



COLD HARBOUR
C of E Primary School

GROWING, LEARNING, ACHIEVING TOGETHER
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Dear Parents/Carers,

15th January 2021

Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed our parent survey - it gives us a great understanding of what we can do to support you further. What struck me most was the very positive feedback, which I have passed onto the staff who are incredibly appreciative that their efforts have been recognised and they are doing their best to make adjustments in light of your points to consider. I could not be more proud of the Cold Harbour team for the way they have made everything work at such short notice.

Some of you would like your child to have more interaction with their teacher and so we are developing Learning Clinics where your child will have the chance to 'zoom' in with their teacher to discuss their learning.

Some parents asked if home learning packs could be picked up on a Friday. However, this proves more difficult for us as the teachers plan the lessons during the week for collating on the Friday. Factor in the fact that we only have one temperamental photocopier; the production of the packs can turn into a mammoth task! However, we will be emailing the packs now on a Friday afternoon so you can be more prepared for the Monday.

Setting up Google classrooms has been giving us a real headache. A corrupt file has meant that the whole thing has 'crashed' and now it's in the hands of Google in America! These things are sent to try us but please know that our IT technician is chasing them up every day as I know it would make life a lot easier for you if you could access all the learning in one place - it's just as frustrating for us I can assure you!

Finally, I would like to thank you for your patience with regards to the marking of work and subsequent feedback. Remember, that the teachers are also teaching classes in school so when it's the turn of your child's teacher to be in school, they will be unable to give immediate feedback but will endeavour to do so at the earliest opportunity. Thank you for your support with this.

Home Learning

We've now got into a pattern with our Home Learning Packs. These will be sent out to you on a Friday afternoon at 3.00pm, via Parent Mail. Printed packs will be available, once again on a Monday morning for collection at these earlier times:

Year 5/6 - 8.00am

Year 3/4 9.00am

Year F, 1 & 2 - 10.00am

We have decided to also provide children with a whiteboard and pen so that they can join in easier with 'live' sessions. Next week teachers will be inviting children to join them at a 'Learning Clinic' where they will be able to talk to their teacher about any concerns they may have about the week's learning.

Home learning - technical difficulties

If you do find yourselves having any log-in problems then please direct these to Andy Colley who is supporting Cold Harbour with our IT. The email address to use is: parent_support@coldharbour.milton-keynes.sch.uk

Online safety during lockdown

With our children spending more and more time on a digital device during lockdown, it is more important than ever that our families feel confident about how to keep their children safe online. **Childnet** has developed guidance for parents and carers about how to begin a conversation with your children about online safety (www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation), as well as a specific page dedicated to keeping the under fives safe which can be found here (www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/keeping-young-children-safe-online)

Learning in school

The recent newsletters have focused quite a lot on home learning but I want you to know that the children in school have been brilliant. They are adhering to the rules to keep everyone safe and are engaging each week in their learning too. It's lovely to see their smiling faces!

Staffing news

Last week, we welcomed Dawn Green to the team as our new School Business Manager. Starting a new job is always a bit daunting but starting one in a school at the start of another lockdown is not something I would wish on anyone! I am sure you will all get to meet her soon.

We have also welcomed Amy Langrish to our Lunchtime Supervisor team. Amy has settled in very well and has been working with our younger Key Worker bubble.

Children due to start school for the first time in September 2021 - Deadline today!

If you have a child, or know any children who are due to start school for the first time in September 2021 (born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017), please may we remind you that the deadline for applications is **today Friday 15th January 2021**. You should apply directly to www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Notification of COVID-19 tests or isolation notes

Please could we request that if you have had a COVID-19 test or have received a message on Track & Trace to isolate, that you sent us the notifications as we are keeping a record of all cases. We would still appreciate receiving this information even if your child is home learning. Thank you for your co-operation.

The number of infected people in Milton Keynes is falling but figures are still incredibly high. I hope everyone in our school community is safe and happy in these times that can sometimes feel like a never ending Groundhog Day. Please do what you can to keep each other's spirits up and hopefully we will start to see that light at the end of the tunnel soon!

Have a lovely weekend with your family.

Claire