

# Milton St. John's CE Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 21 January

**Remember to subscribe to the newsletter on our website to receive an electronic copy.**

### NEW NEWSLETTER ITEMS

#### Homework Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who contributed by completing the homework questionnaire last term. The Governors and staff have considered your comments and thoughts and have decided to implement the following changes to how homework is set at Milton.

- EYFS will continue to set tasks fortnightly which encourage children to follow up on learning which has been discussed at school
- KS1 (Year 1/2) will be set homework over a half term period where there are a choice of tasks. Year 1 will be introduced to this type of homework this half term. Spellings will continue to be given out weekly and we encourage reading regularly with your child.
- KS2 (Year 3 - 6) the children will be set homework based on what they have learned in class that week.
  - Year 3 – as well as weekly spellings and regular reading, the children will receive one piece of homework each week.
  - Year 4 – will receive the same as Year 3 but with the addition of times table practise.
  - Year 5 – will continue to have spellings, times tables and reading set each week and will also receive one piece of English and one piece of Maths homework each week.
  - Year 6 – will receive the same as Year 5 with the addition of any SATs preparation in the lead up to their SATS

In order to promote family time, we have decided that homework will not be set over holiday periods (with the exception of Year 6 in the Spring term). We still encourage children to read and practise times tables during this time.

We acknowledge that some parents may struggle to support their child with some aspects of homework. Therefore, we are hoping to arrange some workshops to help teach parents the way we ask the children to work. Lots of parents are unfamiliar with these new ways of working and our workshops will hopefully help you understand more.

#### Eco Committee Assembly

The Achievement Assembly was not on this morning because our Eco Committee presented an assembly to the whole school about what their job was and what they wanted to do to improve the school. They children talked about how everyone can help the environment by being eco-friendlier. This included things like trying to save energy by switching off lights when rooms are not being used and recycling by making sure we use both sides of paper before throwing it in the paper bin and making sure we put other rubbish in the correct bins so that they can be recycled accordingly. Well done Eco Warriors!



#### Parents Information about Nasal Flu Vaccinations

This is important information we have received from the Intrahealth Immunisation Team that you might find helpful. You may have seen in recent days, a number of media stories, both locally and nationally, around the increase of influenza activity. While many parents will have consented and their son or daughter will have received their vaccination at school, there will be some parents that have not and now wish for their child to be vaccinated. Pupils in reception to year 5 will not be able to obtain the vaccine through their GP surgery, therefore we are advising any parents to get in touch with the immunisation team where they will be able to advise how your child can be immunised.

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Below is some advice from the NHS website about how to prevent the spread of flu in school;  
'Flu is very infectious and easily spread to other people. You're more likely to give it to others in the first 5 days.  
Flu is spread by germs from coughs and sneezes, which can live on hands and surfaces for 24 hours.  
To reduce the risk of spreading flu:

- Wash your hands often with warm water and soap
- Use tissues to trap germs when you cough or sneeze
- Bin used tissues as quickly as possible'

For more NHS information follow the link below

<https://www.nhs.uk/FLU/information?Id=106234&Type=FLU>

### **Staff Run Clubs**

The new staff run clubs start this week. Sessions have been allocated and the children have been informed. All staff run clubs end at 4pm. Please can you collect your child from School on time.

### **Polite Reminder**

To ensure the safety of all children around the school premises during drop off and pick up times, please do not use the school car park. Thank you.

### **Class Assemblies**

Please note the following dates for your child's class assembly. You are welcome to attend your child's assembly; they start at 9.05am in the school hall for 20-25mins approx.

Class 2b (Mrs Fernley/Miss Rodgers)	Friday 25 January
Class 2a (Miss Collins)	Friday 1 February
Class 1 (Mr Powell)	Friday 8 February
Class 5 (Miss Gee)	Friday 8 March
Class 4 (Mr Clarke)	Friday 15 March
Class 3 (Miss Hurst)	Friday 22 March

### **Dates for your Diary**

<b>Thursday 24 Jan</b>	Class 4 Trip to MOSI
<b>Tuesday 12 Feb</b>	Young Voices Concert

### **PREVIOUS NEWLESTTER ITEMS**

#### **Governor Vacancy**

Information about a vacancy on the Governing Body was sent home last week. Nominations need to be made and school notified by Friday 25 January please. Following this a period of time will be given to allow parents to vote. We will keep parents informed via the newsletter.

#### **Nursery for September 2019**

Please note the deadline for Nursery applications is Monday 11 February 2019 at the latest. We have availability for 15hrs funded child care and also the extended 30 hrs.

Please enquire at the School office for an application form and further details.

#### **PTA Fashion Show**

Our annual Fashion Show is back by popular demand and likely to sell out... Tickets cost just £5 for a great night out & lots of bargains. Bring your friends to the Royal George on Friday 1st March, from 7pm.

Tickets will be available later this week from the School Office or PTA members.

## **Penalty Notices for Non- school attendance – Information for Parents/Carers**

Section 444(A) of the Education Act 1996 empowers the local authority to issue Penalty Notices in cases of unauthorised absence from school. This means that when a pupil has unauthorised absence of 10 sessions (5 days) or more, in a 12 week period (where no acceptable reason has been given for the absence) or if their child persistently arrives late for school after the close of registration, their parents may receive a Penalty Notice of £120, which is reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days. The Penalty Notice will need to be paid in full before 28 days of the notice being served. Failure to pay a penalty notice may result in prosecution (a separate penalty notice may be issued to each parent for each child).

In law, an offence is committed if a parent fails to secure a child's regular attendance at school. Tameside Education Welfare Service, in conjunction with schools and Greater Manchester Police, will use these powers as an early deterrent to prevent patterns of unauthorised absence developing.

Parents may also receive a Penalty Notice without a warning letter for the offence of failing to secure regular school attendance under the following circumstances:

- Their child is stopped on a truancy sweep
- Where the unauthorized absence of a minimum of 10 sessions occurs on consecutive days

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 also makes it an offence if a parent fails to ensure that their child is not in a public place during the first 5 days of a fixed term or permanent exclusion. Penalty Notices may be issued for such an offence.

The Local Authority and schools are committed to providing the best possible future for your child. If you have concerns about your child's attendance at school or if you are experiencing any difficulties, please contact your school and ask for help.

## **Snow Closures**

We will always try and keep the school open! However, under certain circumstances and for various reasons this is not always the case;

1. We do check with local weather stations and liaise with the Local Authority to try and gauge whether there is a likelihood of heavy snowfall. Unfortunately, forecasts are not always accurate and there is heavier snowfall than predicted.
2. The school has a number of staff who live outside the Mossley area. If there are not enough qualified staff available to come into school to open up and manage it safely then it cannot open due to Health & Safety reasons.
3. If the roads are dangerous then the school may not receive food deliveries and may be unable to provide a hot meal or food for the children at lunch time.
4. If the school boilers fail to operate we would need to call out an engineer to repair the fault. The School would have to close if we are not able to heat the school. If the heating fails during the day we would make a decision about school closure and contacting parents.

If there is heavy snowfall and also taking into account the above points, this is what will happen.

1. If necessary a decision to close will be made by 8.15am (or earlier if possible). However if the weather deteriorates throughout the day, we may also need to close school. A text will be sent to all Parents advising them that school is closed or closing.
2. The website will be updated throughout the day, providing that it can be accessed.
3. We will pass school closure information to TMBC and they will update their website.
4. If school remains open, Classes may need to be split and shared amongst others if we do not have enough members of staff to cover all classes.
5. If snow is set to continue over a number of days and we are aware of disruption to traffic, we may look at opening at 10am so that school can remain open.

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Sending text messages is the most effective way that we can communicate with our parents.

**Could you please ensure that the school has an up-to-date contact number, if you have recently renewed your mobile phone this is particularly important!**

## **COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

### **Football Places at 3D Dynamos in Saddleworth**

'3D Dynamos are looking for new players to join their newly formed under 10's team. If you are interested in joining or would like to come to training to meet us please contact the club secretary at [lesley.milne123@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.milne123@btinternet.com). Training is at Saddleworth School on Wednesdays 6.30pm-7.30pm.

### **Tameside Choir**

Tameside Junior Choir is a junior community choir open to all children ages 6-11. It will take place on Wednesday evenings, 5-5.50pm, at Godley Community Primary School, and is free of charge.

### **Rainbow Guides**

If your daughter is aged between 5 and 7 we have places available on Thursday's 6-7pm at Baden House, Mossley. For further information please contact Anita Mayall on 07743454744

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>



A New Year.....time to pause and reflect on what to do with the time that is given to you. Always be your best and remember we rise by lifting others.