



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

14th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I cannot believe we now have only two weeks until we break up for half term. Life is as busy as ever at Cold Harbour and I would like to thank you all for supporting the school as we return to normal school life. Some of our children are finding the transition back into school life more difficult than others but that's okay: by being patient, understanding and supportive of each other, they will find their way. Reminding your children about our three important rules of being Ready, Respectful and Safe and always praising children when they follow these rules, goes a long way. The lovely thing about this school community is that everyone looks out for each other!

Some Headteacher colleagues visited the school on Thursday to look at the children's writing with me and observe some writing lessons. I must say, the children excelled themselves and behaved beautifully. Seeing the progress in the children's writing (they know I always nag them to join their handwriting), made me feel very proud and I am looking forward to seeing their achievements as the year draws to a close.

NSPCC Number Day

A big thank you to Rudra and Norman in Year 5 who brought their drones into school and took these wonderful aerial photographs of the numbers we created outside last week.



Traffic survey

At the beginning of the week, Puffin, Kingfisher and Penguin class enjoyed monitoring the traffic in the local area. They have used the data collected to plot a series of graphs and will now be considering the impact of traffic levels on the local environment.

School Lottery

Thanks to your generous support, our school lottery is thriving and we have raised **£73.20** since we launched in January 2021.

One of our supporters will win £20.00 each week, it could even be the £25K jackpot if you're lucky! It's never too late to join so please visit our school website for further details at <https://www.coldharbourschool.org.uk/school-lottery/>

Your support is greatly appreciated and we wish you good luck!



School Cats

Please could we ask that the school cats are not touched or stroked. Ginger has recently had an infection and is not appreciating any fuss at the moment! We don't want to upset him or for him to scratch anyone. Thanks for your understanding.

Spare Clothing

We would appreciate any donation of school uniform or underwear that your child has grown out of. We especially require the older years clothing as we have a very low stock of this. Any donations would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off via the school office. Thanks for your help!

Hot Chocolate Friday

I loved the visit from the children who joined me for a cup of hot chocolate and a chat today. They were a very happy, smiley bunch who have embodied the school values this week. They should all be very proud of themselves!



And finally, a reminder that school closes for the half term break on Thursday 27th May. Have a lovely weekend - let's hope we see some sunshine.

Claire

An important message from Vicky Head, Director of Public Health, Milton Keynes Council

A small number of cases of the COVID-19 variant known as VOC-21APR-02 or B.1.617.2 (first identified in India) have been identified in Milton Keynes. These cases are not related to travel and have been identified in school aged children.

We are working closely with Public Health England to investigate the cases and as a precautionary measure, will undertake targeted testing where required.

There is concern that this variant may transmit more easily than the standard strain that had been circulating locally. In nearby Bedford, cases of this variant are increasing, and there has been a rapid rise in cases overall, particularly amongst school aged children.

The emergence of this new strain locally and the speed with which it has spread in Bedford, is a reminder that we must all continue to do what we can to control the spread of the virus.

To limit the spread in school settings, there are three key things that you can do to help:

1. Continue to be vigilant for symptoms of Covid-19

Please be vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19 and keep your child at home if unwell. If this happens, then please self-isolate and book a PCR test at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

2. Continue to participate in regular LFD testing.

Everyone in Milton Keynes is encouraged to take up the offer of twice weekly testing. People without symptoms can drop in to our rapid test centre at MK Central Library. No appointment is needed and results usually come back in less than an hour. You can also collect 14 free rapid test kits when you visit Central Library or from local pharmacies.

3. If you (as a parent) are eligible for vaccination, book this promptly.

We will continue to work with our education settings to ensure they remain as safe as possible for our children and young people.

Whilst we are concerned about this new variant, there is little evidence at present to suggest it causes more severe illness or makes the vaccines less effective.

Thank you for your ongoing support.