

Milton St. John's CE Primary School

Newsletter

Wednesday 13 January 2021

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

NEW NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Remote Learning – 'Stay at Home Superhero' message

Parents, we are very aware that everyone's circumstances are different and that home learning is very difficult. The home learning that the teachers set is there to support you and your children to learn at home whilst we get this virus under control. However, we are very aware that some of you may be working from home or have a number of children to home school, which restricts you and can put pressure on what you can and can't do. If you are struggling to do the work set and you need the children to engage in BBC lessons for a day or so, or work on Purple Mash or you all need to go for a walk during the day then that is okay. Everyone's well-being, including parents is a priority during this time.

To help further, we are currently looking at ways where teachers can have a daily online 'keep in touch' (KIT) meeting for children in Reception – Year 6 that are home learning. We will hopefully be trialling this with Year 6 soon. There are things that we need to work around in order for it to be successful, such as timetabling different slots so that families who are sharing a device can manage this without clashes. Of course it will take a slightly different format for each of the year groups as I'm sure you will appreciate, what may work in Year 6, probably wouldn't work in Reception! Parents would need to keep in mind, that if there are staff shortages, KIT meetings may not be able to be held. We will be in touch shortly about how we are going to move forward with this.

Please bear in mind the following things...

- 1) The first and most important outcome of this situation is that we all survive (physically and mentally) this pandemic!
- 2) Everyone's circumstances are different, please do not compare what you are managing to do with other parents!

These statements are not an excuse for us all to not try to help our children continue their learning over lockdown, or allowing the children to do no learning at all. However, you need to strike a balance and work out what works for you and your family. As previously mentioned, please do be kind to yourselves and if it isn't going so well one day, stop have a break and have another go again later on or the next day. All that we do ask is that you try and do some learning each day, and if we had to prioritise anything for you to do at home it would be maths, reading and writing activities. If you need support, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Reminder

You may have seen in the press that schools will be getting laptops to assist those families that may not have access to a device. Unfortunately, even though they were ordered in October, we still haven't received them. We are also trying to access 4G wireless routers from the DFE too but don't know when they will be available. We do however, currently have a limited number of iPads that we could loan out to families that are struggling with devices and have not been offered a place at school. You would have to have internet access though in order for them to work with Class Dojo. We also have data SIMs with 30GB use for 90 days that may be of use for those that have no access to the internet but have a phone or dongle they could use it with. Please contact the school to let us know if we can help with any of these things.

Useful links

It will be quite difficult for some of the children to understand what is going on at the moment and especially those children that can't come into school. Below are a couple of clips/downloadable books that may help during this time that you may want to share with your children.

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.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNH6ZkpZVb4>

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2020-04/My%20Hero%20is%20You%2C%20Storybook%20for%20Children%20on%20COVID-19.pdf>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/best-childrens-books-about-coronavirus>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaXYos5T7x4>

Snow Day

Apologies to all those parents affected by having to close the school last Friday. It is very rare that Milton is shut because of the snow, but due to Covid restrictions, we are unable to mix groups of children as we have in the past to accommodate those members of staff that live further afield and struggle to get into school during wintery conditions. I can assure you that the decision was not taken lightly. Unfortunately, this may happen again during this pandemic whilst these restrictions are in place.

Milton's Food Bank

We would like to continue with our school foodbank. It has proved to be very beneficial to some families. If you would like to donate any food items it will be greatly appreciated.

UPDATED NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Dates for your Diary

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Parenting Helpline

Do you need support, advice and guidance?

Monday AM 9-11am

Azara Azam (07870277592) or
or Rachel Berrisford (07971800378)

Friday AM 9-11am

Kim McInerney (07583971806) or
or Rachel Berrisford (07971800378)

The Parenting Team are here to support you during this time. If you have any worries or concerns that you want to share, please call one of the team on the numbers detailed or email: parentingreferrals@tameside.gov.uk



A New Year....time to pause and reflect on what to do with the time that is given to you. Always be your best and remember we rise by lifting others.