

Dear Parents & Carers,

16th October 2020

I cannot believe that we only have one week left until this half term comes to a close. The weather is turning chillier for sure, so please can I remind you to ensure that your children come to school dressed for the drop in temperature. We have to keep our classrooms well ventilated and even with the heating on, the classrooms can still feel cool and I am seeing some children dressed in only a short sleeved shirt with no jumper. Thank you.

Harvest

We were all blown away by your very generous contributions to our Harvest collection this week. The donations received are being collected by St Mary's Church and will be distributed to those families who unfortunately find themselves in times of hardship.



Data collection sheets

Your child should have brought home a Data Collection Sheet on Wednesday this week.

So that we have the most up to date details, please could you check, amend as necessary, sign and return the form to school via class teachers as soon as possible. If there are no changes, please sign and return so that we know it has been checked.

Resources

Thank you to everyone who has kindly donated books to the school - it is very much appreciated. We are now wondering if anyone out there has any crates, planks, cable reels, cones or pallets they would like to donate? This would help greatly in enhancing our outdoor provision - our 4 year olds love to build things and climb!

Attendance

Please may we remind you that if your child is absent from school for any reason you should phone the school on **01908 270377 Option 1** to leave a message on the absence line or you can notify the school office via the ParentMail PMX Absence form. Absences should be notified on each day that your child is not attending.

Parents Evening

You will also be receiving today a letter regarding Parents Evening for your attention. Your child will bring a paper copy home so that you can return the reply slip to school.

A heads up...

We are so pleased with how the children are entering the school in the morning and how independent our young children are walking into school by themselves - it's lovely to see! Now these routines are in place, we are considering bringing the start and finish times a bit closer together as it is taking 40 minutes to get all the children entering and leaving the school. We are proposing to introduce the following times after half term unless you have booked for Breakfast Club or Night Owls:

Years 5 & 6 = 8.30am - 3.00pm

Years 1 & 2 = 8.40am - 3.10pm

Years 3 & 4 = 8.50am - 3.20pm

FS = 8.50am - 3.05pm

To prevent congestion at the main gate in the morning, those families with more than one child can drop off their children at the time given for the earliest child. At the end of the day, if you have more than one child to pick up, please wait on the playground in the designated area.

We have put our older children to start first as currently, some are leaving earlier than their finish (when their younger siblings leave) but this is interrupting their learning at a time when we need to get them prepared for secondary school. We would love to hear your thoughts on this.

Hot school lunches

As advised in last week's newsletter, we are pleased to let you know that hot meals will be on offer again after the half term break and the menu is now live on ParentPay.com. Please contact the office if you need a code to register your child for meals.

Secondary School Applications

We have been advised by the Secondary Admissions Team that a number of our year 6 children have not yet made an application for their Secondary School. Please may we remind you that the deadline for applications is **Saturday 31st October 2020** (during half term). The link to apply is <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/school-admissions/starting-secondary-upper-school-in-september-2021>

'Colours of Autumn' Art Day

Quite rightly, there has been quite a focus in all schools on the core subjects of reading, writing and maths to recover the lost learning time during lock down. However, the arts are just as important in different ways, which is why we are all excited to be taking part in our Art Day next Tuesday. We do advise that your child brings an old T-shirt or shirt to wear over their uniform on the 20th, as we don't want anything to inhibit their artistic creativity or enthusiasm. Children will be working outside, including on the field, so please ensure they wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather that day.



And finally, a reminder that school closes for half term on **Friday 23rd October** and reopens to pupils on **Tuesday 3rd November**.

Have a lovely weekend.

Claire