

**PLEASE NOTE: WITH EFFECT FROM MONDAY 18TH JANUARY THE SCHOOL BUS FROM DORKING WILL RE-START AND ALSO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS.**

**Children should come to school in full uniform including jumper or sweatshirt. Please ensure they have warm outdoor clothing, appropriate footwear and school tracksuit.**

Dear Parents

It has been a very frustrating start to the new term with the difficult weather conditions. I am very grateful to everyone who has helped in any way in the past two weeks.

Decisions to close the school are not taken lightly. On Tuesday evening, (5<sup>th</sup> Jan) when most children had left, a parent warned me of a severe weather warning that had been issued. We immediately checked the information on the web and saw that a substantial snowfall was forecast for that night. I decided to implement the contact pyramid and close the school on Wednesday. By the time I reached home it was already snowing. It was ten o'clock that night when I concluded the last phone call needed.

The next morning we were cut off by snow at home. I live on a hill and have a steep drive. We had ten inches of snow. I had to rely on telephone calls to discover conditions at school. Peter White has given regular assessments of the situation there. On that day there was 10 in of snow. Mr Simpson managed to get to the school on Thursday and reported that the school drive was impassable. We were able to organise for it to be scraped by a farm's scraper on Friday so that cars would be able to pass but it was still very icy.

Since before the start of term, we have had the heating on throughout the school twenty four hours a day to keep it as warm as possible in our Victorian building. On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> I was hoping to open the school on Monday but in the afternoon I got reports of areas with dangerously icy roads and the school site was again very icy. One of the teachers had injured her knee in a fall. I made and received lots of phone calls about conditions throughout our catchment area. Our teachers and parents drive long distances to school from places as far away as Weybridge, Kingston, Hindhead, Farnham, Horsham, Worth, Caterham and Oxted. Many live on side roads that are not gritted and can be impossible to drive on even when the main roads are clear.

We decided to close on Monday and Dan and Nathan spent that day clearing paths and checking the safety of the school site. Helen spent the day clearing a path up our drive to enable us to get out in the car. I consulted with staff on the measures needed to enable us to open the school and then we sent out the message that we would be open on Tuesday. Delaying the start until 9 a.m. because of the icy roads enabled us to ensure a safe arrival for staff and pupils and we had a good day.

I was very disappointed when Mr Peter telephoned at 6 am on Wednesday to say that there was 2 cm of snow at Bury's Court and it was still snowing. The fresh snow on top of the compacted icy snow on the drive made it very treacherous again. We had to close the school once more, a decision proved correct because the snow rose to over 4cm, roads around were impassable and Gatwick was closed all day. One person attempted to go out of the estate to Woodhatch, could not get through but eventually got to Redhill by another route and then got stuck there.

However, our kind local farmer again cleared the drive to the school, the snow stopped in the early afternoon, Mr Peter went out to check road conditions and we were able to reopen on Thursday.

Many thanks to the teachers, form reps and everyone on the pyramid for helping to keep you informed of what was happening. We will now consider how to make up the missing lessons. We are well aware of the importance of the children's education and the efforts that parents have to make to send them to our school and will make sure that they do not lose any of their academic curriculum.

If we have any more bad weather, please check the phone message and website. We will do our best to keep these up to date. When we do open during a snow spell please send the children in their warmest clothes and do not worry if you are late - better to be late and safe than take any risks. There will be no bus runs or after school clubs in these conditions - check before leaving home. The important thing is to come carefully and safely.

Yours sincerely

Berry Baker

## Scrooge

As part of the English Curriculum all pupils in KS3 have Drama lessons. During the term they have been creating a play based on Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol. This was first done in the Drama lessons in small groups. The music was practised in Music lessons and in the lunch hour. The school continued its normal academic timetable until exam week and then used the final week of term for rehearsals in the gym. Pupils are able to read their reading books when not involved in scenes.



The pupils worked very hard and excelled themselves when they performed the play to the whole school on the last day of term. We believe that it is important for them to show their talents to their parents and so we arranged to have a performance for you after school. To do this we have had to rehearse again this week but each pupil's contribution will be assessed as part of their English level. We plan to cover some of the drama and speech and language section of the curriculum in this way each year as it enables us to do it with minimum effect on the normal school day.

Events like Scrooge are a very valuable part of the rounded education that we provide at Moon Hall College. The staff and pupils work very hard to produce them. We hope that you all enjoy Scrooge as much as we did at the end of last term.

## Sports Kit

Please ensure your child has football or hockey boots, shin pads and a mouth guard. **Children will not be permitted to play sport with out one.**

Could we please remind parents that all items of uniform and sports kit should be clearly named with the child's name. If, as often happens, an item becomes separated from your child during the day, we can then return it to them.

Please check your child's clothing to make sure it belongs to them.

## School email address

Please note the schools email address is now enquiries@moonhallcollege.co.uk the Burys Court address is no longer valid.

## Late Children

Please remind your child to report to the school office first



## January

Monday 18th	4.30p.m.	Karate
Tuesday 19th	4.30p.m.	Italia Conti
Wednesday 20th	3.30p.m. 4.30p.m. 8.00p.m.	Court Circle Coffee Morning Hockey v Reigate St. Mary's U11's (A) Football Club Court Circle Parents Association Meeting.
Thursday 21st	1.30p.m. 4.30p.m.	G.C.S.E. Maths module Hockey Club
Friday 22nd	4.15p.m.	Netball Club College 1 swimming

## Court Circle Parents Association

### Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 20th January—Coffee Morning in the Dining Room.

Wednesday 20th January—Court Circle Parents Association meeting.

Sunday 31st January— 1.00p.m. Family lunch at the Surrey Hills Hotel.

Saturday 27th February—Paint Balling for Moon Hall College.

Saturday 6th March—Laser Hub for Burys Court.

For further details see attached flyer.

### After School Activities

Each child has a letter regarding activities which will start on **Monday 18th January** (further copies available from the school office). Places are granted on a first come, first served basis. Return your form together with payment to the school office no later than Monday 18th.

