



Hamilton Primary School - *hmail GA10*

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2010

Headteacher: Mr G Aldous
Priory Avenue, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 6SG

e-mail: office@hamilton-school.co.uk

website: www.hamilton-school.co.uk



Dear Parents,

Moving towards the end of another busy term I continue to be impressed by the diversity and quantity of opportunities for the pupils at the school. As you will see from the rest of the *hmail*, there are a number of events that are and have taken place during the term. Thank you to all those of you who continue to give your children that essential support by attending parents' evenings, sharing in the pupils' work by coming in to see Sharing Assemblies and being involved in such wonderful events as the Arabian Nights. A heart-felt thank you to the group of mums who spent many evenings after school working with the children in preparation for this event. Also a big thank you to the families who continue to support their children getting to school on time and also those who have responded to my request of not asking for absence for their children during term time. Looking at children's progress during the year so far it is very noticeable that higher attendance equals more progress.

Globetrotters

This is one of the most special events in the school calendar and, after seeing it for the first time last summer, I have talked to the staff about how we can develop the event and involve more pupils. We will be spending some time during the day, as part of the curriculum, learning about different cultures and the pupils will have the opportunity to become more involved and share what they find out. As much of the work will be happening during the day, I am sure that staff will start to ask parents if they are available to support their work. It would be fantastic to see parents and members of the community in the classroom. The evening event will be on Wednesday 30 June and will follow a similar format as before, with food before the performances. There will be less performances as the pupils will have had the opportunity to show the work they have done in school during the day. My intention is that we will have an open afternoon in Priory Road from 1.30-2.30pm and Hampden Road from 2.30-3.30pm on 30 June so that parents can come in and look at the work.

SCHOOL NEWS

Children's Centre

The County Council pulled out of plans to build a SureStart Children's Centre on the Hampden Road site, choosing instead an alternative site on Hamilton Road. This new SureStart Children's Centre is now up and running and will be organising some events in conjunction with Hamilton for the pre-school age families.

Hot School Meals

We are hoping to reintroduce a hot meals service at both sites in the Autumn term. We are currently working with the local authority and making progress towards this goal.

NOTICES

ParentMail

This *hmail* is being sent home by ParentMail to all those families who have enrolled for this service.

ParentMail is a system of communicating with parents electronically. It ensures the message or letter doesn't get left in a drawer, or dropped on the way home - but goes direct to each email address provided by the parent. It also cuts the amount of paper and print used in producing letters home and circulating newsletters.

Those families which have received this *hmail* as a paper copy, will find attached a ParentMail enrolment form. If you have an email address, please enrol for ParentMail communications by completing the form and returning it to the school office. Thank you.

Instrumental Tea Concert

The Instrumental Tea Concert will be held at 3pm on Sunday 25 April in the school hall at Wycombe High School. Instrumentalists from Hamilton have the opportunity to perform and parents and families are welcome to come and see and hear what goes on in the instrumental-playing 'scene' at Hamilton, as well as enjoying tea and cakes.

Home Access Programme

The government's vision is to ensure that all pupils in state maintained education in England have the opportunity to have access to computers and internet connectivity for education at home. This means ensuring that the million learners without appropriate home access are given both the **encouragement** and **funding** they may need. The Home Access programme provides computers and broadband internet access to families so that children and their families can enhance their learning at home. Home Access packages are available for purchase by all. However, certain families in England who are on lower incomes and meet other eligibility criteria will be able to apply for a Home Access Grant to purchase one of these packages. The package includes a user device, internet connectivity and service wrapper meeting pre-defined technical and performance standards.

Quick eligibility check for Home Access

Take the quick eligibility check below. You may be able to qualify for a Home Access Grant if you answer YES to:

- three questions in Section one, and
- at least one question in Section two.

Section One:

Are you a parent or guardian responsible for and living with a child...

...who is in school years 3 to 9 inclusive?

...who attends a state-maintained school in England full time**?

...who has not already had a computer from a Home Access Grant or similar programme, such as Computers for Pupils?

Section Two:

Do you receive at least one of the following?

- Free school meals for your child***
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income support
- Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and an income of less than £16,040
- Guaranteed Pension Credit (not Savings Credit)
- Income-based Employment Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Do you qualify?

If you think you qualify for a Home Access Grant please call the Home Access Grant Helpline on **0333 200 1004** to get an application form.

School Shop

The School Shop has stock of good quality second-hand summer dresses.

Uniform

We will shortly be having a purge on uniform. Please make sure the children are in correct uniform and that black shoes are not trainers. Please let us know if you wish to have a uniform list.

Lateness

I am becoming increasingly concerned about the number of children arriving late for school. The start of the school day at Priory Road is 8.45am and at Hampden Road is 9.00am. Please could you ensure that your child arrives on time. Being late is not only embarrassing for the child as they walk into lessons late, but they are missing the initial teaching of the lesson and also disturbing the rest of the class, which is not acceptable.

The number of children who are collected late at the end of the day is also on the increase. We do not have the appropriate space in reception to look after children. If you know that you are going to be late please let us know so that in Priory Road at least they can be taken to the Arts & Crafts Club to be cared for appropriately. This will incur the session cost of £5.00.

Aggressive Behaviour

It has come to my attention that there have been occasions over this term where parents have approached staff in an aggressive manner, both verbally and physically. This is totally unacceptable. If you do have a complaint or need to talk to a member of staff about an incident, please make an appointment with the office. We are a school which prides itself on being open and staff are always willing to see parents as soon as is possible. Particularly in the Early Years we encourage you to come in to the classroom to collect the children and try to deal with issues with a chat at the end of the day. I would prefer not to move away from this because I think it is good for the child and family to be able to deal with concerns or worries as they arise, but I also have a duty to ensure the safety of the staff.

Gardening

Some of you will be aware that we are very keen to brighten up the environment of the school and a team of staff and parents are particularly keen to rejuvenate the pond and wildlife area at Hampden Road and to encourage children to start growing their own vegetables. We are trying to organise a 'clear up' over the Easter Holidays, so all help will be most welcome. Date to be confirmed.

Sports Relief

We had a fantastic day in the rain on Friday and the children covered well over a mile each, in fact it was difficult to stop some of them! The final figure we raised is not yet in, but thank you all for your support..... Sorry about the extra washing though!!!

TRAVEL PLAN NEWS

Winter Maintenance

Subsequent to the problems we encountered with the snow conditions earlier this year, I contacted the Cabinet Member for Transport at Bucks County Council, Cllr Valerie Letheren. We had an informative meeting regarding the problems the school and our families faced. One outcome of this meeting is that we were allocated a grant to purchase two grit spreaders - one for each site, which will make treating such conditions easier.

PARKING

Parking on Zig Zag lines

Inconsiderate parking at Hampden Road. Parking on zig zag lines outside school is illegal and dangerous for our children's safety. A red Nissan Registration number T875 JAZ has been seen parking on the zig zag lines outside the Hampden Road site. Please do not do this again. Other cars seen acting in an irresponsible way recently near the Prior Road site are:

NJ03 HJA seen parked on pavement in zig zag area
S378 UCL reversed out and blocked road
T875 JAL dropped off a child on the zig zag lines
OE09 RUY dropped off a child on the zig zag lines

There are new banners on display at Priory Road by the area on the road which have zig zag lines painted - please take note of their message and park responsibly. Do not just let your child out of the car and drive off without seeing them onto the playground, as one Reception parent did last week.

Children left alone in car

I have received a report of two small children being left in a car parked in Benjamin Road whilst parents collected other children from Hamilton. This is an unsafe and dangerous practice. In future I will fulfil my duty to ensure that reports of such incidents are forwarded to the Police and to the Safeguarding Team at Bucks County Council.

Priory Road Playground Parking

A reminder to those parents who have a permit to park in the playground car park at Priory Road that there is a one-way system for entering and exiting the car park. Parents should park, get out of their cars and collect their child at the end of the day; not call to them to make them cross where traffic is moving.

Staff Car Park

There is no access for parents to park in the staff car park at either site. Some parents seem to feel that it is okay to block the car park. At Priory Road the staff car park is also the 'walkers' exit and moving cars at 3.15pm in this area is dangerous to our children.

FRIENDS OF HAMILTON

Reminders:

The **Auction** will be held on Saturday 27 March, starting with viewing from 7pm and the auction from 7.30pm in the Hampden Road Hall

The next **Hot Dog** day will be on Friday 30 April, both sites.

With best wishes for a peaceful and restful holiday at the end of next week.

Yours sincerely



Mr G Aldous
Headteacher

Note: **HEADLICE**



There have been a number of reported cases of head lice in the school. Advice from the school nurse on the treatment of headlice is on the next page.

HEAD LICE

Are happy to be on ANY head

HEAD LICE – THE FACTS

Head Lice :

- Are small wingless six legged insects
- A life size adult louse is 3mm long
- Live only on human heads
- Like warmth close to the scalp
- Do not jump or fly
- Only move from head to head when there is close contact
- Live by biting the scalp and feeding on blood
- EGGS are laid close to the scalp and are pearl coloured oval shapes
- NITS are a dull colour and found further along the hair
- Are not fussy about the length of hair or whether it is clean
- Can be found anywhere on the scalp, but especially behind the ears and at the back of the neck
- Are often present for months before being detected

If left alone they can infest many others.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

DETECTION OF HEAD LICE

Control of head lice starts at home, children need supervision with hair washing and combing.

Wet combing, as described below, after washing the hair, is an excellent way of detection and treatment.

It is important to check regularly every week including school holidays.

DETECTION METHOD

You will need...

Shampoo, conditioner, wide-toothed comb, head lice detection comb, towel, kitchen paper

1. Wash the hair using ordinary shampoo
2. Use conditioner to make combing easier
3. Lightly towel dry hair
4. Remove tangles with a wide-toothed comb
5. Using detection comb, part hair into small sections and comb hair from scalp to the end
6. Wipe comb each time with a piece of kitchen paper and check for live lice
7. Repeat step 5 and 6 and ensure the whole head is combed
8. Clean comb under running water, kill and wash away any lice found

WHAT TO DO if a living head louse is found...

- Check the whole family and advise anyone else who has had close contact with your child
- Treat all members of the family who have lice at the same time

NON MEDICATED TREATMENT

Wet combing method ...

Repeat steps 1-8 of the detection method every 3 days for 2 weeks. Combing every 3 days removes the lice before they are mature enough to lay eggs or transfer to another head.

Carry on with routine weekly detection after all lice have been removed.

MEDICATED TREATMENT

Use only a medicated lotion recommended by a GP, pharmacist or nurse.

Make sure you have enough lotion to treat all those with live lice (one bottle for each head to be treated). More may be needed for very thick hair.

Shampoos are not recommended as they are less successful in killing lice.

For children under 2 years old and anyone with a medical condition, eg, pregnancy, asthma or eczema, consult your GP before using a medicated treatment.

MEDICATED TREATMENT METHOD

You will need

Medicated lotion, detection comb, towel, kitchen paper

1. The room should be well ventilated (open window), with good light
2. Keep well away from naked flames, cigarettes or sources of heat; do not use a hair dryer
3. Apply lotion exactly as directed in the instructions
4. Ensure the lotion/fluid is applied thoroughly to the whole scalp
5. Leave the lotion on the head for the length of time recommended in the instructions to make sure the head lice are killed
6. Comb out the dead and stunned head lice with a detection comb
7. Repeat the treatment in 7-10 days using a second bottle of lotion
8. Check the hair 2 days after the second treatment. If there is still evidence of head lice ask your school nurse, health visitor, practice nurse or pharmacist for further advice
9. Keep a record of the treatment used and the result
10. Carry on with weekly detection combing after treatment

Medicated lotions or shampoos should not be used to prevent infection with head lice. Only individuals who have live head lice need to be treated.

REMEMBER

Anyone can catch head lice...

- **But everyone needs to know how to manage and remove them**
- **Always check your contacts: parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins, friends, baby-sitters and share information**

Some advice contacts:

Bug Busting helpline: 020 7686 4321

NHS Direct: tel 0845 4647, www.nhsdirect.org.uk

Community Hygiene Concern: www.chc.org

Health protection unit for infectious disease who issue the guideline regarding head lice: 0845 2799879.