

26th February 2010



Dear Parents / Carers,

We have enjoyed a good start to 2010 but it is amazing to think that we are now halfway through this academic year already. We have had a busy time and there is a lot packed in to the next few weeks before Easter. So – some news and updates for you.....

Well done to our active Bushfield children.....

- Our dancers were very impressive at both Milton Keynes Theatre and also sharing an afternoon of dance with a school in Northampton
- Our tidy week trophy this half term was shared between Maple and Willow
- MK Indoor Athletics Championship qualifying event – from the Radcliffe Community of Schools 10 out of the 16 children chosen were from Bushfield, a fantastic achievement
- The Hockey league is about to start, we wish all our children good luck in their respective matches
- We received many compliments from members of the public and Church leaders about our Year 5 Bushfield children's exemplary behaviour on their recent day visit to local religious establishments in Wolverton

Early Bird Week

This has been an interesting exercise for us! Early Bird Week is organised by the Education Welfare Service to promote and celebrate children attending school on time. As a school, we have a duty to monitor and report our percentages of children arriving late to school. Obviously, there are odd occasions when being late is unavoidable however we are also aware of how disruptive persistent lateness can be to children and their learning. We support this also because punctuality is part of being independent and self organised, an important life skill for all children to appreciate. Early Bird week was launched by our Education Welfare Officer, Ann Bowles-Orr, in an assembly for the pupils. In the week before half term children had the opportunity to gain a certificate and a House Team point if they were on time each day.

Overall, we did very well but there seemed to be a little confusion among some about actual registration time.

So – just to clarify:

Children are allowed on the playground from 8.30am.

A whistle is blown on the playground at 8:40am and children go into class for registration at 8:45am.

The gate is locked at 8.45am as soon as parents have left the playground.

Children arriving after 8.45am when the gate is closed are classed as late and need to sign in at the front reception.

Thank you for your support with this.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

It has come to our attention that many of our children are accessing Facebook. Often this can be harmless, but we often find out about it when things have gone wrong and people / children have become upset, and issues come in to us at School. As with MSN and any other chat room type site – it is important that children are monitored closely to make sure that the conversations and who they are communicating with is appropriate. **Children should not have Facebook accounts below the age of 13.** This is about keeping children safe – in all sorts of ways.

Internet Safety Information Evening

We have been offered a Parent Information evening as part of a Milton Keynes wide initiative to raise awareness of internet safety issues for children. We feel that this is a pertinent and valuable opportunity for staff and parents. This is free and will be held on Tuesday March 16th at 7pm. Places are limited for this event. Please complete the attached reply slip if you wish to attend.

Breakfast Club

Due to the increasing numbers of children coming to breakfast club it has become difficult to get all the children served with hot breakfast before closure at 8:30am. Therefore, any children arriving after 8:15am will only be able to have cereals and a drink – this will be effective from 1st March 2010.

We do encourage all children to arrive before 8:15am to allow them enough time to eat their breakfast before going out on to the playground at 8:30am. Breakfast Club is open from 7:45am – 8:30am.

Race Equality Policy

Bushfield values the individuality of all our children. We are committed to giving all our children every opportunity to achieve the highest standards. Within this ethos of achievement, we do not tolerate bullying or harassment of any kind. This policy is one of several 'equality of opportunity' policies, which help to ensure that this school promotes the individuality of all our children, irrespective of ethnicity, attainment, age, disability, gender or background. We aim to reflect the multi-ethnic nature of our society and ensure that the education we offer fosters positive attitudes to all people. This policy reflects the general and specific duties on schools as detailed in the Race Relations Act 1976 and as amended by the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000.

As part of our consultation process we would like to invite any feedback or comments you may have for consideration. Our policy is available on the Bushfield website in the 'Policies' section at www.bushfieldschool.net or copies may be requested from the school office. Comments for consideration should be returned by Friday 26th March.

Cycling to school

This is something we encourage and we have managed to secure training places for some of our children from Milton Keynes Council to learn about cycling skills, safety and road awareness. Children cycling to school do require a Bushfield permit and children must wear a cycle helmet. Permit application forms are available from the school office.

Parents Evening

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our Parents' Evening next week which focuses on Literacy and Maths. As always – please help us keep to time by knocking on the door at your appointed time. We will do our best and your patience is appreciated. As always, if there are other matters you wish to discuss or you require a longer session, please feel free to organise another time with the teacher. You are always welcome to discuss any aspect of your child's welfare or education by arrangement at anytime in the year.

Refreshments will be available and I would also be very grateful if you could complete a short questionnaire after your meeting with the teacher. These will be given to you by the teacher, and will also be available in reception. There will be a posting box in reception or you can return it to school over the next few days

Music Tuition

Music continues to feature strongly at Bushfield with 54 children across the school involved in a range of instrumental peripatetic lessons taking place both during the school day and out of curriculum time. A further 60 children are involved in choir and orchestra.

Just to remind you, also, that we operate a waiting list for peripatetic music lessons, so please let us know (by contacting the office) if you are interested in your child taking up music lessons to help us plan for September.

The Milton Keynes Music Service is able to offer extra curricular tuition in many instruments, please follow this link to their webpage <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/music%5Fservice/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=13107>

I look forward to seeing you all next week at the forthcoming parents'/carers' consultation evenings.

With Best Wishes

Andrea Curtis

Headteacher



Dear Miss Curtis

Internet Safety Evening - Tuesday 16th March at 7pm

I would like to reserve _____ places at the Internet Safety Evening.

Signed: _____ Parent/Carer Date: _____

Child's name: _____