



HILLTOP INFANT SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

Reminder Year 2 Party at the Park

Year 2 children will be going to the park on Thursday 15th July. All children will need to have a packed lunch. The ice cream van will be visiting the park so if you have any concerns about your child having an ice cream or a lolly please speak to your child's teacher.

Reports

Thank you to everyone who has completed the reply slip at the back of the school report. The teaching staff spend many days working on the reports and we do love to have your feedback. If you have not yet returned the reply, please send it into class with your child.

Sponsor Money

To date, we have collected over £1000 in sponsor money following our activities morning. We would like to thank all the parents, carers, families and friends who have supported the school so magnificently. We are still happy to accept any outstanding sponsor money up until the end of term. The year 2 party will be supported by some of the money and the rest will be put towards non-essential classroom resources and the hall refurbishment.

Potato Dig Day



On Monday this week Mrs Mackenzie worked with children from each of the classes to dig up the potatoes. Congratulations to Class 8 who grew 27 potatoes from their original two. Our chard and pumpkins are already starting to grow.

Shoes

This term, a significant number of children have been coming to school in unsuitable footwear. Shoes or sandals with high heels are not appropriate for school and sandals with open toes can lead to toes being injured when children trip or if items are dropped on their feet. Many of you will be buying new school shoes over the summer break so here are a few reminders about the school uniform:



- ◆ Shoes should be black (no trainers or boots)
- ◆ Ideally shoes should fasten across the foot. If they are "slip-ons" they should fit snugly so they do not fall off whilst children are running.
- ◆ Heels should be low or flat.
- ◆ Wherever possible, children should be able to put their shoes on and take them off by themselves. If you do choose shoes with laces it can take quite a lot of practice at home before children can tie them, although it can be a very useful skill to acquire.
- ◆ Please remember to put your child's name in each shoe - it is very hard to return shoes to their owners if they are unnamed.
- ◆ Please ensure that children are wearing socks as well as shoes.

Thank you for all your support with this.

Wednesday 14th July 2010

Newsletter No 39

School Meals - Next week will be week 1

CLC Opening

Thank you to the Roving Reporters, Beth and Sian, who have worked so hard over the past few months to assist with publicising the CLC. Sian was a marvellous guide at the opening last Friday. The CLC is now open for business and all children in school will be working at the building on at least 3 days next year.

Open Evening 6.00-8.30pm

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work in preparing for last week's Open Evening and to all the volunteers, including Shipmates, who helped in advance and on the night. The school looked lovely, with beautiful displays of children's work. We were delighted to welcome many of the children who will be joining us in September. We hope that families enjoyed seeing their child's work, meeting the staff and looking around the whole school.

P.t.o.....

For letter to parents and carers re leave of absence/holidays in the next academic year.

Hilltop Infant School
Hill Avenue
Wickford SS11 8LT
Tel: 01268 762531



14th July 2010

Dear Parents and Carers,

As some of you are aware, the Wickford headteachers have been discussing holiday authorisation and a proposal was put forward to reduce the number of days that a headteacher would authorise to five. However, the governing body of Hilltop Infant School has discussed the matter at length and has agreed that we will maintain the existing arrangements at our school. I would like to clarify what these are so that all families are aware of procedures before requesting leave:

- ◆ Taking your child out of school during term time could be detrimental to your child's educational progress.
- ◆ Term-time holidays should only be requested in exceptional circumstances and a letter detailing the special reasons should accompany the leave of absence form.
- ◆ No holidays will be authorised during the first two weeks of September.
- ◆ Holidays taken by Year 2 pupils when teacher assessments are being finalised will not be authorised.
- ◆ Up to 10 days **may** be authorised within one academic year but this is at the discretion of the headteacher and is not an entitlement.
- ◆ Odd days mid-week will not be authorised.
- ◆ Leave of absence for a holiday will only be authorised if a child's attendance is above 90% and if no unauthorised leave has been taken in the past 12 months.

If leave of absence is not authorised and is still taken, the case will be referred to the Education Welfare Service who may issue a Penalty Notice for £100 (or £50 if paid within 28 days) to **each parent for each child** taken out of school.

Families may also need to apply for leave of absence for reasons other than holidays and these requests will always be considered on an individual basis. There is no need to fill in the leave of absence form if your child has a dental or medical appointment but please write a note in advance and bring the appointment card to the school office.

If you have any concerns about these arrangements or if anything is unclear please contact me and I will be happy to discuss the matter with you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Mackenzie