

18th January 2010

Dear Parents

What a difficult start we have had to this term! Thank you for your understanding during this snowy period. It is always a challenge for Mrs Porter and I deciding whether to close the school. I send my husband out at 6.15 am to check the roads and have to make a decision on this information (it's far too cold for me to go out!). However, we will do our utmost to keep the school open, even if we have to open with a skeleton staff. I would like to thank all the staff who either covered for staff who could not get here, or who made huge efforts to travel to school. It was a real team effort! I know that there was an issue with the information on the Midwest Radio website. As soon as I was aware of this I contacted them, but from now on Mr Marshall will put a message on our school website if the school will be closing – www.mereschool.com. Some parents have been unhappy about the school being open during this weather. My advice is that if it is unsafe to bring your children to school please keep them at home. Let's hope there is no more snow this year.

The governors are looking to appoint a part time cleaner (Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 3.15 – 5.45 pm) to start after half term. If you might be interested please could you pop into the office to ask for an information pack?

Our head checks only detected 5 cases last week. Thank you so much for your continued vigilance.

Surprisingly we still have vacancies in many clubs after school. There are spaces in the following:

Hockey (Monday),
Chess (Monday),
Science (Monday),
Beading (Monday),
Year 3 and 4 tennis (Tuesday),
Fun (Wednesday),
Street dance (Wednesday),
Football (Thursday), and
Year 6 Arts Award (Thursday).

I would also like to remind parents about the breakfast and after school care we will be running on a trial basis for the next 4 weeks. There has not been a huge amount of interest in this provision and on current numbers we will not be able to continue it beyond half term. Please contact Mrs Rawlings for details.

We are continuing to have problems in the car park before and after school, despite a constant flow of letters requesting that parents/relatives do not park in this area. Many parents probably noticed the local police assisting on Friday morning and they will be coming to help us on a regular basis. We do not have this rule to make life difficult for anyone, indeed it would be much easier for us to let everyone park where they would like, but we have a duty to ensure the children and staff are safe on the site. The children and visiting OFSTED inspectors have highlighted this area as being dangerous. The Governors will be considering more extreme traffic controlling measures over the next few months but in the meantime I would be really grateful if you could abide by the rule of no parking on the site.

Below are the dates for the next fortnight:

Monday 18 th January, 2.30 pm -	spelling workshop for parents, clubs start,
Thursday 21 st January, 1.30 pm -	maths workshop for parents, and
Tuesday 26 th January -	internet safety evening for parents – details to follow.

With thanks.

Yours sincerely

Catriona Williamson