



# MEADFURLONG SCHOOL NEWSLETTER NO 262

Milton Keynes Council

NEWSLETTER NO 262

12th January 2012

## SPRING TERM 2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Spring Term and I hope you all had a pleasant holiday. So far the weather has been unusually mild and we have not had any snow disruption, however, there is still the possibility that we may be disrupted due to bad weather conditions; please find below the arrangements for closure which were also sent out in the newsletter just before Christmas.

### Amalgamation of Penwith and Meadfurlong - New Headteacher

I am sure many of you will be aware Mr Tony Berwick has been appointed as the new Headteacher of the amalgamated school which will open in Sept 2012.

He is coming to Meadfurlong on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012. We have arranged a coffee morning for any parents who are interested in meeting the new Headteacher; this will be at 11.00am on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January. I am sure he will be delighted to meet parents who can attend and it will be an opportunity for you to ask any burning questions and maybe offer some ideas about the name of the new school.

He formally takes up his appointment on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012.

### Jeff Rich at Meadfurlong

On Tuesday 10th January Jeff Rich (ex Status Quo) came to the school to present a drumming session to the whole school. The children enjoyed it immensely, but several of the adults complaint of a headache afterwards.



### Christmas Production

A big thank you to all the children, staff and parents who contributed to making the Christmas production such a success once again.

### Parents Group

Mrs Wilson is in the process of organising a group of parents to assist with the organisation of school activities. We have a number of parents who have already volunteered to join this group but please feel free to contact Mrs Wilson if you wish to help.

Any Aunties, Uncles or other relatives who are known to us may also volunteer, the more the merrier.

### 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.

### Absences and Illness

Please remember to contact the school if your child is ill and will not be attending school

Would parents please take note that all absences from school must be explained by parents. Miss Marshall is concerned that in spite of contacting parents by phone and then sending a letter home many parents are still failing to explain their child's absence which then means that we have to enter it as unauthorised. This could lead to a visit from education welfare because the school has no reason for the absence; in order to avoid this could all parents please remember to contact the school or return the slip from the letter to explain all absences.

### Library Books

We are currently experiencing a spate of library books being damaged. May I remind all parents that any damaged books must be paid for as many of them are loaned from the library service who charge us for the replacement of such books. You will receive a letter from the school which will clearly identify the books and the cost.

### Free School Meals

If you think that you may be entitled to Free School Meals for your child/children but, as yet, have completed an application form please come into school to collect a form from the Office Staff. There is no cost involved and may result in your child/children receiving a free hot meal each day during term time.

**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](http://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](http://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**

Half Term is from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012.

The End of the Spring Term is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

School Reopens for the Summer Term on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012



### **Contacting Teaching Staff**

At Meadfurlong we do feel that it is vitally important to have a positive dialogue between teachers and parents; all teachers at the school are more than happy to discuss any matters about your child's education that is concerning you. Whilst we make every effort to make ourselves available to you please be aware that teachers spend a lot of time first thing in the morning preparing lessons for the day; it is for this reason that we urge you to contact the office, wherever possible, to make an appointment so that the teacher concerned can give you the time needed to discuss the matter at hand properly.

I am sure that you will all understand that as school starts at 8.40am a parent wishing to discuss something at 8.35am can unwittingly cause a problem because the teacher has a responsibility to be in the class ready to receive the children. Equally, at the end of the school day it is not always convenient for teachers to see you because they may be attending a meeting, or going to a training course and therefore cannot always give you their full attention unless they are aware that you are coming through making an appointment.

We are aware that occasionally there may be the need to speak to a teacher urgently but again we would prefer that you ask the office staff to find them rather than simply going directly to the teacher who may be quite busy with other matters.

### **Year 6 SAT's Tests**

Parents of Year 6 children need to be aware that your children are sitting their National Tests in the week starting 14<sup>th</sup> May. These are the most important tests they will take before moving on to Secondary so it is vital that the children are in school during this week. Please do not book any holiday or other events during this week as the children **must** take them during this period and cannot do them at another time. The school is also judged by these tests and any children who are absent are still counted in the figures that are sent to the government; they are counted as zero which badly affects our percentage rate that OFSTED look at.

### **Visit to France**

We have had a very positive response to the visit to France so we have had to book a second coach, this means that there are extra places available. If you are interested please contact Mrs Lynn at the school who can give you more detailed information. This is for Year 5 & Year 6 children.

Briefly the visit takes place from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012 to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012, it costs £250 in total which covers all aspects of the visit including hotel, coach travel, meals and entry to venues.





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elcome back to a new school year, I hope that you all had a great summer break and you are looking forward to the Autumn Term.

A really warm welcome to our new children and their parents in Year 3, we sincerely hope that you will have a really enjoyable learning experience at Meadfurlong school. If you have any concerns or wish to clarify anything please do not hesitate to contact us so that there are no misunderstandings.

Teachers are reporting that all of your children have already settled in well and that there have been very few problems; this means that the children have been able to return to learning new things very quickly.

It has been a really pleasant start to the term

This newsletter is intended to contain information that we hope will help you to know what is happening in school and some of the procedures that we need to have to make the school run smoothly.

### **Play Park**

During the summer break we have arranged for the play park to be refurbished so that the children will be able to use it more often during the winter months.

The bark has been replaced by tarmac and soft tarmac underneath the apparatus so we hope that this will be much better for everyone.

