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27 January 2012

### Newsletter No. 7

Dear Parents,

#### Staffing Matters

There are some important changes to our staff team to make you aware of. Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Groves who has elected to take early retirement at the end of March. Mrs Groves has worked in Milverton School office for more than 22 years meeting and greeting countless parents, children and visitors. She has worked alongside every member of our school staff, supporting us wisely with school administration and finance tasks. We will be having a special farewell for her at the end of this term. Of course she will take our thanks and best wishes with her as she looks forward to her retirement and she will certainly be missed. If you would like to make a contribution to her leaving collection, please do so in an envelope marked 'Mrs Groves' leaving collection', and hand it in to the school office.

Congratulations are due to Miss Pennington who, as some of you may be aware, got engaged during the Christmas holidays. Miss Pennington's fiancé lives in Wiltshire and she has decided that the time is right to move to start the next chapter in her life there. Miss Pennington will be leaving us at the end of this half term, her last day being Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Once again, there will be a collection for her in the school office should you wish to contribute to her leaving present. Please mark any envelope accordingly.

Unfortunately, Mr Coupe remains unwell for the time being and will not be able to hold his parents' evenings. They will be postponed until after half term. I am sure you will join with me in wishing him well.

#### Parent Consultation Evenings and Mid-Year Reports

A reminder that our Spring Term parent consultation evenings take place next week. The first one will be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February from 3:30pm to 6:00pm, and the second on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February from 5:00pm to 7:30pm. Please look out for the sign up sheets that are posted outside your child's class if you have not already signed up. Please remember to leave time between appointments if you are making appointments to see more than one teacher in the same evening. Please come along to the school hall 10 minutes before your appointment to view your child's work and enjoy refreshments served by Class 6.

We have made some changes to our report format this year in response to parental feedback. We hope that our new reports are more informative, giving the information you need in more concise format. We will also be sending the reports out **before** the parents' consultation evenings. Once again, this is in response to your feedback. We would still like you to bring the report to the meeting to discuss anything you would like to learn more about. Also, it is essential that you return the cut-off slip to your child's teacher to confirm your receipt of the report.

Last year we issued parents with questionnaires as they arrived and got our best return ever. This has enabled us to respond better to your wishes during the year and I will write to you again soon with a brief summary of what we have done to improve the school in line with your responses. It would be wonderful if we could beat last year's record of 70 returned questionnaires, so please do fill one in for us.



### **MSA Quiz, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 8pm**

The MSA quiz for grown-ups returns after some years of rest and it will be fun! The first response people seem to give is, "I'm no good at quizzes!" But, it doesn't matter how many facts you have stored in your grey matter, this quiz will be accessible to all, not just those academics amongst us. The quiz is open to adult teams of up to 8, tickets are £5.00 per person and that includes wine and nibbles. There will be a staff team, too. So, if you want the chance to beat the school staff and have a bit of fun, get signed up! Simply e-mail [drhoppie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:drhoppie@yahoo.co.uk) to buy a ticket or register your team.

### **Milverton Concert Society Special Event, 12pm Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

Milverton Concert Society are offering a great deal for children and parents for the next concert by Bella Tromba, a four piece brass ensemble. They are offering a FREE ticket to a parent/ carer who brings 3 children to this lunch time concert which lasts about 1 hour. Please just turn up on Saturday 18th February with the 3 children/students, who will pay £1 each as usual, and go to the ticket table. The music will be a mixture of classical and light jazz, and I know that theirs was one of the concerts most enjoyed by the children during the last couple of years. The Concert Society are very anxious to continue to support the musical education of young people in the village as best they can at this time of economic hardship ... and trumpets always go down well! For more information visit <http://new.bellatromba.com/>

### **Dog Poo!**

I would like to make a heartfelt plea to any dog owners who leave dog poo on or near our path to think twice. It might seem like a rural setting, but the path is used by more than two hundred pairs of feet every weekday. Any faeces left uncollected are there to be trampled or fallen in by our children. It is a horrible way to start or finish a day. I may be preaching to the converted, it may well be just one irresponsible member of our wider community, but please clear up after your dog: bag it and bin it (and thank you to all who do!). If you see anyone not abiding by the laws I would be very grateful if you could pass on any information to me via the school office so that we can ensure that the paths remain a pleasure to walk on. Furthermore, I ask that anyone walking a dog up to school ties their pet up outside the grounds, away from the school gates. Some young children have been startled by the dogs, who I'm sure are harmless, but appear very large when you are only little yourself! Thank you.

### **Charity Update**

I would like to pass on a huge "Thank you!" to everyone in the school community who has contributed to the Wallace and Gromitt Appeal. Together we have raised £338.26 for this wonderful cause to date, and we are delighted to offer our continued support.

Best wishes,

Richard Stead  
**Head Teacher**

### **Diary Dates**

30 January	Pupil School Reports Sent to Parents
2 February	15.30h – 18.00h Parents' Evening
3 February	09.05 – Sharing Assembly Class 1
7 February	17.00h – 19.30h Parents' Evening
10 February	09.05 – Sharing Assembly Class R
13 Feb – 19 Feb	HALF TERM
20 February	INSET DAY
14th – 18th May	SAT's and Assessment Week PLEASE DO NOT BOOK ANY HOLIDAY IN THIS WEEK

