

On the British Education System and The State Schools in Cambridge (VII)

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In the preceding essay, I mentioned a general statement of Milton Road Junior School my younger daughter attended, and the organization, curriculum and curriculum meetings.

In this essay, I will tell you about the care and guidance of school children, school training and discipline, extra curricular activities, school rules, Milton Road Schools' PTA and so on.

HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

- 1 . Show interest in all aspects of the school day.
- 2 . Read some of his/her books yourself so that the enjoyment of reading can be shared.
- 3 . Read to your child.
- 4 . In order to share in your child's growing mathematical awareness, please try to follow his/her method and avoid the temptation of imposing your own.
- 5 . Encourage him/her to keep a holiday diary.
- 6 . Try to afford him/her the necessary amount of peace for reading, instrumental practice, etc.

Except in special circumstances we do not set homework, though we do encourage children to take home the books they are reading and we seldom refuse a request to take work home to finish. We do, however, defer permission if we feel the process needs more consolidation in school before additional practice at home can be of benefit. We do not normally encourage children to take home their maths text book, but do have supplementary materials for use at home when necessary.

THE CARE AND GUIDANCE of your child in school is the responsibility of staff and particularly of his/her class teacher.

SOCIAL TRAINING AND DISCIPLINE

The school rules are : Be sensible
 Care about others
 Be diligent

Children make mistakes from time to time particularly in their dealings with others. We aim to help

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a child who has done something to spoil another's day to modify his/her future behaviour through a careful examination of what went wrong. "Punishments" usually take the form of a piece of writing explaining how a similar situation should be handled in future.

There is no "detention" after school.

There is no corporal punishment.

Any persistent problems will be discussed with the parents concerned.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Most children involve themselves in at least one of the exciting activities we are pleased to offer. Although officially "extra curricular", these activities are very much a part of school life. Most take place during the lunch break; others after school (for which we shall seek your permission for your child's attendance). In September, children are informed about the various clubs and make their choices. Some adjustments are, of course, possible during the year and seasonal clubs start at appropriate times. We expect to be able to offer a variety of musical opportunities, including Recorders from beginners to advanced, Guitars, Choirs, and Percussion. Sports and games clubs will include: Badminton, Cricket, Football, Gymnastics, Netball. We also expect to run a dance club and a chess club. In the spring term we shall be working on our musical production and the cast and choir will be involved in rehearsals out of school time. Towards the end of the summer term our young musicians will present musical evenings.

DRESS

There is no uniform. Dress should, however, be appropriate to school and to the weather. Thus, for example, we advise against the wearing of clogs on the grounds that they can be a danger to others, and against bare shoulders in hot weather on the grounds that there is little shade during the 1 ¼-hour lunch break. All clothing should be clearly named. Jewellery should not be worn to school unless special permission has been obtained from the Headmaster.

HEALTH

In cases of illness, please ensure that your child remains at home until completely recovered, as infections are easily spread in school. In the case of diarrhoea and sickness there should be one clear day after the cessation before return to school. A list detailing exclusion times for infectious diseases is kept in school and may be consulted at any time. You will appreciate that we do not have facilities for caring for a sick child - nor can we accept responsibility for the administering of medicines.

The school doctor attends once or twice a term. The dentist carries out mass checks fairly infrequently - you are, therefore, advised to make your own arrangements for regular inspections.

Our school nurse, Mrs. Catherine Ray, visits the school regularly. She tests eyesight, assists the school doctor and carries out a hair check once a year. She is always available at the Auckland Road Clinic, Tel : 67950, to assist and advise parents on any health matter. The audiometrician carries out hearing tests on a regular basis.

Sweets should not be brought to school. Fruit may be eaten at break times.

German Measles. Please inform the school as soon as German Measles (Rubella) is diagnosed in order that other parents may be informed.

ABSENCES

Please send a note when your child returns from a short absence, and inform the school as soon as possible if an absence is likely to be prolonged. Prior notice, in writing, is required of medical appointments, etc. which will require a child to leave school during the school day.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

In case of emergency, a telephone contact number must be available for each child. Hospitals are unwilling to administer treatment if a parent is not present. Please advise the school of any change of address or telephone number.

BICYCLES

Written permission must be obtained before a bicycle is brought to school.
First-year children do not normally ride to school.

In page seven, the pamphlet shows us Governors and Their Nominating Bodies including L.E.A. Representatives, City of Cambridge Representatives, Parent Governors, and Teacher Governors. Here I will write down Teacher Governors only and then I will tell you about PTA, School Meals, Educational Visits, Term Dates, Arrangements for Transfer to Secondary School :

Teacher Governors

Miss R. C. Parker, Junior School

Mrs. P. Fetzer, Milton Road Infants' School

Mrs. S. Barratt, Headteacher, Milton Road Infants' School

Mr. J. Ellis, Headteacher, Milton Road Junior School attends all Governors Meetings.

MILTON ROAD SCHOOLS' PTA

- The Committee will consist of :
- The Headteachers
 - Four parent representatives
 - Two teacher representatives from each school (elected at the AGM in May)
- The Officers :
- Two chairpersons - Headteacher Chair
 - Parent Chair
 - Vice Chairperson
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Social Secretary

All parents and teachers of children in the school(s) are members of the PTA. There is no subscription.

The aim of the Association is to assist the full development of the children by :

- (a) Strengthening the link between home and school, and using this link to the advantage of all the children ;
- (b) Discussing subjects and promoting events which will foster a fuller understanding of the function of the school, and the school's place in the broader context of education.

Some of the activities are :

- Educational :
- Open afternoons/evenings
 - Meetings on educational matters
 - Visits by dancers, actors, musicians, etc.
 - Accompanying classes on educational outings
 - Hearing reading and discussing books
 - Producing the Milton Road "Echo"
 - Assisting with the library
 - Assisting with art and craft skills, cookery, sporting events, mathematics and computers

Fund Raising

- includes :
- Summer Fair
 - Jumble Sales

- Social :
- Theatre visits
 - Social events

If you would like to help in any way, please contact your child's teacher or any committee member.

SCHOOL MEALS

You have a choice for your child : school lunch, packed lunch or lunch at home. To help you with your decision the details of the option are as follows :

(a) School Lunch

A two-course meal is served individually by the staff at the servery, thus your child may indicate the size of helping required. The meals are prepared partly at the Hills Road chill and blast freeze centre and partly in our own kitchen and are designed with nutrition and balance in mind ; children are therefore encouraged to eat at least a little of each part. Water is available during the meal. The current cost is 70p per day, payable in advance on the first working day of each week. Please send money in a clearly marked envelope or container.

Free school meal forms are available from the secretary's office.

(b) Packed Lunch

The kitchen staff will provide a jug of water to each table. No form of drink, soup or sweets may be brought. The lunch should be packed into one clearly named container, together with a mug or cup. Children will be dissuaded from sharing the contents of their lunch box with others, so that you may rest assured your child will have the balanced meal you will have provided.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS lasting a day or less are arranged from time to time as a valuable extension of class work. The Headmaster will send you details of each trip involving your child and will ask you to sign and return a permission form, together with the payment for transport, entrance fees, etc. If you need help with such payments you should see the Headmaster, who will deal with the matter in strict confidence.

TERM DATES - 1986/87

1986	Autumn Term Open	Tuesday 2nd September
	Half Term	27th - 31st October
	Autumn Term Close	Friday 19th December
1987	Spring Term Open	Thursday 8th January
	Half Term	23rd - 27th February
	Spring Term Close	Friday 10th April
	Summer Term Open	Monday 27th April
	Half Term	25th - 29th May
	Summer Term Close	Friday 24th July

Autumn Term Open	Tuesday 8th	September
Half Term	26th - 30th	October
Autumn Term Close	Friday 18th	December

PLEASE KEEP THIS BOOKLET FOR REFERENCE. Each subsequent year during your child's attendance at Milton Road Junior School you will receive a list of revisions and/or amendments.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSFER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

During your child's final year the following preparations are made for September transfer to secondary school :

Classes make preliminary familiarisation visits to local secondary schools.

In December parents receive detailed information about secondary schools together with a preference form and full instructions.

During January secondary schools arrange evenings for parents to assist them in making this important choice.

Parents are notified during the summer term of their child's secondary place. In July children spend an introductory day at their new school and parents are invited to another parents' evening.

"Out of Area" Children - a cautionary note

Very rarely there are places for children who live outside the area normally served by this school. Occasionally families whose children attend this school move outside the "catchment area". The Authority warns parents of the implications of such decisions since admission to, or attendance at an "out of area" junior school means that there is no automatic progression to the secondary schools normally regarded as the follow-on schools. The meeting of such parental preferences will be entirely dependent upon availability of places in the secondary school after the school's designated area has been served.

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If you consider going away for reasons of work/research/sabbatical leave, etc and plan to take your child/ren, you should be aware that there can be no guarantee that a place(s) can be kept open for your child(ren)'s return. You should therefore discuss the matter with the Headteacher at an early stage in your planning.

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The Cambridge Area Education Office booklet on Primary Schools will provide information

regarding choice of school, arrangements for admission, procedure for expressing preference, financial assistance to pupils, together with detailed information of each school.

(Continued)

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