

# Milton St. John's CE Primary School

## Newsletter

Wednesday 20 January 2021

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

### NEW NEWSLETTER ITEMS

#### Stay at Home Superhero Keep in Touch (KIT) meetings

Having successfully trialled some KIT meetings with our 'Stay at Home' super heroes in year 6 recently, we would now like to trial them in the other classes. We anticipate that the meetings will be between 15 – 25 minutes long depending on the age of the children and their engagement. The KIT meetings are optional as we understand that some children may not be able to attend, due to family member working from home etc. Prior to KIT meetings taking place, parents must complete the online form by clicking the link below by Friday 22 January.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=CrtzuzTHfEWNMuVWCXylI6tU-HylzutLpW3s3mz7ON1URUZQQzUxRkl3REI3RDJNSVNNRkxDVVRGMI4u>

The following points are included in the form and parents must ensure they have talked to their child about the expectations. If the form is not completed your child will not be able to join the meeting.

- **Please remember that the sessions are live.**
- Please make sure your child is ready for their 'Keep In Touch' session. Have they been to the toilet? Do they have everything they might need? Do they have a pen and some paper in case they want to make notes?
- **Please make sure your child is on time for the start of the meeting. Children that are late will not be able to join.**
- **Please make sure the zoom identity is changed to the name of your child before entering the meeting. Anyone who's identity is not clear will not be admitted into the meeting.**
- No 1:1 meetings between children and staff will take place, only group meetings will be held.
- **Children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.**
- Any computers/devices used should be in appropriate areas of the home. This area should be easily supervised, for example, not in bedrooms. An adult should be in the vicinity.
- The home environment should be as quiet and free from distractions as possible.
- The background (and foreground) of each user's screen should be appropriate (be mindful of what is visible behind you/in front of you).
- Language must be appropriate - any adults or children nearby should also be mindful of this.
- **Screenshots, photos or screen recordings of online 'Keep in Touch' meetings must not be taken.**
- Children need to try to remain attentive - the teacher will finish a meeting if the children are struggling to do this.
- Children should not distract anyone else by waving, making silly faces etc.

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- Devices **must be on mute** until a member of staff invites the children to speak **and cameras must be on.**
- Communication must be courteous at all times to both staff and fellow pupils to ensure the learning and wellbeing of all participants.
- At any point, the teacher may have to end a meeting, should the need arise e.g. safeguarding reasons etc.
- To promote safety, meetings will be password protected and participants will need an invitation to attend. You will need to use the details sent to you to enable your child to enter the meeting. These will be in the form of a 'Meeting ID' and 'Password'. Teachers will aim to lock the meeting if and when they think all participants have arrived, although this may not always be practical.

As previously mentioned parents would need to keep in mind, that if there are staff shortages, KIT meetings may not be able to be held.

**On Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 January** the timetable for the KIT meetings will be as follows:

Reception – 3.20pm

Year 1 – 3.40pm

Year 2 – 9.00am

Year 3 – 9.15am

Year 4 (both classes joining at the same time) – 10.45am

Year 5 – 12.30pm

Year 6 – 12.00pm

**We intend to trial these on Monday and Tuesday next week and will let you know in next week's newsletter whether we need to make any adjustments with timings etc. going forward.**

### **Governors update**

The Governors invited Mellors catering company, who provide the school meals at school, to their meeting last night to discuss the food packages being given to children in receipt of free school meals.

As parents will no doubt understand, the short notice of the lockdown on 4 January, meant there were implications on having the correct foods being delivered on time to produce the food packages for families. Mellors assured the Governors that they needed to get things right and have provided the information below about the packages going forward...

- The packages meet the school food standards for lunchtime - the correct balance of nutrients for a child's daily requirements
- Each package provides lunch for one child for 5 days each week
- Most items, other than fruit and vegetables and our famous homebakes are pre-packaged not decanted so the hamper has a more premium feel and each item has dates, ingredient and allergy information
- They are well recognised, easy to prepare foods
- We will include a parent flyer for ease of use and to support parents in using the parcel across the week
- The parcels contain largely non perishable ingredients as they need to last a week.

As parents are aware, the food packages are supplied by Mellors and they have asked us to share their details, should parents have any complaints/ comments.

Message from Mellors:

*Dear Parent / Carer,*

*During these difficult times it is more important than ever for us all to make sure that children are well nourished. Your child has been asked to work at home but that doesn't*

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*mean they will miss out on the school lunch they are entitled to. We at Mellors are committed to delivering the meal packages for you and I hope you appreciate that if you aren't happy about anything then you will let us know straight away and we will do everything we can to put it right.*

*Wherever possible we have set standard contents for your school lunch package, I know there will be some variances due to dietary requirements, customer request, etc. so let us know about any requests to the school kitchen and speak to your catering manager so we can manage these locally.*

*Our package has been carefully put together to ensure we have easy to prepare, familiar foods that meet the school food standards and also the guidance that goes with it gives families direction on how to turn the parcel into a weeks' worth of lunches. We have also focused on individual products as oppose to weighing out catering packs and splitting them up, we feel as a group that this is the standard our customers deserve and the overall presentation of the parcel looks more appetising and appealing.*

*If you want to talk to us about your school lunch package or you want to talk to us about something there are a few ways you can do this:*

*Mark Skillicorn, Area Manager T.07395 568 563 or [marks@mellors.co.uk](mailto:marks@mellors.co.uk)*

*Mark Lyons, Operations Manager T.07908 467 833 or [markl@mellors.co.uk](mailto:markl@mellors.co.uk)*

*Head Office T.01695 737 280 email [services@mellors.co.uk](mailto:services@mellors.co.uk)*

#### **Message from Tameside**

##### **Parenting Helpline**

The Tameside 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](mailto:parentingreferrals@tameside.gov.uk)

Do you need support, advice and guidance?

Monday AM 9-11am - Contact Azara Azam (07870277592) or Rachel Berrisford (07971800378)

Friday AM 9-11am – Contact Kim McNerney (07583971806) or Rachel Berrisford (07971800378)

#### **UPDATED 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.

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!

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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.

<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>

### **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.

### **Dates for your Diary**

Fri 25-Mon 28 June 2021

Year 6 Kingswood residential trip



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.