



COLD HARBOUR
C of E Primary School

GROWING, LEARNING, ACHIEVING TOGETHER

Highland Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 7PD. Telephone: (01908) 270377

Executive Headteacher: Claire Britnell B.Ed (Hons)

Email: office@coldharbour.milton-keynes.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

6th November 2020

Week one of this term is nearly over and I must say, it was wonderful seeing all your children return with smiling faces on Tuesday. Parents' evenings have been a success this week and I am taking a sigh of relief, as the technology was kind to us in this new way of working! Our hot lunches have started and after some initial tweaks, the systems are working well. All flu vaccinations have been administered this week too and so we have got off to a flying start to the second half of the Autumn term!

Attendance

We are very impressed with the attendance of our children, which is so important in order to allow them to catch up with lost learning time. Good attendance is important because:

- statistics show a direct link between under-achievement and absence below 95%
- regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically
- regular attenders find school routines, school work and friendships easier to cope with
- regular attenders find learning more satisfying
- regular attenders are most successful in transferring between primary school, secondary school, higher education and employment or training

Some of you will have received a letter this week if your child's attendance was below 90% last half term. Don't worry, we know that illnesses mean that even a couple of days of being poorly can affect attendance over a short time, but it is best that we keep you informed as when children miss a day here or there, attendance issues can creep up without you knowing.

Well done to **Cygnets, Sparrow and Flamingo** classes who achieved the best attendance last half term with a very impressive **98%**.

Pick up times

After chatting to some of you on the gate and on the playground, there are concerns around the number of parents on the playground, in particular those that are having to wait for siblings. Some of you thought that going back to siblings being picked up together may alleviate this problem. Therefore, if you have 2 or more children at the school, please can you pick them up at the time when your eldest child leaves. This will also ensure that you don't get wet if you're having to wait in the rain too!

I'd also like to thank everyone for their patience on this whilst we make these adjustments - I am sure you can understand that we are trying to maximise the learning time in school and one way of doing this is through limiting the disruption at the end of the day when children with siblings are having to leave halfway through a lesson. Let's give it a try from Monday.

Children in Year 5 & 6

We would like to try and get these children into school sooner if possible. Therefore, we kindly ask if they could be at school by **9.00am**. Thank you.

Home learning

I sent home a questionnaire before half term asking about your child's access to computers at home. This was for two reasons:

- we would like to start sending online homework
- if a child has to isolate at home, we can provide online learning
- if a year group or the school has to close due to a case of the coronavirus, we can provide learning online

We have made some investments into the programmes that would facilitate this and soon your child will be coming home with the log-in details for these. If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium funding and you did not respond to the questionnaire, you will be receiving a telephone call from Julie or Michelle in the office next week who will ask you a couple of short questions. Thank you.



Poetry by Heart

Today's collective worship marks the end of a wonderful week of hearing the children recite their poems. We have been really impressed with the children's determination to memorise the poems and stamina to recite them. Every child who took part will be receiving 5 Dojo points, class winners receive a special pencil and the overall phase winners receive a poetry book.

Foundation Stage winner: Josie
KS1 winner: Faye
LKS2 winner: Ciara
UKS2 winner: Maisey



Well done to everyone who took part!

A Stay Safe Poem written by one of our Year 6 pupils.

Stuck at home, we all dream about the day we will finally be free
and when we can see our other family.
Cooped up together we must remember that for every cloud there is a rainbow on the other side
but there is a good reason for us to be home.
For the safety and well being of others and ourselves.
There is one day to look forward to however;
the day of our release!

Christmas Fund Raising

Thank you to those that have sent in their orders. A reminder that the deadline for ordering Christmas Cards, Gift Tags, Mugs, Tea Towels or Bags for Life with your child's design is **Tuesday 10th November by 3.15pm.**

Anti Bullying Week

Anti Bullying Week is from Monday 16th November to Friday 20th November. We would like to recognise this by asking the children to all wear odd socks on Monday 16th November.

Uniform

Our School Uniform Supplier have made some changes to make sure they are available to serve you better during this second lockdown. Below is what they will do to support our schools and parents.

From 5th November, WE ARE OPEN. Well, Sort Of!!!

As schools remain open, we will do our utmost best to continue offering our high service levels for our parents and our schools, within Government Regulations.

- Whilst customers may not come in the shop to buy, we are happy to run our Online store fully. We will continue with our **Click & Collect Service**, as well as **Home Delivery Service**.
- **Click & Collect Service** – Place Order Online, Wait for Collection Email, Come to the Main Entrance Between 12pm to 4pm for Collection. Collection will be Monday – Friday. We will be Closed on Saturdays.
- **Home Delivery Service** – Place Order Online, we will Post to Home Address.
- Please call the shop on **01908 417142, 12pm to 4pm Mon-Fri**, for advice on sizing or use our Online Sizing Guide.
- Those without internet or can't use the website can call and make Phone Orders.
- **NB – Customers are not allowed in the Store.**

A BIG Thank you!

During the storms in the summer term we had a very dangerous situation with one of our trees in the Forest School area. Thanks to **Browns Landscape Solutions Limited** we now have a very safe area again! Please visit our website under the Children, Forest School tab to read all about the fantastic rescue operation.

If you are in need of any help with trees, hedges, gardens, and outside spaces, including long term maintenance, site and garden clearances and landscape solutions please contact Browns at www.brownstreesurgery.com or you can contact them directly on 07789 550983. You can view their website at www.brownslandscapes.com

Claire.