

MEADFURLONG SCHOOL NEWSLETTER NO 241

Milton Keynes Council

NEWSLETTER NO 241

5th JANUARY 2010

SPRING 2010

Welcome back to a new school term and a new year. Let's hope that 2010 offers more financial stability and prosperity so that all our lives are easier and more fulfilling.

Disruption due to Snow

It may be that we may have to close the school due to problems created by the snow that is expected over the next few days. We do not close the school unless it is absolutely necessary but please understand that many teachers live some distance away and cannot get to school because of problems with the roads therefore if members of staff cannot get here then we are unable to supervise children appropriately.

If we do need to close the school this is done via the Milton Keynes web site which you must check.

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schoolclosures

Once the school has been formerly closed it is automatically added to the list of school closures that is announced on the local Radio Station.

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 using this web site

Parentmail

Parents may recall that we were trying to improve our systems of communication by engaging the services of an online company who would be able to send you a text message in the event of the school being closed or particular events being cancelled. The company concerned is called 'Parentmail' and is widely used in schools up and down the country.

In order to achieve this we have to provide them with your mobile phone number and E Mail address if you have one. The school will be providing Parentmail with these details on **Monday 11th January 2010** so that we can implement this system as soon as possible; we will assume that if we have not heard from you by this date then you have no objection.

School Uniform

I am pleased to announce that we have engaged the services of 'Scoolwear for less' to provide our new uniform which will be available with our new logo within the next few weeks.

If you require further information please contact Mrs Pauline Lampard at the school..

Winter Clothing

During this period of extremely cold weather it is essential that your children are sent to school with appropriate clothing that will keep them warm when they go out to play. Many children are telling us that they have no sweatshirt or jumper or a suitable winter coat. Please check that you children are leaving home properly dressed for these extremely cold conditions. It is quite reasonable for children to go outside during these weather conditions as long as they are wearing the correct clothing.

Lost Property

An engagement type ring has been found in the school. If anyone has lost such a ring please contact the school office who will try their best to return it to the rightful owner.

Kwabe Schultz

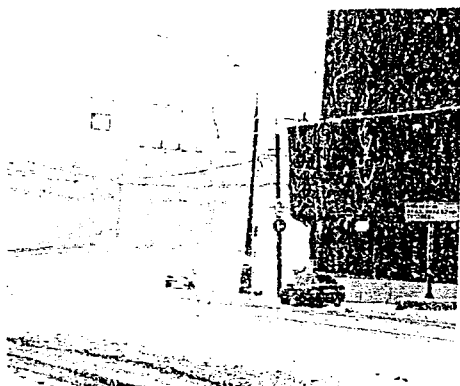
I am delighted to inform you all that one of our children, Kwabe Schulz, has been offered a schoolboy registration at the MK Dons football academy. This represents the first rung on the ladder towards being a professional footballer so maybe we will be seeing him playing for a professional team in the near future. We wish him the best

Letters and Dates

A number of parents appear to have been unaware of important pieces of information in the run up to Christmas, yet all this information has been very clearly stated in our newsletters and on the web site. Would all parents please check our website and encourage your children to deliver the newsletter to you so that you are kept informed about key dates and arrangements.

Head Lice

There have been a number of incidents of head lice during the Autumn Term. All parents need to be aware that this must be treated as soon as possible so that they do not spread from one child to another. It is an extremely frustrating problem because it only takes one child to have not been treated to start a spread of lice that parents do not appreciate. The medical advice is that parents should check their children's hair regularly and then treat immediately. There are now very cheaply priced products on the market that are easy to use and very effective.

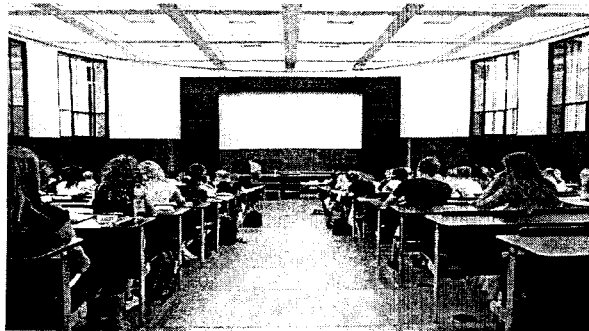


Year 6 SAT's

Will parents of all year 6 children please note that the national tests are on the following dates next year so please avoid booking any holidays during this week.

Monday 10th May 2010 – Friday 14th May 2010

In the past some parents have been under the impression that we can administer these tests at any time. Unfortunately these tests are organised by the Department for Education and **must** be taken at the time they specify. These tests are vital for the measurement of progress made by your children and of course the school.



Attendance and lateness

Would all parents please remember that school starts at **8.40 am** so your children should be entering the school at that time; we still have some children who are arriving just a few minutes late which is unacceptable as it cause quite a lot of disruption to the beginning of the school day.

Similarly, it has come to my attention that there are some children who appear to be having a lot of time off due to illness. Whilst there will be times when children fall ill because they have a heavy cold, or catch other viruses, it gives us cause for concern if this happens too regularly. On checking our records there are some children who are taking time off for illness every week which is excessive.

Children should be kept away from school only if they are genuinely really ill; apart from this parents should ensure that they attend as much as possible. If you are unsure then consult your local doctor for advice.

Boulevard Club

Parents may be interested to know that from Monday 11th January the school is continuing to provide an after school club for those children who need extra help with learning and using English. This will take place on a Wednesday and Thursday between 3.30pm and 5.00pm. This club is intended for newly arrived children who then need to apply to the organisers who assess the level of need.

If you live at the top end of Fishermead it may be more convenient for you to attend this club at Orchard School, which takes place on a Monday and Tuesday at the same time.

Please note that children who attended before Christmas are still welcome to attend, but parents are being asked to contribute £5 per half term to cover the cost of snacks and drinks