



**COLD HARBOUR**  
C of E Primary School

## **GROWING, LEARNING, ACHIEVING TOGETHER**

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure you will have seen on the news that the earliest schools can expect to be open is the 8th March. It's disappointing that we won't all be back straight after half term but at least there is now a glimmer of hope that all our children will be returning in the near future. We are very much looking forward to seeing everyone in person but until then, we would like to thank everyone for supporting us with their children's learning at this time. We understand that some of our families find home learning more tricky to negotiate than others, but that's okay - everyone's circumstances are different, it's not a competition and all you can do is to try your best. We have, however, noticed that a small minority of children are not handing in any work. It is very important that these children at least complete their Maths and English work and read every day. Please do get in touch with us if you would like some further support in engaging your child.

### **Half term**

This week we have had confirmation from the DfE that schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week. Cold Harbour will therefore close during February half term and will reopen on Monday 22nd February to the children in these categories who are currently attending.

### **Covid-19 testing during the half term break**

Please could you continue to advise the school if you or any of your household members have a Covid-19 test during half term (or at any other time). We should be informed of every test as we are monitoring instances within our school community. These results are stored securely and are used for statistical purposes. Please send your NHS results to us at [office@coldharbour.milton-keynes.sch.uk](mailto:office@coldharbour.milton-keynes.sch.uk) Thank you for your continued support.

### **Mental Health Week 1st-7th February**

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on 1-7 February 2021. This year's theme 'Express Yourself'. There are lots of good activities on this

website: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/> and they are releasing an assembly for you to show at home as well as school.

### **Friday 'Headteachers Challenge' – message from Miss Britnell**

I hope everyone had fun making bird feeders today and hopefully you will have some success in identifying birds this weekend. Unfortunately, I think my cats scared all the birds away! Next week's activity will be a musical challenge. You do not need any special equipment apart from some glass or plastic bottles, or some drinking glasses - not your best ones! It should be fun and I am looking forward to seeing all that musical talent out there!

### **Free online safety webinars delivered by the NSPCC**

We regularly share with the children the importance of staying safe online and we teach specific rules and guidance as part of the curriculum across the school. However, with the additional online time the children



might be having as a result of lockdown, it is now more important than ever to talk to your child about staying safe online and the apps and sites they are using. The NSPCC have a wealth of advice on this website and are offering free online safety webinars for parents and carers.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

### **Free Colour Filter to reduce visual stress**

The children are all having lots of extra screen time at the moment so I thought I'd share this free colour filter which can be installed on any device to reduce eye strain and help with visual stress. It is also useful for children or adults with dyslexia. You can choose a colour appropriate for your child and you can switch the colour filter on and off at any point.

<https://www.aurelitec.com/colorveil/windows/>

### **Advice from The Parks Trust - Don't dice with ice!**

Please find the attached advice from The Parks Trust MK. Now that we're experiencing some cold and frosty weather, please be extra cautious around lakes and rivers and take particular care to supervise young children at the water's edge. It's great getting out in our environment, but remember to stay safe.

I hope that you all enjoy a lovely weekend!

*Claire*