We will always do our best to stay open, even if there is a lot of snow falling, because we appreciate that it causes parents a lot of problems when schools close; however, we may have no option but to close if there are not enough adults to adequately supervise the children.

I would like to stress to parents that they should not just send their children to school on their own if there is the possibility that the school may close; they must check first, otherwise any staff at school have to contact you to come and collect them.

It is essential that you check this information as we cannot guarantee that staff will be able to get to school to answer the phones.

Please note that this information is updated as early as possible each morning but usually by 7.00am at the latest. The closure is automatically removed at midnight of the day of the closure so the website needs to be checked each day to see if the school is going to remain closed. If the school is reopening it will not be listed as closed and will not be read out on the radio as one of the closures therefore you can assume that the school is open as normal.

When the school is open, although we appreciate that the pavements are not easy to walk on, parents should make every effort to get their children to school and cannot use the snow lying on the ground as an excuse for their not attending school.

**Term Dates**

School reopens on Wednesday 4th January with Half Term being Monday 13th to Friday 17th Feb 2012.
The End of the Spring Term is Friday 30th March 2012.

School Reopens for the Summer Term on Monday 16th April.

May I once again wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you all next term.

J.K.BAILEY

**Parents in touch**

If any parents need support with their child's work there is an organisation that can help you. For more details please contact them via their web site or E Mail.

www.parentsintouch.co.uk

JackieBacon@parentsintouch.co.uk

Industrial Action

Parents should be aware that there is the possibility of Industrial action on Wednesday 30th November 2011 and prepare for the fact that the school may have to close on that day. At the moment we have no information regarding a closure but will let you know once we found out more about the situation.

J K Bailey

Headteacher