



Number

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MILTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL – Spring Term 2009

www.miltonprimary.co.uk

January 16th

Dear Parents/carers

I hope your child has settled back happily into the daily routine of life at school. The children seemed to enjoy 'French day' and are keen to send off their books and tapes to our partner schools in Laval. Please can I thank the French speaking parents who spent time in school reading stories and talking to children as well as serving the food at the 'cafe' – we appreciated your help.

Family Holidays

As some of you may be making plans for family holidays I thought it advisable to remind you of the current regulations;

Pupils of school age must, by law, attend school regularly. Leave of absence for a family holiday should be avoided if possible as it can seriously disrupt a child's continuity of learning. If you are unable to avoid taking your holiday during school time you will need to complete a holiday form.

Please try to:

Avoid asking for absence when your child is preparing for, or taking, end of key stage tests; give at least two weeks notice that your child is going to be away.

School cannot legally authorise more than ten days school absence in a school year unless there are exceptional circumstances. Because of the impact on children's learning we will not authorise holiday absence during September when new classroom routines are being established. Where a pupil is absent without prior authorisation or without verbal or written explanation on return, the absence will be treated as unauthorised. Absences relating to individual children are recorded on the parental report in July. When absences are high, for whatever reason, the school welfare officer will become involved.

Detailed guidance including requests for extended leave to 'home' countries will be placed on the website early next week.

School Travel Plan

Thank you to all the parents who responded to the idea of setting up a 'Walking Bus'. It would appear at this stage not enough people see the need for a Walking Bus and therefore we will not be taking this proposal any further at this time.

We are very pleased with how many children walk or cycle to school with their parents/ carers each day. As a school however, we would really like to reduce the traffic congestion further. There continues to be a high number of cars parked on Butt Lane and at the Humphries Way entrance. Many cars are parked quite near the entrance whilst others are parked on the school site. Cars parked so close to school can make crossing the roads and accessing the site very hazardous for both children and adults. Please remember the turning circle is for dropping off children and is not for parking. This will also help to reduce congestion. **Alison Lycett**

Head Lice – As we have had a case reported this term please can I remind you of the need to check your child's hair regularly.

Congratulations to Effy.

Last week Effy was in a musical production of ' Noah' at the ADC theatre. With forty six others she sang and danced her way through five performances. She played a bee, a rabbit and a citizen and took part in dances representing the storm and formation of the rainbow so there were lots of costume changes. The production was a great success.

Drugs and Alcohol – Community Awareness Evening **Monday 26th January 7:30pm Milton CE Primary School** **or Tuesday 3rd February 3:30pm Waterbeach Community Primary School**

Do you store medicines at home? Have you ever been desperate for a cup of tea? Do you keep alcohol at home? Most of us are drug users. Most of us use a variety of substances to make us well, to relax or, possibly, because we are dependent on them. Most of us are able to manage our drug use most of the time.

Can you be sure that your child will learn the skills to keep themselves safe?

We would like to invite you to an awareness evening at Milton CE Primary School on **Monday 26th January at 7:30pm** to discuss alcohol, drugs and drug use and misuse and how these issues impact on the lives of everyone in society. We are working in partnership with **Waterbeach Community Primary School**, so if this date is inconvenient, then the same awareness evening is taking place there **on February 3rd at 3:30pm**.

Young children are aware of many different types of drugs. We have planned this awareness evening to enable us to work together to ensure that the knowledge children have is accurate and that they are able to practise the skills they will need to deal with drug-related issues and situations.

The meeting for parents on **26th January and 3rd February** will be run with the help of **Cathy Murphy** from the PSHE Service. The evening is intended to share information with you, to respond to your questions about drug use and to discuss ways you can begin to prepare your children, however young they are, for the drug using society in which they will grow up. During the evening, explicit information about drug use will be discussed. For this reason, it would be inappropriate for your children to take part on this occasion.

There are few issues which could be more important to you and your child. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle, we sincerely hope that someone from your family will be able to attend.

Yours sincerely

S J Dorrington
Head teacher

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Reply Slip (please indicate at which school you are attending the event).

- I/We would like to attend the Drugs and Alcohol – Community Awareness Event
- **Monday 26th January 7:30pm Milton CE Primary School**
- **or Tuesday 3rd February 3:30pm Waterbeach Community Primary School**

Name _____