

# MILL RYTHE INFANT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Friends

## Important Notice - Swimming

Unfortunately the Junior School swimming pool is out of action this week so there will be no swimming this Friday - the children concerned will do an alternative activity.

We had a successful Art and Environment Week. Thank you to Mrs Lazell for her planning. Please see the photo gallery on the website for pictures. You will have already seen the new Friendship Bench in the front playground and we have some lovely 'children' to point the way to this who will front the adventure playground in due course. Mrs Lazell has compiled a book of poems written by the children about 'Friendship'. Your donations were a fantastic £269. Thank you and well done to everyone.

The beautiful weather has returned so can I remind you of the need to use sun cream/block with your child before they come to school. Send cream in (named please) if you wish your child to re-apply at lunchtime.

Unfortunately the poplar trees on the edge of the school site are shedding their seeds. Of course this is an annual event, but some years are worse than others. We had the trees lopped 2 or 3 years ago and things did improve. The fluff drifts across the playground and in the past has affected a few children who suffer with asthma and hay fever. Please talk to me if your child is being adversely affected.

## Swine Flu

You will have heard from the media that the World Health Organisation has declared Swine Flu as a Global Pandemic. Please feel assured that as a school we are following the guidance issued regularly to us by the Department of Children Schools and Families. However if you have taken a holiday abroad recently and a member of your family returns with flu like symptoms, please check with your GP before sending your child back to school.

Which reminds me - the only target we have as a school is one regarding **ATTENDANCE**. This is not just related to unauthorised absence (keeping your child off school without notifying us of the reason), but is also related to the taking of holidays during term time. Those parents who have a long association with the school know that I have always tried to be sympathetic and authorise holiday absence when I know that families are unable to take their annual holiday during school holiday time because of work commitments, or to enable children to meet up with family members they would otherwise not see. However currently we are not meeting our 2008/9 target. Odd days here and there mount up. Some parents are asking for time out for birthday treats or to enable the family to

go out for the day because a sibling attends another school that has a training day. I do not consider these are valid reasons for absence and will have to think carefully about authorisation in future.

A little while ago we advertised a curriculum evening focussing on writing which was due to be held this Wednesday, 17 June. English is led by Mrs Eland, and she is not having the easiest of times with her pregnancy. Because of this we are postponing the meeting, and as we have a new group of children starting with us in September, feel it would be best to hold it then - so Year R and Year 1 parents please put the evening of 16 September in your diaries. Meanwhile I have produced a leaflet giving some useful tips on supporting writing - a copy of which I attach.

## Reports

Members of the teaching staff are very busy at the moment making assessments of each child's progress and writing reports for the end of year. We are trialling a new annual report which will come home to you by Friday 10 July. We will be interested to get feedback on the new format which we hope will give you a more rounded picture of your child's development socially and academically during the year, including their views on the best bits.

## Housing and Council Tax Benefit

The Government has changed the Benefit legislation on how certain income is treated in an assessment for Housing and Council Tax Benefit. From last October any maintenance payments received for children are disregarded in the calculation of Housing and Council Tax Benefit. From October 2009 Child Benefit is also going to be disregarded. Please contact Vicky Labourne at Havant Borough Council if you think you may now qualify on (023) 92446351 or e-mail [vicky.labourne@havant.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.labourne@havant.gov.uk).

## Year 2 Picnic Lunch - Parents invited

On **Friday 10 July** we would like to invite parents/carers of **Year 2 children** to join their child for a picnic lunch. Our cook will be making a special picnic lunch for the children, and the menu on that day for Year 2 children will be a choice of filled roll (cheese, tuna, egg or jam), a piece of cake, a drink and a piece of fruit. Parents may bring their own packed lunch. If you would like to order the picnic lunch for your child, please complete the slip below and return it to school, with payment, by **Monday 29 June**. Please return this slip to confirm your child's choice of roll, even if they have a free meal, or you have already paid. (Please note children may bring their own packed lunch on this day if they wish so if we do not receive an order we will assume they are bringing their own). *Also please note the meal for children in Year R and Year 1 will be that Friday's usual hot dinner as per the menu.*

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## Year 2 Picnic Lunch - Friday 10 June 2009

Child's Name: ..... Class: .....

My child would like to order the picnic lunch and would like a \* cheese / tuna / egg / jam roll \*Please delete as appropriate

\*\*I enclose £2.00 / I have already paid / My child is entitled to free school meals

\*\*Please delete as appropriate