

Milton St. John's CE Primary School

Newsletter

Wednesday 4 November

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

NEW NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Lockdown

As we enter a second period of lock-down across the country, our school is continually considering the needs of all members of the school community. We would just like to point out that we do not want school to shut and so welcome the news that schools are still continuing to stay open. However, it is increasingly important that parents follow the latest guidance in making sure our children and staff are as safe as possible during this time. Children who may have been exposed to the virus have the potential to, in turn, transmit the virus to school staff. We can only hope that, if we play our part in ensuring the safety of everyone, that we will be able to come out of lockdown at the time the government suggests.

Please note the following reminders:

Please remember that only one adult is allowed to collect and drop off children.

If a member of the household has symptoms and has to have a test, the whole household must isolate until the results come back.

Should your child test positive, it is imperative that we are informed straight away, either by phone (during school hours) or via the positivecovid@milton-st-johns.tameside.sch.uk email address (out of school hours; after 3.30pm or during the weekends). Please do not presume that we will have been informed by track and trace. Please include the following information in the email or conversation:

Name of child

Class

Date symptoms started

Date child was last in school

Date that a test was taken

Also include if your child attended Skools Out and the date they attended

We have to have the above information to be able to liaise with Public Health England and ascertain what we have to do in each circumstance. We have to follow their advice at all times and the information above is critical in working out isolation dates if classes have to isolate. We have been informed that we have to track back 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms and determine who may have been in contact during those hours. The 14 day isolation period is taken from the last date a child may have been in contact with a positive case.

Communication

Current levels of communication will continue using Class Dojo, text messaging and the school website. If we have to close a bubble, information will be shared with relevant parents/groups along with required isolation periods. The rest of the school will be informed via email, as the closure would not affect them. If a bubble closes work will be set through Class Dojo for the children.

Colder weather

The weather is clearly getting colder. This will certainly become even more challenging as the weather deteriorates. Current guidelines state that the windows in frequently used rooms must be open to allow adequate ventilation throughout the room. Therefore, please ensure your child has warm, protective clothing for outside and please consider dressing the children in thermal undergarments. Additional to this, the children are also allowed to wear

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gilets/body warmer type clothing in class should they need to (please do not worry about the colour matching the uniform colours in this case).

Parents Evening

Please remember to visit <https://miltonstjohnsce.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to book your appointments. The system will shut at 4pm on Friday 6 November, no appointments can be made after this time. Please refer back to the email sent on the 23 October for further details about how to do it, should you need to.

Although we have tried to iron out any problems we may have with the new system, as you will know, technology can be unpredictable so please bear with us. If the signal drops during the call, parents and teachers are able to re-join as long as the timed appointment has not run over. In the event that it doesn't work, teachers will try and phone parents but this will be restricted in time due to following appointment times starting. Teachers will have to be strict with timings because of this and will not be able to go over the allocated time on the phone call. Teachers are also unable to phone parents if they have forgotten to attend their appointment.

On the actual Parents Evening, parents need to access the website (above address) then log in for your appointment. **Please note, appointments are timed and teachers are unable to go over the allotted time slots. If you enter an appointment late, you will only have what time is left from the original time of the appointment.** Therefore, please try and log in well in advance of your appointment time to make sure you can access it.

In order to make video calls parents need to have as a minimum:

- a device with a microphone and speaker
- a compatible web browser on the device:
- iPhone/iPad: Safari
- Android: Chrome or Firefox
- Windows: Chrome, Firefox or Microsoft Edge
- Mac: Safari, Chrome or Firefox
- Linux: Chrome or Firefox

It is also recommended that using a smartphone for video appointments is best. If you don't have a smartphone with a front-facing camera, use a laptop or computer with a webcam and using a headset (or earphones with a microphone) to reduce echo.

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact your class teacher (via dojo) or the school office to make alternative arrangements.

Harvest

We managed to raise an amazing £320 with our non-school dress day for Harvest. This money will be donated to Mossley Food Bank. Thank you.

School Food Bank

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the whole school community with the amount of food that has been donated for our new School Food Bank. Thank you so much! Please do continue to send any non-perishable items in at any point to help us continually restock the bank.

If you are a family that is struggling, please do get in touch with us as we will try our best to help in any way that we can. We are able to point people in the right direction towards getting help with debt management, benefits, mental health or just provide a food package if needed. Even if we aren't sure about certain services, we will try our utmost to find out for you. There are various ways you can get in touch, parents can either phone, email, use class dojo or speak to a member of staff and we will ensure that everything we do to help will be done with discretion at all times.

Children in Need

Children in Need takes place on Friday 13 November. To mark the occasion and raise funds for the charity, the children can have 'Funky hair' or Crazy socks' or even both on this day. All that we ask is a £1 donation which will be paid to Children in Need. You can donate this on Schoolmoney from Monday 9 November.

Christmas

Obviously Christmas will be a little different in school this year but we intend to make it special for the children. We have lots of ideas and hope to bring you more information in the following weeks about this. One thing we can confirm is that we will be having a 'Festive Friday' every Friday in December where the children will take part in festive arts/crafts etc and will be able to wear a festive accessory on these days to make them a little more special.

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Mrs T on her wedding in the half term. Mr and the 'new' Mrs Galvin's wedding was originally booked for April but had to be postponed due to covid. Luckily they managed to get married in half term at the beautiful Haddon Hall before the new restrictions were imposed and the rain even stayed off for the photographs! Congratulations to the happy couple.



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PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER ITEMS

PTA 'Conker your Challenge'!

The PTA have been thinking of ideas that the children could do over half term and thought that a 'conker challenge' would be a great idea!! Children/parents can set themselves a challenge and ask if you would like to you could get people to sponsor you to motivate you to achieve it within a specific time limit! However, you don't have to get sponsors to take part, this is optional!! Every child that takes part will receive a prize, regardless of whether they raise any money or not.

Some possible challenge ideas could include:

- not eating chocolate for 2 weeks
- undertaking at least 20 mins exercise every day
- reading a specific number of books
- practising your instrument for at least 10 mins every day
- swimming a new target distance
- any personal goal of your choice...

If your child would like to take part, please upload any pictures to your child's portfolio on class dojo (and send any money raised into school, if you manage to raise any sponsorship money).

Poppies on sale in school

We continue to sell Poppies and other related items in school. 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#>

Dates for your Diary

Thurs 12 November 2020	Parents Evening
Fri 25-Mon 28 June 2021	Year 6 Kingswood residential trip

Reception September 2021

Applications for Reception class for September 2021 is open from 1 November 2020 until 15 January 2021.