



Number 11

MILTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

[www.milton.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.milton.cambs.sch.uk)

January 7th 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

**A very 'Happy New Year' to everyone;** I hope you all enjoyed the festive season and were not too inconvenienced by the very cold weather.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that Mrs Caroline Goodchild will be joining the teaching staff for this term; she will be teaching Classes 11 & 6 each Thursday.

As always at the end of last term the children got very tired and it started to impact on punctuality, hopefully after the break this will no longer be the case. While we understand that all families have occasional 'difficult' mornings it is important that children arrive at school on time. Children who are late do not have a calm start to the day and often miss important information. **The whole class is affected by late arrivals that disrupt early morning routines. The Education Welfare Officer will be in school to monitor the registers for attendance (below 85%) and lateness.**

### Parent/Teacher Consultations

Parent/teacher consultations will take place on 16th & 17<sup>th</sup> February. As this is a particularly important term for Y6, we will be allocating 15-minute appointments for these parents. **Lists of available appointment times will be put in the small hall from 25th January (7.15am) to 27<sup>th</sup> January (9.30 am).**

Please note information relating to Parenting Programmes can be found on the website (Extended Schools).

### Health & Safety

A teacher is on duty on each playground from 8.45am. Children should not need to come into school before the bell rings. Mr Brown, the school caretaker will salt the playgrounds and paths on slippery mornings **but if conditions are particularly bad, notices will be up asking everyone to enter through the main entrances.** During the school day children are only allowed on the KS2 apparatus when they are supervised by staff. Children may only use the equipment at the end of the day if supervised by their parents – **children must not be left alone on the school premises to play on the field, KS1 playground or the apparatus.** Accidents do happen and staff are not always available to attend to children.

At the end of term staff were concerned that a number of children were coming to school without coats. I appreciate that those travelling in cars may not always be aware of the temperature but the playgrounds at lunchtime can be very cold and children **must** have coats to wear.

This is the time of year when the children seem to be particularly vulnerable to colds and infections; as a school we will be following general infection control practices and good hand hygiene which can help to reduce the spread of viruses. Children will be encouraged to;

- Cover the nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue (NOT handkerchief) when possible
- Dispose of dirty tissues promptly and carefully by binning them
- Maintain good personal hygiene, e.g. washing hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from hands to face or to other people

We hope families will support this message and practice at home. We will also be cleaning toilets and hard surfaces more frequently. **A donation of a box of tissues per family would be appreciated.**

### **Children's Clothing**

Please can you check that your child's clothing is clearly named; labels do fade in the wash. We have a large stock of recycled school uniform that is available at 50p per item; please contact the office if you would like to purchase anything.

### **Is your child eligible for free school lunches?**

We are aware that in the current financial climate family circumstances can change unexpectedly and not everybody is aware of the opportunity provided by the provision of free school meals. 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*

TO APPLY, you need to complete an application form (available from the school office) or by calling 01480 372307 or 01480 372308, or visit the web page and do it online

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

The information you provide is confidential so if you are eligible, please apply.

### **Class Newsletters**

The children will be bringing home class newsletters this week. (Due to staff illness Y3's letter will be sent early next week). These outline the year group curriculum for the term. This is an unusually long spring term so I have attached the important dates for all year groups. We hope you find them both useful.

Yours sincerely

*S J Dorrington*

Head Teacher