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25th September 2009

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your kind words at the school gate and the warm welcome you have given to me. I am really pleased to be here at last! It seemed a long time between my interview last October and my first day at Milton Road. In my letter to you on 7th September I mentioned that I was keen to listen to your views as to what you think we need to do next in order to continue moving the school forwards and keep standards as high as possible. **I have attached a return slip to this newsletter on which I hope you will find time to reflect and offer your thoughts.**

At this point I think it is worth sharing with you some key aspects of my thoughts for the future.

A key challenge is to maintain the 'Outstanding' Ofsted grading and I think we achieve this by doing the very best we can **for each and every one** of our children. In school we need to closely monitor our day to day performance and always be looking to improve.

We need to be cutting edge with technology and I am keen to develop the use of a learning platform which will enable school based learning to take place outside of normal school hours at times to suit the children. This platform will also enable you as a parent to engage more fully with your child's learning, again at times to suit you.

I also see the value in networking with other schools locally and across the world to share information, culture and learn together.

The staff members are telling me that we could do more towards looking at environmental issues both locally and globally.

I hope these ideas give you some food for thought and I would very much welcome your views as we set about writing the new two year school development plan which we expect will be in place for next January.

### Communications

With regard to communications generally, I like to operate an 'open door' policy as far as possible so I will always see any parent at the earliest opportunity. Another way of making your views known is to contact one of the parent representatives on the school governing body.

### New logo

The new logo recognising Milton Road as an **outstanding** school 2009 has now been received so we can begin to use it this term! I shall write a letter to Mrs Romero on the new letter headed so she can be even more proud of her achievements! She sent a lovely postcard to us last week, which the children appreciated.

### PTA

I have arranged with the Parent Teacher Association for school to share the notice board at the school gate. Useful information and contact names will be displayed there in addition to the usual places.



**I am pleased to announce that the climbing pyramid, purchased by the PTA, will be installed in Key Stage 2 playground in mid-October. Many thanks to those of you who worked so hard or contributed to the £4995.00 required for this superb addition to the playground**

All correspondence relating to the PTA should be posted in the black box on the wall outside the entrance to the reception.

### **Staffing**

Our new teachers, Miss S Green (Foundation Stage), Miss G Wild (Key Stage 2), Mr G Williams (Key Stage 2) and Miss C Spelzini (Key Stage 1) like myself have all settled into school quickly and are enjoying working at Milton Road. I can say the same for Ms Hillard and Miss Partridge our new Teaching Assistants. We have advertised for two more teaching assistants to start next half term.

The new appointments will provide further support for the children.

### **Good news**

Mrs Sutton begins her maternity leave soon; her last day is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. I am sure your thoughts, like ours in school will be with her at this exciting time! Mrs Hiley has become a grandma and now has a beautiful grandson - Oliver Robin.



### **School Catering**

As you are aware the new caterers Aspens began serving school meals on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

The governors appointed them in the face of competition from two other providers. They have a real challenge following Zest but they are listening and acting upon feedback and really want to be successful here at Milton Road. They are grateful for the time some of you have taken to let them know where things can be improved. The caterers were introduced to the children at the assembly last Friday and we hope you are able to take advantage of the invitation for you to come in and sample the food with your child.



### **Voluntary Contributions**

A contribution of £2.00 each term is requested to help cover costs for technology projects, including food technology. Schools operate on a very tight budget and expendable materials, such as those needed for technology, can

devour huge chunks from the frugal funds. Whilst technology projects may not be undertaken every term, the cost of materials exceeds the contribution requested. Please send your contribution for this term (or the whole year if preferred) to the class teacher in a named envelope by Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October.

To enrich children's learning through stimulating first hand experiences, children frequently have opportunities for educational visits as well as visitors and workshops in school. These experiences are often memorable for years to come and motivate children to learn more.

There is frequently a cost attached whereby we ask for voluntary contributions which parents are generally able to make. However, for some families this places an undue pressure on the family budget. Should you feel able to make an additional contribution to sponsor another family, then you may wish to make a contribution of £20. This would cover technology costs for your own child as well as providing support for another family unable to make voluntary contributions for educational visits. Thank you.

### **Volunteer Helpers**

The school greatly appreciates the invaluable additional support which can be provided by volunteer helpers. Whilst the school funds nineteen Teaching Assistants, additional adult support can also help children to make better progress than might normally be anticipated. If you are willing to become a volunteer helper, in any subject or area of the curriculum, please complete the enclosed form by Monday 28th September.

### **Steel Band**

All of the children will be listening to and learning about steel band music on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Years 4,5 and 6 children will then develop their learning further through workshop sessions. Parents of year 4, year 5 and year 6 are asked to donate £1 towards the extra cost of this workshop.

### **Bicycles and scooters**

Adult cycle racks close to the main school office are provided for visitors' cycles



only. There are plenty of covered racks for children's cycles and scooters on playgrounds and elsewhere on the site.

**Please also note that bicycles should not be ridden in the school grounds by anyone – adult or child!**

### News Reports

On occasions, opportunities arise for news articles about the school to appear in the press. If you do not wish your child to be photographed for any reports about school, please notify the school office in writing.

At the end of the day.....

Unfortunately children are not allowed to play on the wooden climbing frames or gym bars at

the beginning and end of the day. Local Authority insurance only permits use of the equipment under the direct supervision of school staff. It is for use during the school day only.

Please make sure your children do not play on the equipment at the beginning and end of the school day.

The school greatly appreciates positive feedback on any aspects of school life which parents and children value!

Yours sincerely

Steve Burton

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## Dates for your Diary Autumn Term 2009

### September

Tues 22 Parents of **Year 1** children invited to school lunch  
Year 6 to Hunstanton  
Wed 23 Parents of **Year 2** children invited to school lunch  
Parent Teacher Association AGM at 3.30pm in school  
Class 4m to zoology  
Thur 24 Parents of **Year 3** children invited to school lunch  
Fri 25 Parents of **Year 4** children invited to school lunch  
Mon 28 Parents of **Year 5** children invited to school lunch  
Tues 29 Parents of **Year 6** children invited to school lunch  
Steel Band assembly and workshops in school

### October

Thur 1 Year 5 to Fitzwilliam Museum  
Fri 2 3R to Sedgewick -am  
Mon 5 3R to Sedgewick -am  
Wed 7 Parents Meeting re Year 6 Educational Outdoor  
Activities week-June 2010  
Thur 8 Year 4 Virtual Athletics event at CCC  
Tues 13 Harvest Festival  
Wed 14 Parents evening until 7pm  
Mon 19 School Photographs  
Tues 20 Year 4 to West Stow  
3R to Fitzwilliam  
Thurs 22 Parents evening until 8pm  
Fri 23 School Closed – Training Day

### November

Mon 2 School re-opens  
Fri 13 Year 5 and Year 6 Choir – CPSSN Concert  
(venue & time to be confirmed)  
Sun 15 Choir performance – Cambridge Christmas light switch on  
(Main Stage Market Square 1.05 – 1.20)  
Tues 17 1.15 – 3.30 Y1 Multi-skills festival at Chesterton Community College  
Sat 28 2pm – 4 pm PTA Christmas Fair

**December**

Thurs 10 1.30 KS2 Choir to parents  
Tues 15 9.30am – Foundation Stage/KS1 Christmas Play (Group A)  
10.15am - Foundation Stage/KS1 Christmas Play (Group B)  
1.30pm KS2 Seasonal Concert to Parents  
Wed 16 9.30am KS2 Seasonal Concert to Parents  
1.30pm – Foundation Stage/KS1 Christmas Play (Group A)  
2.15pm - Foundation Stage/KS1 Christmas Play (Group B)  
Fri 18 Term Ends

**January 2010**

Mon 4 School Closed – Training Day  
Tues 5 School Re-opens – Spring Term  
Mon 11 Y3 hockey multi-skills at CCC  
Thurs 4 Y5 to British Museum

**February**

15.19 HALF TERM

**April**

Thurs 1 Term Ends  
Mon 19 Spring Term Starts  
Mon 26 Class & Team Photographs

**May**

Mon 3 School Closed – May Day  
31 – 4<sup>th</sup> June Half Term

**June**

7 – 11 Y6 to Borreaton Park in the Midlands  
Wed 16 Y6 Transition Festival at Chesterton Community College

**July**

Fri 23 Term Ends

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**Volunteer Helpers at Milton Road Primary School**

Please indicate preferences:

Year Group and/or Class \_\_\_\_\_

Subjects/areas of interest \_\_\_\_\_

Cookery Yes No

Recorder Club Yes No

