

Milton St. John's CE Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 7 September

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

NEW NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Welcome back to the new school year and a big warm welcome to all the new children, staff and parents who have recently joined us.

It has been so lovely to see the children return to school after such a disrupted year. As always, the start of the new school year is quite an exciting time for everyone. Let us hope that this year proves to be more rewarding and enjoyable to everyone than the previous one! Communication between home and school, as always, is very important to us. Evidence shows that if there is good home/school communication, then the whole school community is able to work more effectively and efficiently. Please remember - if we are not aware of an issue then we cannot attempt to address it! Please also understand, that things do not always go according to plan and we cannot always make decisions that everyone is happy with. We will always try to do our best to ensure that our children remain healthy, happy and receive the best education possible.

Class teachers are available via Class Dojo and parents are also able to arrange appointments should the need arise. However, due to the current climate this would have to be conducted socially distanced and outdoors if possible. Mrs Titterington and I will also be out and about before and after school whenever possible, so please feel free to approach us with questions/comments or just say hello!

Start of school/Home time

Once again, thank you for your patience regarding the procedures we have in place at the beginning of the school day and at home time especially. Drop off in a morning seems to be working well and we therefore do not need to make any changes other than point out to Nursery parents that the start time for the nursery children is 9am - 9.15am. The drop off for the rest of the school is between the times of 8.40am – 9am.

Unfortunately, as we only have two entrances for the main school it has been quite tricky to find a solution to safely release the children at the end of the day. We could, of course have longer periods of time between the classes but if there are siblings in various classes, this could cause problems. The biggest problem that we seem to be experiencing is when parents and children have to come from the lower school entrance and walk towards the car park and then up Mill Lane when the upper school children are being released onto an already busy road. With this in mind, we have made some slight adjustments to the pick-up times for different classes to try and address some of the issues.

Nursery – parents can pick up their child between the times of 3pm – 3.10pm

Reception and Year 1 – parents can pick up their child between the times of 3.10pm and 3.20pm to help stagger the amount of people in the Year 1 fenced area and to assist with parents picking siblings up.

Year 2 - 3.10pm

Year 3 – 3.15pm

Year 4a – 3.20pm

Year 4b – 3.15pm

Year 5 – 3.20pm

Year 6 – 3.25pm

It is important that only one parent picks up their child/ren to help alleviate the number of people around the area and that parents arrive for the correct time slots rather than be too early. We are still receiving complaints that adults picking up their child are not socially distancing from each other. Please look after yourselves and others by ensuring you socially distance at all times please.

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We will continue to review the procedures and will change it if this still doesn't work, so please bear with us but understand that we won't be able to accommodate everyone's individual circumstances.

Car parking

Please could parents be mindful of not blocking residents in when picking up or dropping their children off at school. Please could we remind you that the cul-de-sac above the school (Woodmeadow Close), just off Mill Lane is a private road and parents are unable to park here too. A number of parents are driving up Milton Street (road between EYFS/Yr 1 and main school) parking and dropping their children off in a morning. Please could parents refrain from doing this as it can be dangerous, especially when reversing in the school gate to turn round.

Apart from the fact that thoughtless parking is upsetting our neighbours, it also makes it extremely dangerous for our children coming into and out of school. Cars are often trying to manoeuvre in tight spaces and around other parked cars; they cannot always see the children/parents trying to cross.

- For illegal parking/causing an obstruction, i.e. On the pavement, contact the Police on 101
- For parking in restricted areas/on double yellow lines etc. contact TMBC Traffic Unit on 0161 342 8355

Blue badge holders are able to use the school car park (as we are unable to have a disabled parking spot due to the nature of the building/grounds) to assist adults and avoid having to park on Milton Street. However, this needs to be navigated safely at all times when the children are coming and going from school.

Sickness/Covid

It is not uncommon for pupils to be sick at this time of year especially as the winter season approaches. We would, in 'normal' times, encourage pupils to 'see how they go' during the school day, if they complain of feeling unwell. Throughout this current pandemic, we cannot assume this stance. If your child displays/complains of symptoms, we will ask you to collect him or her immediately. Where you suspect that your child may have COVID, you are encouraged to arrange for a test to be undertaken. **Please do not send your child into school if they are unwell.**

If anyone in the household or your child has any symptoms of COVID, you must **not** send your child to school. A test for the symptomatic person must be arranged. If the test is negative you are able to send your child back to school. If your child or household member tests positive, please inform us straight away. We then have to contact Public Health England for advice about next steps. Please see the advice taken from www.nhs.uk below:

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- *a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)*
- *a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)*
- *a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal*

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- *Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.*
- *Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.*
- *Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.*

Advice about arranging a test can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Managing Nut and Other Allergy Policy

Please may we bring to your attention our Managing Nut and Other Allergy Policy which can be viewed on our website. As you may be aware, **ANAPHYLAXIS** is a severe allergic reaction at the extreme end of the allergic

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spectrum, affecting the entire body and can occur within minutes of exposure. The main causes are attributed to nuts, seeds and seafood.

The Anaphylaxis Campaign highlights a number of problems with saying that we are a 'Nut Free School' as follows:

- It would be impossible to provide an absolute guarantee that the School is nut free, given that pupils regularly bring in food from home and food items bought on the way to School
- There would be a risk that children with allergies might be led into a false sense of security
- The nut ban would be seen as a precedent for demands to ban other potentially 'risky' foods.

However, whilst we are not proposing that we are a 'Nut Free School' the Governors have made the decision to not allow nuts into school to help minimise airborne allergic reactions to nuts. Therefore, nuts such as peanuts, cashew nuts, monkey nuts, almonds, pistachio etc. (nuts in their natural form) are not allowed in school and will be sensitively taken off children if they are seen and handed back to the parents at the end of the school day. Nuts that are contained within products are still permitted e.g. cereal bars etc-with the exception of peanut butter. Peanut butter is not allowed. We have a child in school that does have a severe peanut allergy and we would appreciate your support with this matter when you are preparing packed lunches and snacks etc.

Policy on Food

Please could we remind parents about our Policy on Food. Children from Years 1 - 6 are allowed to bring a snack for mid-morning break should they wish. However, we encourage that snacks are healthy (no chocolate or sugary foods). Children in Key Stage 1 also have daily access to the fruit trolley. Children are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to school so that they are able to keep hydrated throughout the day. Children in Reception and Nursery have access to fruit and water throughout the day. Please see the following extract taken from the Policy on Food.

'We will ensure that our school environment promotes healthy eating. We do not encourage sweets or chocolate to be used as rewards or treats. Pupils and parents are also encouraged not to send sweets or chocolate into school for snacks. Special celebrations (birthdays, Easter, etc.) and events during the school year will be celebrated with either non-edible alternatives or given to the children at the end of the day and encouraged to be eaten after their evening meal.'

We will encourage children to drink plenty of water and at this time the children need to bring in their own water bottles with enough water for the full day.

Children will be encouraged to bring healthier foods such as fruit or foods that are sugar free and lower in fat and salt to eat at break times if they wish to have a snack.'

We have also introduced milk at dinnertime for any children wishing to have a drink of milk each day. This is regardless of whether they are on a school dinner or not.

PE days

As you will be aware, the children will be coming into school on the days they have PE in their PE kits. Please send the children in with clothing they can wear all day and use outside for PE e.g. tracksuits/ leggings and jumper/sweat shirt) The days are as follows:

Class	PE days
Class 1	Thursday and Friday
Class 2	Monday and Friday
Class 3	Wednesday and Friday
Class 4a (Miss Hurst)	Wednesday and Thursday
Class 4b (Mrs Gerrard)	Tuesday and Thursday
Class 5	Tuesday and Thursday
Class 6	Tuesday and Friday (swimming kits also needed)

Homework

Children will receive homework and spellings weekly. As the Department for Education insist that schools have remote learning strategies in place if children having to self-isolate etc, homework and spellings will be set on class dojo so that parents are kept familiar with our systems. To minimise the number of things coming in and out of school, rather than send homework back to school, take a picture and upload it onto your child's profile on Class Dojo. Please make sure you have signed up to this so that you can access everything. Homework organisation for classes will be as follows:

Class	Homework	Spellings
1	Reading everyday	Given out Friday - test following Friday
2	Reading everyday	Given out Friday - test following Friday
3	+	Given out Friday - test following Friday
4a (Miss Hurst)	Year 2- 5 classes set their homework on a Friday and must be completed and photo added on Class Dojo by Wednesday the following week.	Given out Friday - test following Friday
4b (Mrs Gerrard)		Given out Friday - test following Friday
5	Year 6 hand homework out on a Thursday and must be completed and photo added on Class Dojo by Monday the following week. Unfortunately, homework handed in after that will not be commented on	Given out Friday - test following Friday
6		Given out Friday - test following Friday

Reading books

We seem to have a lot of reading books missing from when they were sent home last year; please send any back to school as soon as possible. New reading books are being sent home this week. We have a system in place so that returned reading books are quarantined before being sent home again. The reading that parents do at home with their children is so important and has such a positive impact, that we must continue to send books home to read despite the current situation. Please do bear in mind though that the number of books in school has significantly diminished as many haven't been returned and many others are in quarantine. This means that children may only have one book per week.

Text books/Library books

Please could parents also search at home for any text and library books and send them back into school as soon as possible.

Warning – online video

We have had reports of a video online with disturbing content being shared. Please see an article in The Guardian here:<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/sep/08/tiktok-battles-to-remove-video-of-livestreamed-suicide>

It is particularly worrying on Tik Tok where the footage is embedded in seemingly safe videos. Please could parents be aware of this and could also we remind you that children should not be accessing Tik Tok, Facebook etc anyway due to the age restriction imposed.

School Uniform

It has been lovely to see how smart the children look this week and how proudly they wear their uniform. There are, however, a few children that have arrived at school in trainers (that are very expensive) or wearing other items that are not school uniform. The Department for Education states that it...

'strongly encourages schools to have a uniform as it can instil pride; support positive behaviour and discipline; encourage identity with, and support for, school ethos; ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protect

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children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and nurture cohesion and promote good relations between different groups of pupils'

From 16 September we will be contacting parents if children continue to wear incorrect uniform. The school uniform is as follows and is based on the colour royal blue and red:

Red polo top	PE:	White t-shirt (plain or with School logo)
Royal blue cardigan or jumper		Black/blue shorts
Royal blue reversible fleece		Black/blue jog bottoms and top
Charcoal grey skirt/pinafore or trousers	EYFS/KS1:	plimsolls or velcroed trainers
White or grey socks or grey tights	KS2:	plimsolls or trainers
Black shoes		

In the summer term, the children can wear red gingham dresses or charcoal grey shorts.

Mrs Dixon

Mrs Dixon, our Teaching Assistant has recently changed her name to Miss Smith.

Join the PTA

We are a small and friendly group of Milton staff and parents who work together to raise funds and provide fun opportunities for the children. As we start this new year we need to think creatively about what we can practically achieve in the current circumstances! Our next meeting will be held via Zoom very soon - if you're interested in getting involved please text Naomi on 07876 687758 for the meeting details. All welcome!

Dates for your Diary

Secondary School Applications

The on-line system is now open for next year's secondary school applications. **The closing date is 31 October 2020.**

Reception September 2021

Applications for Reception class September 2021 open 1.11.20 until 15.1.21.



Our theme this month is new beginnings.
May we work hard to do our best and start
each day with a grateful heart.