

**CALDECOTT PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER**



9th October 2009

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have seen in the news or read in the papers how there are further regulations to ensure the safety of children. The first two items below give you more details of how this impacts on us at Caldecott.

Safeguarding in Schools

All schools are now required to carry out appropriate checks on all volunteers who have regular contact with children and log the details on a central database. If you wish to volunteer regularly to read with the children or help with a school trip you will need to apply for a CRB check and provide the following for our database:

- Photographic ID (passport, photo driving licence, EU photo identity card or HM Forces ID card)
- A list of all surnames you have had (maiden name, married names etc)
- Date of Birth

This information will be used to carry out a preliminary 'List 99' check – once you have passed this you will be issued with a CRB application form which should be completed and returned at the earliest opportunity.

Once a List 99 check has been completed you can work at school until you receive your certificate from the CRB, which can take up to 3 months, but please be aware we will need to log the details of your CRB certificate on the school database as soon as you receive it.

Attendance

Safeguarding our children in school also means that it is important that you can be confident we are checking that your children have arrived each morning – particularly older children who walk to school on their own. After half term we will be contacting parents by 10am on the first day they are absent if we have

not received a message from you. Please remember that you can leave a message on our dedicated absence line at any time to let Mrs Prior know the reason that your child is not at school, leaving the time and date that you called. Please note that it is not sufficient to quote the reason as 'unwell' as we are required to record specific information regarding an illness in our records.

We work actively with our local Educational Social Worker to promote good attendance in school. Children whose attendance falls below 90% are monitored closely and we make every effort to ensure that this improves over the course of the year with parenting contract meetings and regular contact by telephone or letter. We know that the children who make the best progress at school are those who come in to school every day.

Maths Week

Many thanks to all the parents and carers who came to the "Maths wasn't like this in my day" sessions for KS1 and KS2 – the feedback has been very positive and we hope that you found it useful. There will be a follow up practical session next Wednesday (21st October) in the afternoon (from 1pm to 3pm) for any KS1 parents and carers who would like to come along and make maths games that they can play with their children. Please book a session with the office if you would like to join us.

This year our Maths Week will take place during the last week of term and the theme will be "The Fair". The children will be having fun doing many activities including the ever popular Maths Trail devised by Mrs Trotman, designing and making games and problem solving. This time older children are working with younger children to solve the challenges rather than families.

Secondary School Admissions

A reminder that you must return your CAPF (Secondary) forms to the school office by 22nd October. If you are applying online the closing date is 2nd November 2009.

Parent Interviews

You should have received a letter inviting you to parent interviews the week after the October holiday. During this week we will be asking all parents attending parent interviews to fill in a questionnaire. It is really important to us to know how you are feeling about Caldecott and whether there are improvements we can make. We do act on many of the issues that have been raised and I am always delighted to correspond directly with those parents who make additional comments and supply their name and address in the space provided.

If you are not coming to any interviews, please do pick up a questionnaire at the office. We can also email questionnaires or send them home if that helps.

Please note that clubs will not run during this week.

Improving Links with Schools

We are developing a number of ways of improving links electronically between home and school. You will have received a letter explaining about our new Schoolcomms system (which some of you may already be aware of as we are using it for club updates). After the holiday we plan to use this to send newsletters and other correspondence home by email – please note that if we send the newsletter via email you will not receive a paper copy unless you specifically request one. There is also a text messaging facility which we will use in an emergency – for example if we need to close unexpectedly.

The service does rely on having up to date information in our database so please do make sure that you inform the office of any changes at the earliest opportunity.

Headlice

With a holiday approaching it is a good time to check your child for evidence of lice and treat them accordingly. Regardless of whether or not a child has them it is a good idea to get into a routine of weekly combing with a nit comb – this can help to break the reproductive cycle of head lice.

Headlice Facts:

- The scientific name for the head louse is *Pediculus humanus capiti*.
- More than three million people a year in the UK catch head lice.
- Lice are grey or brown, have six legs and are about 2mm long when fully grown. They live for about 30 days. A mature female louse lays three to five eggs a day.
- The casing, or shells, of these eggs are called ‘nits’. Nits can stay in the hair for months after the louse has hatched.
- Head lice feed on blood, and will usually bite the scalp between four and eight times a day.

Parking in Caldecott Chase

Please do drive carefully if you are dropping off or picking your children up by car in Caldecott Chase. Please do not use the private parking spaces or the reserved parking for the Children's Centre.

Cars at the beginning and end of the school day are causing obstructions which are frustrating for the residents. Careless parking can also cause problems with driver visibility – please remember that there are now a great many children who use this route as pedestrians and their safety is a priority.

Visit of the School Photographer

The school photographer will be here on Monday 9th November. You will have received a letter this week explaining that while we can arrange for brothers and sisters who attend school to be photographed together ***we cannot offer the opportunity for family group photographs.*** If you do wish siblings to be photographed during the school day please ensure that you return the reply slip as soon as possible

Reminder of Dates

19 th – 22 nd October	Maths Week
22 nd October	Last day of term – 3.00pm finish
23 rd October to 1 st November	Mid Term Break
Monday 2 nd November	Start of Term 2
Week beginning 2 nd November	Parent Interviews
Tuesday 3 rd November	Year 3/ 4 Trip to Sulgrave Manor
Tuesday 3 rd November	Friends' Meeting in School Library
Monday 9 th November	School Photographer / Portraits
Friday 20 th November	Children in Need – Non school uniform day
Friday 4 th December	Christmas Disco