

Our ref: MLG/ADL/Headteacher letter/June 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope that you enjoyed a relaxing and refreshing half-term break. Our final half-term has started really well, with a very pleasant and focused atmosphere around the school.

### ***Kirkland Rowell Survey Results***

Many thanks to all those parents who returned their questionnaires. We received a total of 396 (a 36.7% response rate) and they have now been analysed and compared with other schools by Kirkland Rowell, the consultancy firm who organised the survey. Their conclusion is that "the survey results reveal that the school has reason to be happy with most of its activities."

Overall, 1.6% of parents rated us as 'poor' or 'very poor' while 85.5% felt that the school was 'good' or 'very good' (up from 82.8% last year). Of those parents who have been with us for a year or more, 23% felt the school had improved during the previous year, while 5% felt that the school had got worse, overall.

Parents who responded felt that the school was 'very good' in terms of communication, homework levels, developing students' confidence, developing moral values, developing community spirit, maintaining security, bullying control, school facilities, truancy control, exam results, social and health education, promoting students' happiness, discipline, caring teachers, choice of subjects and developing potential (in that order). They felt the school was 'satisfactory' in terms of teaching quality, school resources and computers and 'not so good' at careers advice.

We also conducted a student survey and achieved a 42.4% response with 458 questionnaires returned. 40% reported improvement over the previous year while 24% felt there had been a deterioration.

When asked about "selected performance criteria", they felt that the school was 'exceptional' in terms of community spirit, resources and social/health education and 'very good' in nearly all other areas. I was particularly pleased to see a big improvement in the score for bullying control, which is now rated as 'very good'. The only area that was rated less than good was behaviour – we will be investigating this result thoroughly this term.

The feedback we receive from the survey is invaluable in planning for school improvement and we are really grateful to everyone who took the trouble to return their forms.

### ***Greening Stubbington***

You may well have heard of the national "Greening" campaign and its success in promoting environmentally-responsible behaviour and developing community cohesion in towns and villages across the country. You may also be aware that Fareham Borough Council is enthusiastically promoting it in our local area.

A small group of local residents (3, so far !) are planning a public meeting, to be held here at Crofton School at 7pm on Thursday 8 July 2010. The purpose of the meeting will be:

- a) to hear a presentation by Terena Plowright (national co-ordinator of the campaign (and former Meon Cross pupil))
- b) to agree a "pledge card" for distribution among local residents
- c) to plan a launch event for September
- d) to form a steering group for the project

We are very keen to support this initiative as a school - it would be lovely to welcome you to the school for the meeting and to benefit from your involvement in the project.

### ***Beacon on the Beach***

You may have heard of the Beacon Youth Club - this is an initiative for 14-18 year olds, run by volunteers from Holy Rood Church (some of whom are parents of children at the school). During the summer, they have transferred to the Rotary Club building at Hill Head beach for two Thursdays in June and July. They are hoping to organise football / volleyball / cricket matches on Thursdays 17th June and 15th July 2010 between 8pm and 9:30pm. They also provide a place for young people who only want to meet, enjoy each others' company and get a hot drink.

### **World Cup**

With football fever gripping the nation, we have decided to allow students to go home at the end of period 5 (2.20pm) on Wednesday 23 June 2010 (when England play Slovenia, kicking off at 3pm). Any student who wishes to remain at school until 3.10pm is, of course, welcome to do so!

### **Shoes**

As I said in my last letter, the school uniform guidance states that students must wear plain black shoes without substantial heels. Fashion is a powerful force – a few students have come into school recently with the wrong kinds of shoes.

The most important consideration here is their health and safety. Most of our students work in technology rooms; all of them work in science labs. They must have shoes that will protect them from a dropped chisel or spilt chemicals. They also need shoes which are suitable for walking around our open site on rainy days, when there are puddles on the ground.

If you are buying new shoes in the near future please bear these points in mind. I know that many parents buy new shoes during the summer holidays – please do make sure that you buy the right sort. We have put some illustrations on the website to help you choose – if in doubt, please do check with your son's/daughter's Head of Year.

### **PTA**

Crofton School PTA are planning to organise an Autumn Fair on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2010 (see the leaflet attached to this letter). They would love to hear from any parent or friend of the school who would like a stall for their business or craft activity. Stalls will cost £10 and the Fair will be open to the public between 2pm and 5pm.

We are very grateful to all those parents who support the school by giving their time to support PTA activities – we are also always keen to welcome new volunteers. If you think you could help out, please contact Estelle via [pta@crofton.hants.sch.uk](mailto:pta@crofton.hants.sch.uk). This is a great way to meet other parents and to get to know the school and its staff better.

### **A couple of reminders**

Parents are asked to remind their children that they **must not** bring any kind of knife or bladed instrument to school. A compass for use in maths is allowed; no other kind of sharp object is.

Parents are also asked not to send text messages to their children during lesson times. Although students' phones should be switched off, they sometimes are not and the beeps can be very disturbing.

### **Our partnership with parents**

As I hope you know, we are very keen to be as approachable and accessible as possible. We are aware that there may be some parents who find it more difficult to work with us than others. In particular, we want to make sure that parents who may not speak English well are not placed at a disadvantage. If you would like us to translate letters and reports from school or you would like us to arrange for an interpreter at parents' evenings, do please let us know.

We also know that some parents may find it difficult to visit the school because they have special access needs. Again, if you would like us to make special arrangements so that you can visit the school, especially for parents' evenings, we would be delighted to do so.

### **Contacting you**

We are really grateful to all those parents who have provided us with mobile phone numbers and e-mail addresses. We plan to send the last paper copy edition of this newsletter in September; subsequent editions will be sent to most parents by email only. If you would prefer to continue to receive a paper version, please send a note to Steve Glasspool, our School Business Manager.

If you have not done so, or your details have changed, please do return the reply slip on page 4 of this newsletter.

***INSET days, 2009-10***

9 July 2010

***Dates of terms for 2010-11***

**Autumn Term**

6 September -22 October 2010

1 November - 17 December 2010

***(SCHOOL CLOSED 1 and 4 October and 3 December 2010)***

**Spring Term**

4 January -18 February 2011

28 February - 8 April 2011

***(SCHOOL CLOSED 28 January 2011)***

**Summer Term**

27 April -27 May 2011

6 June -27 July 2011

***Forthcoming events***

23 and 24 June 2010 – Year 6 parents' evenings

30 June and 1 July 2010 – summer concerts

6 July 2010 – Year 6 transition day

15 July 2010 – Crofton debate

20 July 2010 – Sports Day

Yours faithfully

Matthew Leeming  
Headteacher

Be kind; Be curious; Always try your best

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Name of student(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor group(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' mobile number: \_\_\_\_\_