



MILLFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Bowes Road, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex, CO7 9RD
Telephone: 01206 823044 Fax: 01206 827289
Email: admin@millfields.essex.sch.uk
HEADTEACHER: Mrs Janet Meacock



Governors Newsletter – Autumn 2015

Welcome to all our new parents – I hope your children have settled into their new classes and enjoying everything Millfields has to offer.

In this newsletter we've highlighted some of the issues and events that governors have been involved in at school this term ranging from e-safety to the baking.

I'd like to mention here that we will have two Parent Governor vacancies in December. In order to get an idea of what we do some parents have already attended the last two Full Governing Body meetings as observers. The governing body is now much smaller and more agile with only two meetings each term, although governors get involved in a range of visits and activities over and above this.

If you are interested and want to know more, please catch any of the governors and have a chat or call us via the School Office.

I hope you all have a very festive December.

Nick White – Chair of Governors

Excellent turn-out for E-safety talk – Dave Rosco

We were delighted to see so many parents and carers at the recent e-safety talk held at the school, as part of our continued focus on Safeguarding, both in and out of school. PC Williams gave a very hard hitting and thought provoking presentation on the dangers that our children can find themselves exposed to when using the internet.

PC Williams provided an informative overview of the resources that the government has put in place to combat the dangers of online grooming and gave parents practical advice in keeping children safe online. He paid particular attention to the dangers of online chat when playing popular online games such as Club Penguin and Habbo Hotel.

One parent commented afterwards: "Whilst some of the information was uncomfortable to listen to, I feel a lot more confident about keeping my child safe when they are online and I now know the warning signs to look out for".

PC Williams also gave an age-appropriate presentation to the children later in the week, helping them to identify times when they could be at risk and explaining what to do if they had any concerns whilst online.

If you were unable to attend the presentation and would like more information, please get in contact with the school.

www.ceop.police.uk www.thinkuknow.co.uk www.iwf.org.uk

School Dinners – Leigh-Ann Munt

In September 2014 the coalition government introduced free school meals for all infant school children. Their aim was to improve academic attainment and to save families money. Studies show that well - nourished children fare better at school.

Chris, Helen and Debbie cook freshly prepared meals in accordance with strict guidelines from Essex County Council. These guidelines dictate portion size and nutritional values. They use approved providers who deliver store

ingredients and fresh produce. Colemans butchers supply good quality meat on a weekly basis. They work incredibly hard to make delicious lunches for the children and cater for a range of special dietary needs.

The four weekly menu is varied and is chosen to meet all food group requirements. This is sent out by Parentmail in advance. You will notice that there is only one fried food item on the menu each week e.g. fish and chips. This is normally served on a Friday and is a very popular meal; it is common for numbers to exceed 160 meals. The vegetarian option of a cheese wrap is equally popular.

Recently Mr Battersby, as part of a questionnaire, asked all the children what meals they would like to see on the menu. He listened to their ideas, collated the information and discussed the possible menu options with the kitchen staff. Ideas which met the stringent requirements as set out by the government will be introduced. You will notice that there are already some new items on the menu as chosen by the children. Every day children are served vegetables and fruit as part of their meal but all children are encouraged to have additional fruit and vegetable items from the trolley. The trolley is stocked daily with interesting choices such as sugar snap peas and sweet corn.

Lunchtimes are an enjoyable experience where children can have a tasty two course nutritional meal for only £2.00. It is a relaxed atmosphere where the midday staff assist children who need help with choices from the trolley or need help in cutting up their food.

Themed lunches are always popular. Our forthcoming Christmas lunch is one which I always enjoy. The staff and governors have the opportunity to don our festive hats and eat with the children. This is always a fun experience. If you would like your child to have Christmas lunch please pre order it at the office.



After-School club

Our investment in refurbishing the old library to give us space to hold the after-school club and breakfast club is going from strength to strength ably led by Despina and her team, Sarah and Emily. On average we have 12 children each evening.



We still have a few vacancies but expect next term to be busy, so please ask Anita if you want to reserve a place.

Great Millfields Bake-off - Judge Darren Keeble

There were tasty technical treats, scrumptious signatures and splendid showstoppers. Cakes with a story, cakes with flags and cakes with chocolate (lots of chocolate!). Not to mention the flap jacks, biscuits and ice cream style cakes. Plus the Black Forest Gateau, lemon drizzle cake and a volcano. A tremendous effort by all involved. The standard was very high, so we'll done to you all who took part.

Also a special note of thanks to Maison Mollie, the lovely new coffee shop on station road, for donating a delicious chocolate cake for the Children in Need cake sale and all the parents and children for baking all those lovely cakes.

Eco schools – Martin Melzer

The Garden and Eco groups have kicked off to a good start with a great free donation of hundreds of bulbs from Thompson and Morgan of Ipswich. Last week a few volunteers helped with the planting as well as the after school club. Loads of tulips, daffodils and others with difficult names were planted so watch out for spring to see where they put them.



The Eco Schools class reps had their first meeting and an agenda was set for the year ahead. Items discussed were litter and pollution, recycling, energy used in the school on a daily basis, the concern of Antarctica melting and how to save the Penguins! Ask your child how they are intending to lower the school's carbon footprint and how you can help.

Special thanks to Thompson and Morgan again for the bulbs and if you're interested to purchase your own visit their website at <http://www.thompson-morgan.com/>

Finally...

Congratulations to staff who were nominated for the Essex County Standard Education Awards 2015 – Jim Martin who was runner up in his category for School Personality of the year and Katie Plant who won the category for Best Newly Qualified New Teacher.

I'd like to thank Jenny Davies who retires as parent governor in December. Jenny has been a fantastic asset to the governing body over the last 4 Years. In particular I'd like to thanks her for chairing the Curriculum sub-committee and being the driving force reviewing the last School Development Plan and the new marking scheme that OFSTED were so positive about. STOP PRESS – Jenny is staying on as an Associate Governor.