

We are already fast approaching the end of the Summer 2009 Term and a lot has happened since 1/2 term.

Skilts welcomed once again, professional photographers into school who took individual photographs of all children present on the day. This was very popular and they will be back in school next year.

We have seen educational visits to Stratford Butterfly Farm and the Malvern Hills, whilst some Year 6 boys went on bike rides and camped over night in the school field. Children have enjoyed visits and performances from the Birmingham School of Acting and Loud Mouth Theatre group and EVERYONE enjoyed this year's whole school trip to Drayton Manor Theme Park.

Our thanks must go to all staff involved in the trips, the organisers and sponsors particularly the Alcester Rotary Club in the case of the Drayton Manor trip, caterers and of course volunteers for supervision.

The period January–June is a busy time for teachers and care staff who are involved in the Reviews of Educational Statements for all pupils. All have now been finalised and parents/carers should have received a copy of their child's report.

The Secondary Transfer Preference Forms have been circulated to parents/carers of our current Year 5 pupils in readiness for their transfer to secondary school next September (2011). Our records show that some remain outstanding so please ensure you have returned your form to Skilts by **Friday 2nd July 2010** in order to submit to the local authority. Parents/carers should have undertaken informal visits to the school named on the form. If not, please do so.

Training Day

Please be advised of the remaining training day of this academic year. And note that school will be closed to pupils on these days:

FRIDAY 9TH JULY 2010

School Term 2010-2011

Dates for the next academic year are listed below. These do not include any staff training days.

AUTUMN TERM 2010

Thursday 2nd September to Friday 22 October

HALF TERM

Monday 1 November to Friday 17 December

SPRING TERM 2011

Tuesday 4 January to Friday 18 February

HALF TERM

Monday 28 February to Friday 8 April

SUMMER TERM 2011

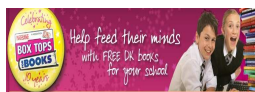
Tuesday 26 April to Friday 27 May

HALF TERM

Monday 6 June to Friday 22 July

End of Term

Skilts School will close for the summer at the usual time of **2.30 p.m. on Friday 23rd July 2010**. Skilts will re-open on **THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2010** with the taxis bringing children in for the usual time of 9.15 a.m.



Nestle Box Tops for Books

Box Tops for Books supports the teaching of literacy, for example through the National Literacy Strategy by providing a broad selection of books that inspire, teach, amuse and challenge.

The Nestle Box Top For Books promotion is ongoing and we regularly submit tokens in exchange for books for the school library. It takes as little as 10 tokens to get one book so the more tokens we collect, the more books we can receive for our library.

Your donations remain more than welcome in light of the recent flooding in the main school building which directly affected the school library and ICT suite.

Parent Support Advisor

Our Parent Support Advisor Tracy Handley is on hand to work closely with parents/carers in supporting pupils. This will include transition between Skilts and other schools, seeking outside agency support, organising meetings and visits and passing on information about support groups.

Tracy can be contacted through the school office on **01527 853851** or **07590 929435**

School Nurse

The School Nurse for Skilts is Joan Dryhurst. She sees all children during their early years in school. Medical appointments with the School Doctor are arranged via the Nurse and parents/carers are informed of the appointment and invited to attend. Parents/Carers are asked to make every effort to attend medical inspections. Dental inspections occur infrequently and parents/carers are urged to make their own personal arrangements.

DISEASE	INCUBATION PERIOD	PERIOD WHEN INFECTIOUS	EXCLUSION PERIOD OF INFECTED CHILD
Chickenpox	11-21 days	1-2 days before to 5 days after spots develop	For 7 days from onset of
Conjunctivitis	Varies	Whilst eye is red and discharging	Unit eyes have recovered and discharge has stopped
Diarrhoea & Vomiting	Varies	Whilst having symptoms of both or either	Until symptom free for 48 hours
Head lice	Eggs hatch in 7-10 days	Whilst lice or eggs remain alive on host	Until treatment is successfully completed
Herpes simplex (cold sore)	2-20 days	Whilst lesions present	None
Impetigo	4-10 days	Whilst lesions present	Until lesions crusted or healed or at least 24 hours after commencing
Scabies	Few days to 6 weeks	Whilst mites remain alive on the host	Until treatment completed
Threadworms	2-6 weeks	Whilst eggs still being produced. (Eggs can survive for 2 weeks in the environment)	None. Treatment advised

Parents are responsible for checking their child's hair for head lice. Information on head lice has recently been circulated to all parents/carers. If you have any medical concerns, the school can arrange for you to speak with the School Nurse who is usually on site on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Please help us to avoid spreading infections by following the advice given in the overleaf.

Primary Contact

Skilts uses the Primary Contact system which facilitates contact by sending a text message to the mobile phone number of the designated priority 1 contact and/or email. This is particularly useful for example in cases of emergency, to notify of closures, reminders for training days, trips, requests for reasons for absence. Please ensure that any changes to contact details for your child are kept notified to the school office.

Uniform

As a result of the recent survey that all parents/carers, staff and children took part in, I would like to advise of a change to Skilts School uniform.

From September, the uniform will change to a blue logo sweater and pale blue polo shirt. The sweater will be available to purchase from the school with order forms being circulated in September.

There will obviously be a change over period, with the existing uniform of burgundy/grey being worn alongside.

FULL UNIFORM AND BLACK SHOES MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES.

It is the responsibility of the child to look after his clothing. Each child does have a coat peg and he is encouraged to hang his coat responsibly on his named peg and collect at the end of the school day, to wear home.

Please help us by reinforcing this message at home.

Please ensure that **ALL** uniform and clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name. School cannot be held responsible for lost clothing.

Holidays

All holidays should be taken within the school holidays where possible and not during term time, although I appreciate that this is not always possible. If holiday leave is required, parents/carers must apply **in advance**, in writing. *Holiday forms are available from the school office upon request.*

Appointments should be notified in advance (as far as possible) and in writing to the school.

If your child is a resident pupil, we will endeavour to make arrangements for your child to be returned home the previous day in order to attend appointments and then returned to school the day after the appointment.

No assumption should be made that this is possible as all taxi routes vary and may not always run daily.

Health & Welfare

Your child's health and safety are of paramount importance. We encourage:

- Safe practices in the classroom and school grounds
- Healthy eating
- Sensible play in the playground/houses
- Involvement of parents/carers
- Child Protection

The weather has been lovely just lately but hay fever sufferers are not doing too well. Please ensure that your child has taken any medication. The heat soon builds up in the classrooms and we all need to keep well hydrated. Each class has their own water bottles which can be refilled throughout the day. School jumpers can be taken off in school in order to keep cool while sun protection cream is wise for outdoor play. Parents/carers have recently been circulated with sun protection advice and a consent form. Creams must be sent into school and will be applied by the child and not a member of staff,

Website

School Website: www.skiltsschool.net

Please note that the school website is up and running and the School Profile together with all school Policies are still accessible via this means or available upon request from the school office, *If you have any suggestions about things that you would like to see included on the website, please put them in writing and send in to school.*

Home to School Transport

As you are aware, all our pupils are transported into school in provided taxis. In past months there have been a number of incidences in taxis that have necessitated in the suspension of taxi provision for some children.

May I take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that *in the event that no responsible adult is present at the end of the school day to receive their child, the taxi driver and guide are obliged to take him to Harris House Social Services Department office or Police Station.*

Should you require any further information on this recently updated instruction, please contact Education Transport on **0121 303 4425**. It is therefore imperative to ensure that someone is at home to receive him or that an alternative emergency contact address is maintained and communicated to the taxi.

Appointments, Absences & Holidays

We are required by the Education Authority to maintain registration records and all absences from school.



If your child is absent from school for any reason, please telephone the School Secretary to offer an explanation. Where possible, appointments should be supported by a copy of the appointment card or letter.

The office is manned daily from **8.15a.m.** There is an out of

office hours answer phone for you to leave messages on when it is not possible to answer your call.

Tel: 01527 853851

