



Dear Parents,

We are pleased to inform you that Mont Nicolle School are taking part in the Sun Safe Schools national accreditation scheme - the content of which forms part of our duty of care to ensure the health and wellbeing of your child(ren) during school hours. The scheme has been developed by national skin cancer charity 'Skcin', to assist primary schools in implementing a successful Sun Safety Policy whilst encouraging schools and parents to work together to increase knowledge, influence behaviour and prevent skin cancer.

Whilst we recognise that some sun is good for us, Sun Safety is an important health and safety issue for schools. Children spend almost half their childhood at school, with approximately 8 hours per week spent outdoors. During the warmer months of the year children are exposed to UV radiation from the sun, the majority of which is when UV penetration is strongest (between 11am and 3pm). Without adequate protection, a child's delicate skin can easily burn, this can cause accumulative and irreparable damage that could significantly increase their risk of developing skin cancer in later life.

The good news is that skin cancer is almost entirely preventable and with parental support, simple steps can be undertaken to ensure that your child is protected and can enjoy the sun safely.

Please take the time to read through our Sun Safety Policy on our school website which demonstrates our commitment to providing a Sun Safe environment, protective measures and education. This policy provides details of the Sun Safety measures that we are implementing immediately and those that we are investigating and/or planning to implement in the future.

Parental support will play a vital role in our efforts to implement effective control measures particularly with the provision and/or application of sunscreen and sun hats. It will of course be necessary to take a practical approach toward the application of sunscreen. Parents can provide valuable support in this respect by ensuring that sunscreen is applied before coming into school. It is recommended that all sunscreen should have a minimum Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 30+, be 'broad-spectrum' to provide both UVA and UVB protection and if labelled with a UVA star rating, carry a minimum of 4 stars

We ask that parents also ensure their child has access to a suitable sun hat that is clearly labelled and kept at school from April through to the end of September. Sun hats should be either broad-brimmed (bucket style), legionnaire to shade the face, neck and ears or our Mont Nicolle School baseball caps for the time being.

As we work toward our Sun Safe accreditation, all pupils will learn about Sun Safety in assembly and in class to reinforce key Sun Safe messaging and to develop their understanding of the importance of Sun Safety. Again, your support to reinforce this messaging at home will be of great benefit, helping to influence behaviours for a positive, Sun Safe future. Guidance and practical advice about UV, Sun Safety, skin cancer prevention and early detection can be found in the 'Sun Safety and Skin Cancer' information booklets provided with this letter.

Kindest regards,

Miss M Le Feuvre

