

Milton St. John's CE Primary School

Newsletter

Wednesday 14 October

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

NEW NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Covid update

As you may be aware, we are currently in a 'high covid alert' area. Please see the adjacent poster for information about what this entails.

Obviously no one knows if this will be raised to the next level, but could everyone make sure they are following the current rules.

Unfortunately, we have been hearing about children having indoor parties, playdates and sleepovers. Please could parents consider others, including the school community, when making decisions of such nature.

Please could parents also note that if a household member has symptoms and has to have a test, the whole household must isolate until a negative test comes back.

The poster is titled 'LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL HIGH' in large, bold, black letters on an orange background. It features the HM Government logo and the NHS logo. On the left side, there are three vertical labels: 'VERY HIGH', 'HIGH', and 'MEDIUM', with 'HIGH' being the active level. Below the title, there is a grid of 16 categories, each with an icon and a brief description of the rules. At the bottom, there are three simple actions to keep on protecting each other: Wash hands, Cover face, and Make space. For more information and detailed guidance, the poster directs visitors to gov.uk/coronavirus.

Category	Rules
Social Contact	1 household / bubble indoors. Rule of six outdoors.
Weddings and Funerals	Up to 15 guests for weddings and up to 30 guests for funerals. 15 for receptions, wakes and related ceremonies.
Overnight Stays	Overnight stays permitted subject to social contact rules.
Working from home guidance	Work from home where possible.
Shopping and Retail	Open.
Leisure and gyms	Open.
Hospitality	Open with some restrictions including 10pm closing time and table-service only.
Entertainment and tourist attractions	Open, except nightclubs and adult entertainment.
Education	Schools, FE colleges open. Universities must reflect wider restrictions.
Healthcare Services	Open.
Residential Care	Closed to external visitors other than in exceptional circumstances.
Travel and Transport	May continue to travel to open venues, but reduce number of journeys where possible. Avoid travel into Local COVID Alert Level Very High areas where possible.
Sporting Activity	Organised sport / licensed physical activity allowed in outdoor settings. Indoor organised sport must follow social contact rules (other than youth or disabled sport).
Worship	Open, subject to social contact rules.
Childcare	Registered and wraparound childcare. Supervised activities permitted in private homes. Children's groups permitted. Childcare bubbles for under 14s.
Youth Clubs and Activities	Permitted.

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other:

- Wash hands** keep washing your hands regularly
- Cover face** wear a face covering in enclosed spaces
- Make space** stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
gov.uk/coronavirus

Parents Evening update

As previously mentioned, parents evening will be held virtually. Appointments will be able to be booked in advance online. We are in the process of setting the system up and will let you know what you need to do as soon as possible. We are hoping that we can hold it all on one night and anticipate that this will be Thursday 12 November.

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.

Poppies on sale in school

We will be selling Poppies and other related items in school starting next week. Suggested donations range from 50p-£1.50. We will be doing this in a safe way and children can drop the correct money into the collection box.

Learn a woodwind instrument!

If your child is in Y3, 4, 5 or 6 and want to learn to play a woodwind instrument with Miss Hind, please use the link below to sign up.

Instruments available: recorder, clarinet, flute and saxophone. Please note it is advised that only Y6 students sign up for saxophone lessons due to the weight of the instrument.

The lessons will involve learning new notes, pieces, musical games and more!

<https://uktameside.speedadmin.dk/registration#>

PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Positive Covid Results

As per the email sent out previously, 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?

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.

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.
- 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.

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.

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.

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' from today. 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.



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	Year 6 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

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