



# MEADFURLONG SCHOOL NEWSLETTER NO 252

Milton Keynes Council

NEWSLETTER NO 252

8th December 2010

## AUTUMN TERM 2010

Dear Parents,

As we move closer to the festive period I hope that you are all looking forward to the Christmas holiday and that you are all coping with the unusually cold spell that we are currently experiencing.

Some children are still coming to school without warm coats and hat; as the children still go out to play at break it is essential that they have suitable clothing for this. Many parents are complaining 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.



### Contact details

May I remind all parents to make sure that the school has up to date phone numbers that you can be contacted on, there have been a number of occasions recently where children have been ill in school but our staff have been unable to get in touch.

### Lateness

Once again I have to remind you that school begins at 8.40a.m even in the bad weather. The children must be on the premises ready to start school.



### Christmas Production

Our Christmas production this year is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December and is based on the story of Scrooge.

All parents wishing to see this production must have a ticket; these are on sale for £1 each (there are only 150 for the evening) and there will be a raffle on the evening. Those parents who are unable to come to the evening performance are welcome to attend the afternoon rehearsal but again must get a ticket as we only have 50.

### Term dates

School closes at the end of the afternoon on Friday 17th December 2010

School opens (**for pupils**) on Wednesday 5th January 2011 at 8.40am

Tuesday 4th January is a staff training day.



### Change of teaching staff

Mrs Hearne, who is currently teaching in Year 5 will be leaving us at the end of term to move to a promotion at Cold Harbour. I am sure that you will join with me in wishing her the best at her new school.

Her post will be covered by Mrs Grose until the governors have appointed a new teacher following interviews in January 2011

### Data Sheets

Parents will remember that you received a sheet for us to collect important information; many of these have not yet been returned so we would be grateful if you could return these as soon as possible.

**Procedures for closure of the school in bad weather**

A lot of parents were phoning the school during the recent snowfalls to find out whether or not we were open but were not using the web site 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 web site.

[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 web site 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 to 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 on 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 children not attending school.

We, at Meadfurlong, wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

J K Bailey