

Milton St. John's CE Primary School

Newsletter

Wednesday 7 October

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

NEW NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Positive Covid Results

As per the email sent out last week, we now have a direct email address to use should a child's test come back as positive outside normal school hours. This is not an email address that you can use for advice etc, it has been solely set up in the event that a test comes back positive outside of normal school hours.

It is: positivecovid@milton-st-johns.tameside.sch.uk

Luckily, we have been very fortunate, so far, that we have not had to send any bubbles home from school. However, parents need to be aware that there are a growing number of schools across the authority that have had to isolate a bubble for 14 days. Additional to this, some schools have been affected by staff shortages due to the illness. This could happen at Milton.

In the event that a child tests positive, we have to contact Public Health England and follow their advice. We may be advised to send classes home immediately. We already have our remote learning plan in place, should a class or classes have to isolate for 14 days. Please see our Parents Fact sheet, Home learning Support below to find out what will happen in this event.

PARENT FACTSHEET

Home learning support

When will my child need to learn from home?

If your child has to **self-isolate** because of coronavirus

If your child is well enough to complete work but you are awaiting test results

If there's a **local lockdown** and the school is advised to partially close or your child has to shield

What's my child expected to do?

We're determined to keep all of our pupils on-track this year and make sure no one falls behind if they need to learn from home because of coronavirus.

So, we want to make sure your child can learn as much as possible at home. The following new guidelines cover our ideal expectations of what we'd like your child to do while learning remotely, and how we plan to support you and them.

With your help, whilst isolating at home, we'd like your child to:

- Complete the work set by the class teacher, which will be sent to you via Class Dojo
- Take photos of the work completed and either add this to their class portfolio or send it to their teacher
- Read regularly at home
- Practise times table and mental arithmetic skills (Year 2 upwards)

What can I do to help my child?

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Create a positive environment for your child to learn at home, for example:

- **Distinguish between weekdays and weekends**, to separate school life and home life
- **Designate a working space if possible**, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over
- **Create and stick to a routine**, as this is what your child is used to at school. For example, eat breakfast at the same time each morning and make sure they're dressed before starting the 'school' day
- **Stick a timetable up on the wall** so everyone knows what they should be doing when, and tick activities off throughout the day
- **Make time for exercise and breaks** throughout the day to keep your child active

If parents do not have access to Class Dojo please let us know as soon as possible so that we can try and help resolve the situation.

Parents Evening

As we are still unable to invite Parents into school due to the restrictions placed upon us for Covid, we will be introducing a new intuitive and easy to use online appointment booking system that enables us to hold our Parents Evening virtually. Parents will be able to choose their own appointment times in advance and will then connect with the teacher from the comfort of their home at the chosen time.

As we have to set the system up and test the system beforehand, we will be holding our Parents Evening some time during the week beginning 9 November. We will be in touch with further details once we have the system up and running.

For Parents that do not have internet access at home to enable the system to work, please contact your child's class teacher who will be able to offer you a time to phone you and conduct the Parents evening in this manner.

Mental Maths Skills

We have noticed that the children need more practise of recalling maths facts and times tables since they have come back to school and would really appreciate any help that parents can do to help the children in this area. It doesn't have to be onerous or even take up too much time. Just getting the children to answer a couple of time tables, simple addition/subtraction or doubling number questions on the way into school would help!

Oxford Owl has some useful ideas that parents may want to look at: <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/blog/how-to-help-your-child-with-mental-arithmetic/> There are also some ideas below which some parents may find helpful to try and engage the children:

- It is important children know their times tables off by heart by the end of Year 4 and learn number bonds to 10 e.g. $4 + 6 = 10$ and number bonds to 20 e.g. $14 + 6 = 20$ by heart.
- Play 'ping pong' to practise components with your child. You say a number and they reply with how much more is needed to make 10, 20, 100 or 1000. Encourage your child to answer quickly without counting or using fingers. E.g. make 100 you shout 40, they shout 60
- Throw two dice. Ask your child to find the total of the numbers (+), the difference between them (-) or the product (x).
- Use a set of playing cards (without the picture cards). Turn over two cards and ask your child to add or multiply the numbers. If they answer correctly, they keep the cards. How many cards can they collect in two minutes?
- Play Bingo. Each player chooses five answers (e.g. numbers to 10 to practise simple addition, multiples of 5 to practise the five times table etc). Ask a question and if a player has the answer, they can cross it off. The winner is the first player to cross off all their answers.
- Give your child an answer. Ask them to write as many number sentences as they can with this answer. You could just ask for addition sentences or challenge them with any type of calculation.
- Give your child a number fact – e.g. $5 + 8 = 13$. Ask them what else they can find out from this fact e.g. $50 + 80 = 130$, $8 + 5 = 13$, $13 - 8 = 5$, $130 - 50 = 80$ etc.

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- Look out for car number plates. What is the number on the plate? What is this to the nearest 10 or 100 or 1000? How many more would you need to reach the next multiple of 10,100 or 1000?
- Make up rhymes together to help your child remember tricky times tables.

PTA

We have a fantastic small PTA team who work really hard to raise money for school through organising various events throughout the year. Obviously this year is tricky and rules out a number of things they would usually be able to do. However, they, like many of us at the moment, are having to come up with other ideas during this time and we know they have some lovely ideas in the pipeline! Once we have finalised a few things we will share them with you but would just like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to them for working tirelessly in the background to organise things for the children.

PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Year 2 School meals

We are now in a position to enable the Year 2 children to choose their own school meals in the hall, like they used to before Covid. This will start after half term. The choices parents have selected for the children up to half term will still continue up to that point. Meals for Reception and Year 1 will continue as they have done from September, where parents have already pre ordered their child's meal.

Opportunity to create personalised Christmas cards and gifts!

The PTA is once more joining up with Xmas4Schools to offer the chance for children to create their own Christmas card designs. We've had some wonderful creations over the last few years! Designs can be turned into cards, labels, calendars and mugs, and every order helps to support our PTA fundraising. Your child will bring home an order form this week, for them to draw, paint, stick and generally get creative. Xmas4Schools are doing things a bit different this year so please read the letter for the instructions on how to order and pay. Please **DO NOT** send any cash in to school.

Your child's artwork should be done on the reverse of the order form and returned to the school office by Monday 2 November 2020. The PTA will send the order forms off and you will receive an email and text message with your order and a link to the online ordering portal. You can then place your order and make payment.

Please see below the instructions for the artwork:

DO

Bright coloured Christmas Designs that fill the A4 paper produce the best results

Use paint, felt tip, crayon, inks and coloured pencils

Use collage

(Make sure all pieces are securely stuck on!)

Use **glitter glue**

Make sure any text is bold, legible and **kept within 1cm** of the edges of the A4 paper

DON'T

Please **do not** use sprinkle glitter (glitter glue is fine) – it has a tendency to fall off and end up on other children's artwork and our scanners!

If you are doing collage, please **do not make the sheet thicker than 2 pieces of paper**

Avoid metallic finishes over large areas

Pale coloured pencils on a white background do not reproduce well

Harvest

We would like to continue to support our local food bank this Harvest and have been thinking of ways to avoid items coming into school during this time. Therefore, we are holding a non-school dress day on the last day of this half term, Friday 23 October for a donation of £2 which will be placed on our 'Schoolmoney' system very soon. All money raised will be donated to Mossley Food Bank. Unfortunately, we are unable to hold a church service for Harvest this year, but Father David and Father Ian will be conducting a service virtually in school for us.



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Dates for your Diary

Fri 23 October	Non-school dress day for £2 to Mossley Foodbank
Mon 2 November 2020	Year 6 trip to Air Raid Shelters
Fri 25-Mon 28 June 2021	Kingswood residential trip

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.



As we approach Harvest, we give thanks for the many blessings of food and resources we have access to. Let us not forget to help others who are less fortunate.

"Do good and share with others"

Hebrews 13:16