



MIDHURST C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ashfield Road

Midhurst

West Sussex

GU29 9JX

Tel: 01730 813526 Fax: 01730 817233

e-mail: office@midhurst-pri.w-sussex.sch.uk

website: www.midhurst-primary-school.co.uk

Headteacher: K.Ford

20th April 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

The Beginning of the SUMMER TERM 2010



Yesterday I came out of taking an assembly in which I reminded the children of how they and their needs are at the centre of our thinking. I reinforced that it was the adult's job to keep the children safe and happy and to give children lots of opportunities to learn really well. Their job was to think, learn and take part as well as possible and to be supportive and kind to each other in their work and play.

The children, particularly through their class and school councils, do have an increasingly large contribution to make to the way the school is run, including new developments and resources. I took the opportunity to reiterate that the adults felt that increased child influence and responsibility was a good thing and that we respected the children's input into the life of the school. I suggested that with this increased 'power' came a responsibility; to reciprocate the respect shown to them by adults, to show respect towards each other and to be responsible and thoughtful when not directly supervised by an adult.

Dr Joe Vitagliano, Principal of Midhurst Rother College would like to talk to you about the college and give you opportunities to ask him any questions when he attends Midhurst Primary School at 7.00, next Wednesday, 28th April. The meeting will be held in Mr Aldren's room unless large numbers intend attending, in which case we will move into the hall.

Thanks to the efforts of Mrs Willing (Deputy Headteacher) in coordinating a small and very able team, some significant developments have been made to the school grounds during the Spring holidays: over £25,000 has been spent on vastly improving opportunities for children to play, have fun, be safe and learn in the outdoor environment. The children have lots of new Playground markings, a ball wall, extended playground, steps and disabled access to the field, a netball pitch and a bark chipping pathway to the new outdoor classroom, which will be completed in the next week or so. We are hoping that within that time span our new 'traverse' wall will also be completed as well as the raised growing beds.

We are pleased with the quality of workmanship and also very grateful to Charlie Burse, our Caretaker who has made such an excellent job of the appearance of the school generally.



So - well done to all concerned, and thanks; it will be great to leave the structure, the décor and outside environment of the school in such fine condition, in July.

I texted Mrs Willing on Sunday to say sorry, but I wouldn't be in to school yesterday because I lived in the sunniest and hottest part of the country and Saharan sand, blown in on a hot southerly wind, has infiltrated my carburettor. I can't divulge the exact response in a family newsletter - suffice to say that I'm here.



Unfortunately Mrs Clarke isn't; she is stranded in Barcelona and has arranged to travel back to the UK during Wednesday and Thursday, arriving in England in the early hours of Friday. Mrs Rosie Black, who has worked frequently with our Year 6 class, has kindly prepared a full week's work for the children - including SATs preparation. Mrs Bellotti unfortunately remains in hospital (I will send an update soon) but Mrs Sue Pickett has spent much of the holiday preparing more than half a term's learning programme. Mrs Karen Lovett has offered to cover any other sessions and to be of any help she can. At MPS we are incredibly fortunate in the quality of person that we employ and are grateful for their wholehearted commitment to our school.



The school did, last week, receive a letter from West Sussex relating to volcanic dust and ash. We will of course monitor the situation and ensure that the children's health remains as robust as ever. The letter did contain one potential piece of good advice relating to children who use inhalers having them to hand until the 'all clear' is given.

Mrs Oomen has the swimming pool clean and sparkling (another good person) and we hope to pass the E.M.U. testing which took place on Monday. If we do then we only need to finalise with the swimming coach, Sue Ashton which days she can do and we could be 'up and running' as early as next Monday. So look out those swimming costumes or trunks - we will be in touch soon.



An early reminder: On
taken of the children.
taken. So start polishing up



Tuesday 4th May Class Photographs will be
We may also have a whole school photograph
those shoes and scrubbing behind the ears!



Returning to yesterday morning's assembly; I did remind the children that the school is made up of all of us and that we only have ourselves to blame if MPS is not a good and happy place to learn and play. It nearly always is, so let's all try to ensure that this long and sunny term is one that we can all enjoy.

Best wishes,

Mr Ken Ford
Headteacher.

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To Mr Ford

I/We will be attending the meeting with Dr Joe Vitagliano on Wednesday 28th
April 2010.

Signed by parentChild's name