

MEADFURLONG SCHOOL NEWSLETTER NO 253

Milton Keynes Council

NEWSLETTER NO 253

27th JANUARY 2011

SPRING TERM 2011

Dear Parents,

Now that we are nearing the end of January the Spring Term is well under way; let's all hope that all the bad weather is behind us and we can look forward to a trouble free term. However, in the event of further disruption due to poor weather please refer to the arrangements sent to you in the newsletter just before Christmas.

Amalgamation of Penwith and Meadfurlong

At the moment there is not a great deal to report. The proposal has now been approved by Cabinet at the council following the consultation period and is now in the hands of government officials to consider formal approval. In the meantime, representatives of the governing bodies of the two schools have been meeting to discuss what will need to be done to ensure a smooth transition into one school. We will be working closely with the Local Authority and governor support officers to complete all the necessary statutory requirements.

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.

Big Art Work at Meadfurlong

We are starting a major across the school art project which will involve producing some very large collages using themes and techniques that celebrate the diversity of the Meadfurlong family.

Collage uses all sorts of items that would normally be thrown away, for example, wrappers, imported newspapers or magazines, post cards or greetings cards and even some 3D items such as bottle tops or plastic toys.

We would be grateful for any donations of this sort but please do not send any precious items as they cannot be returned. All items should be sent for the attention of Mrs McCaffrey at the school. All the children in the school will have the opportunity to work on these collages and we hope to produce some wonderful pieces that we can all take pride in.

Lates

Once again may I remind all parents that school begins at 8.40 am and 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

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 using parentmail and then following this up with a phone and a letter 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.

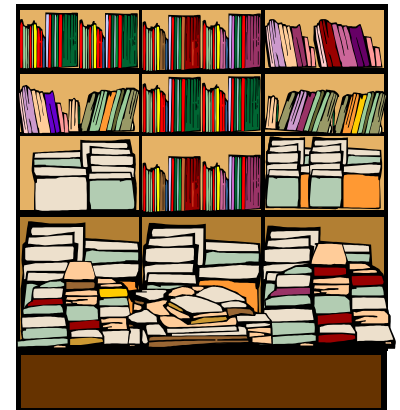
Holiday Sports Programme

'Change for life' sports organisation is organising a number of sporting activities during the holiday period including this coming half term and Easter.

If you would like further information contact Chloe Bond on 01908 252278 for further details and costs.

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.



School Dinners and Menus

All parents need to be aware that our school menus go out every six weeks, if you do not fill in a menu then you must provide your child with a packed lunch because there will be no food ordered.

If your child attends school without a packed lunch and has not ordered a meal we cannot guarantee that they will receive any food. We always do our best to give children a meal if we have food left over but they do have to wait until all children on the register have had their meals.

T C's Creche & After School Club

From Monday 7th February the above organisation is offering their services to parents. The centre is in Oldbrook House at 19, Boycott Avenue in Oldbrook. The cost varies from £4.00 per session to £9.25 per session depending on what you require.

You can get further details by telephoning the centre on 01908394495

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Reading

The teachers are concerned about the number of children who are not able to read as well as they should so we are putting a greater emphasis on reading activities in school. It will be really helpful if all parents could spend some time reading to their children and listening to them read; even if your child cannot read very well it is enormously helpful if you read to them and encourage them to

Some families have still to return their 'Data Collection Sheets' which we use to update all contact information. If you know you are one of these families we would be grateful if this could be done as soon as possible as we use these to ensure we have correct contact details.

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. A track suit and trainers will be needed for their outdoor lesson, particularly in the winter.

Water Bottles

Parents will know that children are permitted to bring a water bottle into school that they can use for drinks during lessons. Teachers are informing me that some children are not being provided with a water bottle; could all parents please make sure they provide their children with a water bottle that has a non spill stopper.

Facebook

It has come to our attention that some children have been using Facebook to contact each other; may I remind all parents that no children can legally use this as a means of communication, however, we realise that this is difficult to monitor but nevertheless parents will need to check what comments children are making to each other in order to avoid any unpleasant outcomes either at school or at home.