



Dear Parents/Carers

It has been another week of challenging weather, but we are pleased that school has continued to run to it's normal times. The children (and adults!) have loved being outside in the snow.

We have been visited this week by the Mayor of Milton Keynes, Mr Euan Henderson. The Mayor spent some time with children in the Foundation Classes and enjoyed inspecting the amazing igloo they have built. The Mayor also led Collective Worship. He came to share with us about what he does as Mayor of Milton Keynes and also talk about his charity 'Hope Outreach' UK. This charity support families and children in Sri Lanka and Southern India following the devastating effects of the war and the Tsunami 5 years ago. Watch this space for details of our fundraising plans.


Mrs Anne Hamilton  
Headteacher



**Inside this issue:**

Dear Parents/Carers	1
Friends Together AGM Date	1
Home Access	2
Milton Keynes Schools Closure Alerts	2
Cygnets School Meals/Free School Meals	2
Parent Council/Open Forum Dates	2
School Calendar Dates	2

**'Swine Flu Alert'**  
Please keep alert for symptoms and contact your GP or NHS direct for advice if necessary.



**Friends Together**

For The Growth Of Our School



Christ the Sower

**FRIENDS TOGETHER - NEW DATE FOR AGM - TUESDAY 16 MARCH**

The new date for the Friends Together AGM is to be Tuesday 16 March. All parents are very welcome to attend, as new faces, ideas and enthusiasm are always much appreciated! More details to follow from Friends Together nearer the time.

**HOME ACCESS - NEW GOVERNMENT COMPUTER AND INTERNET SCHEME FOR YEARS 3—9 (KS2/3)**

The government have announced a new initiative (Home Access) to help low-income families get access to a computer and the internet to get online at home.

If you are a low income family with a child in school years 3 to 9 and in receipt of certain benefits you could qualify for a grant to buy a computer and/or a minimum of one years' internet access. The programme is aimed at those that need it most and targets families that do not have access to a computer or the internet at home. Depending on what you need, the grant allows eligible applicants to buy one of the following packages:

1. Full package (a computer, one year's internet access, service and support)
2. A computer with service and support
3. One year's internet access

Are you eligible?

If you are a parent and think you are eligible for a Home Access grant simply call the Home Access Grant Helpline on 0333 200 1004 to get an application form.

Quick eligibility check

Have a look at the eligibility requirements below. You may be able to qualify for a Home Access grant if you:

- Answer yes to three questions in Section one AND
- Answer yes to 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?

...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



## MILTON KEYNES SCHOOL CLOSURE ALERTS



If Christ the Sower has to close, due to the adverse weather or any other reason, you can find out about it in several ways. Firstly, our school website ([www.cts.milton-keynes.sch.uk](http://www.cts.milton-keynes.sch.uk)) will be updated as soon as any decisions to close are made, and you can follow CtSMK on Twitter. We will also use the text messaging service to notify parents of closures and any other news or changes. Please don't forget to let us have your most up-to-date mobile number - the text messaging service will only work when the number we are using is correct and your inbox is not full! Texts may also fail or be delayed if your network is experiencing difficulties.

You may also be aware that Milton Keynes Council offer a texting and email message service to update parents on Milton Keynes Schools closures. You can sign up to this by going to: <http://www.mkschoolclosures.org/> Follow the link to enter either your email and/or your mobile number and then choose your school.

So there are lots of ways of making sure you know what is happening at this wintry time of year, and making sure that your child/ren don't miss school when it is open.

## CYGNET SCHOOL MEALS - ARRANGEMENTS FOR SNOW DAYS

If you had ordered a meal for your child for the days that school was closed Cygnet are prepared to credit your account. However you do need to write to let them know that you wish to claim this credit. Please write to Cygnet directly. **Thank you.**

### FREE SCHOOL MEALS

May we please remind all families that are permitted to order free school meals that you do still need to fill in your order forms in advance—meals are NOT automatically ordered for you. If you do not put an order form in, we cannot guarantee that there will be any spare meals for your child, as this will depend on another child being absent who has ordered a meal. **CYGNET DO NOT BRING IN SPARE MEALS.**

## JOB VACANCIES

We are currently advertising the following vacancies:

ALLSORTS Deputy Playleader MK5 - 25hpw term time only

School Administrative Assistant/Receptionist (Job share) MK3 - 15hpw

Teaching Assistant for a named child with medical needs in Foundation 1 class - MK3 15 hpw - mornings - temporary contract for one term in first instance

Nursery Nurse - MK5 - 30hpw (NNEB/NVQ3 or equivalent qualifications required)

Application forms and further details will be available to download from our website.

## PARENT COUNCIL/OPEN FORUM MEETINGS: SPRING AND SUMMER TERMS 2010

Parent Council - 21st January 2010 @7pm

Parent Council - 6th May 2010 @7pm

Open Forum - 4th February 2010 @7pm

Open Forum - 20th May 2010 @7pm

Parent Council - 18th March 2010 - @7pm

Parent Council - 8th July 2010 @7pm

## SCHOOL CALENDAR DATES 2010

Monday 18 January	Clubs start for 3 weeks
Thursday 21 January	Y6 SATS Workshop for parents
Thursday 21 January	Parent Council Meeting (7pm)
Friday 22 January	Pumpkin Class Collective Worship (9.00am)
Wednesday 17th January	Written maths methods for KS2 parents: 6—7.30pm
Friday 29 January	Conker Class Collective Worship (9.00am)
Wednesday 3rd February	THRASS/Phonics workshop for Foundation and KS1 parents (6.30pm)
Thursday 4 February	Open Forum - ALL WELCOME (7pm)
Friday 5 February	Thistle Class Collective Worship (9.00am)
10th and 11th February	Parent Carer Consultation Evenings
Friday 12 February	Friends Together School DISCO
Friday 11th February	Break up for HALF TERM Holiday



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