



Number
2

MILTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Website: www.miltonprimary.co.uk

September 16th 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope your child has settled into his/her new class and is enjoying the new term at school; it was pleasing to see so many families visiting classrooms last Thursday. Can we take this opportunity to remind you of the importance that we put on the home school partnership; we want to work closely with you so that your child has a happy and successful year at school. If you have any concerns about your child please do not hesitate to contact his/her class teacher, preferably at the end of the school day as mornings can be very busy.

The beginning of the school year is a very important time when classroom routines and friendships are established so can we take the opportunity to remind you that school does not authorise holiday absence during September.

Time Keeping

Can we also remind everyone of the importance of good time keeping. While all families have occasional 'tricky' mornings it is important that children arrive at school on time (between 8.45 – 8.55). Children who are late do not have a calm start to the day and often miss important information. A teacher is on duty in each playground from 8.45am. Children should not need to come into school before the bell rings. Our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) monitors lateness and attendance on a regular basis.

Please can you ensure that your child is aware of who will be collecting him/her from school. If there are any changes to normal arrangements for Foundation and KS1 children, class teachers must be informed in writing. **The office can be contacted in an emergency but they cannot be responsible for passing on information for changes relating to children's social activities.**

Free School Meals - Is your child eligible for free school lunches?

If you receive any of the following benefits you can apply for free school lunches for your child:

- Income Support *or*
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance *or*
- Child Tax Credit, - so long as you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) does not exceed £16,040 *or*
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit *or*
- Support under part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- *Note: From 1 May 2009 where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after their employment ceases, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, their children are entitled to free school lunches*

Accessing free school meals is **easy and confidential** - you need to complete an application form (available from the school office) or by calling 01480 372307 or 01480 372308, or visit our web page and do it online

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/parents/help/lunches/>

Whilst free school meals allow young people to have access to a hot meal during the day and take some pressure off the family budget, it also increases annual income to our school. In addition, it allows the school to apply for special funds which benefit school pupils as a whole.

Photo Permission and Local Visits Forms

Occasionally, we may take photographs of the children in school. We may use these images in classrooms, on display boards around the school, on our website, or in other printed publications that we produce, such as the school brochure. We may also make video recordings of children involved in activities such as school plays. We also celebrate success in the Milton Village View or local newspapers. It is a requirement of the Data Protection Act that we have your consent to this.

From time to time your child will be given the opportunity to participate in visits in the local area i.e. Milton Country Park, the local church, village walks. These visits help to put learning into a meaningful context for the children and are of course enjoyable experiences. You will always be informed in advance of any local visit.

In order to save both paperwork and administration time, we will only be sending photo and local visits permission forms to the parents of children new to the school. We have kept the information returned last year and will assume that it remains valid. However if you wish to check or prefer to complete a new form please contact the school office.

Harvest time at the allotment!

With the wet summer we have had this year, we seem to have a bumper harvest in our school allotment. When we arrived back to school last week, we found our allotment bursting with exciting things including lots of giant weeds! The year 6's were set the daunting task of clearing the allotment of weeds. Please look at the 'before' and 'after' pictures on the website to see what a fantastic job they did. **Catherine Phillips.**

Supermarket Vouchers

A big 'thank you' to everyone who sent in Tesco's and Sainsbury's school vouchers into school last term. We have been able to exchange them for a significant amount of new resources for the children. Your support is appreciated.

Successes at the Milton Produce Show

"What I grew"

1st: Zac S for his yellow chillies, 2nd: Mark and Mariella S, Ben and Miranda S for their yellow pattypan, 3rd: Noah S for his yellow courgette

"What I made"

1st: Special prize to Mariella and Mark S, Ben and Miranda S for their Victorian theatre, 2nd: Mark S for a gigantic Lego aeroplane, Joint 3rd: Miranda with a huge origami lily and Ben with a Lego hovercraft

Flower arrangement:

1st prize: Miranda and Mariella 5 runner beans and squash category, 2nd prize in each went to Mariella and Mark S, Miranda and Ben S

Best in the carved vegetables:

Miranda and Mariella

Please can we thank all parents who have named their child's clothing, any lost items will be placed in either the brown boxes outside the KS2 hall, or the red box in the KS1 corridor.

Please note - Your child will be bringing home the confirmation of consultation appointment times today.

Finally we are pleased to be able to inform you that Bishop Stephen will be visiting school on Friday 30th September. The Y6 Grafham assembly has been changed to Wednesday 5th October.

Yours Sincerely

S J Dorrington & A E Lycett

Joint Head Teachers

The chairs in year 6 have been replaced with new ones and we therefore have a number of plastic school chairs that are obsolete. If anyone would like some chairs, maybe for their garden etc please ask at the school office.