



Merry Hill Matters

Issue 20 - October 8th 2004

Dear Parents

Photographs

The school photographer is due in school next Tuesday (12th) to take photographs of individual children. If you would like to include pre-school and/or older siblings in the photograph please go to the school hall at 12.00, having first collected your children from their classroom/s.

Mrs Dalziel at Ashfield has kindly agreed that parents can take older siblings out of school for the photograph. However, as a courtesy, please confirm with your child's Ashfield teacher that it is acceptable to collect your child on the 12th.

Midday Supervisors

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Lang will be joining the Midday Supervisory Assistant (MSA) team after half term.

The MSAs are organised as follows:

RC - Mrs Whyborn and Mrs Lang

1M - Mrs Williams

1S - Mrs Rouse

2G - Mrs Chang

2H - Mrs Hibbert

Mrs Rouse is our Senior Midday Supervisory Assistant.

Don't Miss the Deadline

If your child was born between 01/09/2000 and 21/08/2001 your child is due to start primary school during the academic year 2005/6. The deadline for returning application forms is the 18th October.

£103.95 collected for Macmillan Cancer Relief

Mrs McMahon collected the magnificent sum of £103.95 at the recent Coffee Morning held in the school dining room. Thank you to Mrs McMahon and to all the parents who supported her by buying tea, coffee and cakes.

Road Safety Meeting

Approximately thirty five people attended our road safety meeting this week, including local residents. At the beginning of the meeting Andy Latcham (Chair of Governors) and Jeff Green (Parent Governor) set the scene by talking about the school's traffic problems and the difficulties parents and children face in making the journey to school. They also set Merry Hill's problems in the national context.

Chris Green (parent) then explained how a School Travel Plan works and what the likely benefits are for the children, parents, staff and local residents. Ros Armitage-Brain (Secretary, Residents Association) outlined some of the strategies that had been successful and some which had been less successful in the last Plan.

PC Andy Chittenden advised on safety issues, parking restrictions and traffic management. Councillors Michael Colne and Seamus Quilty were on hand to advise on local authority matters. Mrs Dalziel (Headteacher, Ashfield) and Mrs De Villiers (Headteacher, St Margaret's) offered their support in co-operating in an area-wide scheme.

Finally, Jeff Green invited support and involvement from others at the meeting and there was a lively discussion about how the road safety problems could be addressed. Two more volunteers (Peter Collyer, parent and Fiona Waloff, parent) volunteered to join our existing School Travel Plan team (Jeff and Chris Green, Sue Martin, Karen Parker, Jane Southam and Claire Vignaux).

The School Travel Plan Team will report back to parents once they have put a draft plan together. Minutes from the meeting are on the website www.merryhill.org.uk

£3900 grant success

We have been successful in an application for a £3,900 grant to run a series of Family Learning workshops with children and their parents/carers in the Reception class.

The first of these, *Family Fun with Shrek*, has been timed to coincide with Family Learning Week (week beginning 11th October).

After half term, there will be the opportunity to participate in six numeracy workshops and, in the New Year, six literacy workshops will be held.

Family Learning simply means parents/carers (or other adult relatives) and children learning together. It is designed to help you find out what, and how, your children learn in the classroom, and how you can support their learning at home.

The sessions will be run by Christine Walker-Parsons and Elizabeth Borg, who are both community education practitioners.

Can you - Cut? Stick? Colour?

We are looking for parents with these skills to join a small working party on Wednesdays at 12.45 to help make story sacks. Toddlers and babies are welcome. Tea and biscuits is provided. If you think you might be interested please see Mrs Baxter (Morning Nursery).

Persil and Nestle Coupons

We are collecting Persil and Nestle coupons. Please put your cut out coupons in the box by Mrs Eells' office hatch.

Update on the FOMH Autumn Term

Diary

Please note that some dates have changed.

Thurs 14 th Oct	Indulgence Evening 7.30pm onwards
Friday 22 nd Oct	Mad Hair Day - bring a bottle for the Christmas Fair
Mon 25 th Oct Fri 29 th Oct	Half Term
Tuesday 9 th Nov	FOMH Social and AGM 8.00pm in the school hall
Sat 4 th Dec	Christmas Fair
Friday 10 th Dec	Children's Christmas Disco 4.30-6.00pm

Monday Meeting

Don't forget that we have a meeting at school with Ruth Willcox of Herts Catering to discuss school dinners at 2.00pm on Monday 11th October. Please complete the attached reply slip to let us know if you will be coming.

Thursday Indulgence

Another reminder - Indulgence Evening is on Thursday 14th October from 7.30pm.

School Nurse

As from 1st November our new school nurse will be Victoria Edwards. She will be based at the Peace Child Development Centre and you will be able to contact her on 01923 470654.

Parents' Evenings

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

A separate letter accompanies this Newsletter to tell you about the October Parents' Evenings.

Pauline Hannibal
Headteacher