

Newsletter

Monday 20 July 2020

NEW NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Message to Year 6

Well done to all of our Class 6 children who have worked with enthusiasm and dedication during their time at Milton. It has been a very strange ending for our Year 6s, but we were so happy to be able to complete the year with the majority of them back in school. They leave behind a lasting impression at Milton as caring, funny, enthusiastic and independent individuals that will no doubt continue to SHINE.

It has been a privilege to have been part of your learning journey and we wish you all the best for the future. Continue to be brave, make the right choices, think big and aim high!

End of Year Message

A big thank you goes out, as always, to everyone who has helped the school in some way. We would also like to thank parents who have given up many hours of their time to come into school (when they were able to) and help the children and to those people who are always there in the background giving so much without question or recognition.

I would also like to thank all of the staff at Milton St John's for all of their hard work and enthusiasm over this last challenging academic year, I am thankful that I have such a fantastic team and I'm sure that you will agree that their commitment to providing a rich education filled with memorable experiences has enhanced the lives of the children at our school.

Message from Chair of Governors – Mrs Melissa Baker

2019 – 2020 is a year that we will all remember for a multitude of reasons – both good, bad and otherwise. Last year I wrote to remind us all just how busy the school and the children had been since September – Mossley Carrbrook Schools Partnership competitions, sporting wins, Mossley Olympics, music concerts and bikeability.

This year, I feel that the memories from the school Christmas plays and Christmas Fair feel like a distant memory, in fact, a lifetime away. Nothing has been normal since the 20th of March and everyone has been forced into a completely different way of living and working and playing.

Keyworker children have been provided a safe and secure bubble at school allowing those parents who had to work the security of knowing their children were looked after. For the rest, the school provided work at home via paper copy and Class Dojo etc until we were able to start bringing some year groups back into school.

I know how desperately the children have missed their friends, their security of routine, their school trips, playing out on the field and their SATs. I know how parents have struggled to juggle working from home with their child's learning with limitations of time, resources and internet access. I know how key workers have felt they have no option other than to take their children to school whilst suffering the worry of what risk they and their children may have been at. Whilst not all experiencing exactly the same problems and fears, we have all been in the same boat, we have all soldiered on most admirably.

Last year I wrote how much the Governors wanted to thank the staff, from the classrooms, playground and the office, for the time, effort and care they always put into the children and the school each and every year. Little did I know when I wrote that, just how proud we would be of the staff this year. They have reacted to local authority and government directives in a calm and professional manner regardless of the daily, and even hourly, changes. The entire staff has put their heart and soul into the additional cleaning and organisation required to keep everyone safe and have even had to work through without an Easter/Whit break.

I would also like to thank the whole governing body for their contributions this year. They have worked so hard behind the scenes, especially in the last few months, to support the senior leadership team.

On behalf of all the Governors, I wish you all a relaxing summer. I hope we can all enjoy some good weather and be refreshed for a new year in September and whatever that may bring.

We **S**how respect. We are **H**onest. We **I**nclude others. We **N**ever give up. We seek **E**xcellence in all we do.

Good luck Miss Collins

Miss Collins has now started her maternity leave and will return in 2021. We wish her the best of luck and hope that she enjoys her maternity leave.

September 2020

On Friday a detailed letter was sent out to all parents about how school will operate in September. Please note the following information taken from the letter for Parents to be reminded about.

Drop off/pick up times for September

Year	Drop off/pick up location	Morning drop off time	Afternoon pick up time
Nursery *	Nursery door via pitch	9.00 – 9.15am	11.50pm
Reception *	Reception door via pitch	Children to be dropped off between the times of 8.40am – 9.00am. Please ensure only 1 parent drops off/picks up their child. Children in Year 4/5/6 will be expected to enter the site unaccompanied. Parents of Year 2/3 children please be aware of where you are unable to enter the main playground.	3.10pm
Year 1	Year 1 door		3.10pm
Year 2	Enter/exit site via rear exit (near kitchen/field)		3.10pm
Year 3	Enter/exit site via rear exit (near kitchen/field)		3.20pm
Year 4a (Miss Hurst)	Enter/exit site unaccompanied via rear exit (near kitchen/field)		3.30pm
Year 4 (Mrs Gerrard)	Enter/exit site via main entrance		3.30pm
Year 5	Enter/exit site via main entrance		3.20pm
Year 6	Enter/exit site via main entrance		3.25pm

*Please note that due to the children in Nursery and Reception not being able to take part in any transition activities before the summer, on Thursday 3 September and Friday 4 September the children will be in school for the following times:

Nursery: 10am – 11.30am

Reception: 8.40 -9am (drop off time) – 1pm

Home –school agreement

It is really important that before your child returns to school we require parents to complete the home-school agreement link by 23 July please. Access the link here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=CrtuzTHfEWNMuVWCXyII6tU-HylzutLpW3s3mz7ON1UNUHBU1BNMDhJWkhHU1dONjU3S0hKVzlxVS4u>

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Uniform/PE kits

The children will be expected to wear school uniform when they return in September, however the children will be expected to come into school wearing their PE kit on the days that they have PE. Teachers will let parents know PE days in September. Children are able to wear a school jumper or a plain blue zipped up tracksuit top in addition to their PE kit on their PE days.

Skools Out - bubbles

In order to try and keep everyone as safe as possible and try and get back to being as normal as possible, each class will be a 'bubble' that forms a larger 'bubble' with the classes on the same corridor or unit for break and lunchtimes. Skools out will also be operating using the same bubbles we already have in place when caring for the children before and after school. Because of this, Skools Out have a limit on places and only have 45 places in total (15 places per larger bubble). Places need to be booked in advance, old booking will not be carried forward. Unfortunately, Skools out will not be able to accept people turning up on the day, as there may not be any available places for the bubble the child is in.

Please contact Sue on 07960458246 for further details and to book a place.

Change of last day 2021

Please be aware we break up for summer 2021 on Monday 26 July. This is a change to our calendar. Please see the website for an updated version of the calendar.

PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Inset

Please be aware that school will start back in September on Thursday 3 September, rather than Wednesday 2 September, as previously advertised. This is because a number of maintenance jobs are being carried out over the summer and we need to prepare the school for the safe return of all children.

Summer child care provision

Home learning and school closes on Thursday 23 July. Although the school was open for key workers during the Easter/Whit holidays, school will be closed for the summer in order to carry out various maintenance jobs. However, should anyone need childcare over the summer, we have been informed that Skools out are operating a service for parents at the community centre. Please contact Sue on 07960458246 for further details.

School Crossing Service

As school governors, we want to update you about the school crossing service. We understand from last year's consultation that it is a valued service to some parents and children, although many others do not benefit. We appreciated seeing Melvin everyday too. In response we kept the service in place.

Over recent years, fewer schools have continued to pay for this Tameside-wide service. This has resulted in a yearly increase of the proportion that Milton pays and at present this effectively means we are subsidising this Tameside service which is not financially sustainable.

In the face of growing budgetary pressures, and with great sadness, we have decided not to renew the service in order that the yearly saving of £6,500 will support key teaching and resources for your child's education.

We would like to thank parents for their understanding regarding this difficult decision and more importantly would like to thank Melvin for supporting our community over the years and wish him all the best for the future.

Change of circumstances - support

In light of Covid 19, we are very aware that sadly some Milton families may have been affected in various ways. For example, through bereavement, job losses, illness or family breakdowns etc. We just want to reach out to those families and let you know that we are here to support you in any way we can. Please do get in touch, either by phone or email at admin@milton-st-johns.tameside.sch.uk should you need any help or just want to let us know so that we can support you and your child/ren when we return back to school in September.

Home Learning

We believe the children need a well-earned rest in the summer holidays and teachers will not be planning any activities for the children. However, BBC Bitesize (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>) and The Oak National Academy (<https://www.thenational.academy/>) resources will still be available should parents wish to use them. Children learning their times tables is also something that will always help your child in the future, should you want to do anything with your child during the summer period.