

GROWING, LEARNING, ACHIEVING TOGETHER

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Dear Parents and Carers,

6th September 2019

A very warm welcome back to Cold Harbour and to those of you who are new to the school, - welcome to you too!

I am hoping you have already seen the letter from the Chair of Governors, sent via ParentMail ,explaining that myself and my Deputy, Rob Morley–Smith have been asked to come and support the school for the foreseeable future. We are more



than happy to do so. We currently lead Drayton Park School which is Outstanding and Brooksward School which is at the very top of the league tables in Milton Keynes. Drayton Park won MK Primary School of the Year 2018 and Brooksward won it this year. We are enormously proud of both schools, which have improved dramatically under our leadership.

After getting to know everyone a little bit this week I can already see that this school has enormous potential and wonderful children.

I have been delighted to see the children arrive, immaculately dressed and eager to start their learning. Thank you for your support in ensuring that high expectations are set straight away. I have been standing at the gate this week and have been impressed with the smiles, friendliness and community spirit of the school.

Please have a chat with myself and other senior leaders who stand with me if there are any concerns you have, or if you are pleased with anything that is going well .

Of course, there will be some changes. Change is inevitable if things are to improve. I am hoping that these changes will have a positive impact and that together we can make Cold Harbour one of the best schools in Milton Keynes. Your children deserve nothing less.

Jo Alikhan

Executive Head

Prayer for the Start of the school Year



Lord Jesus,

We ask for your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience your presence in the many blessings you put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience your presence in our new friends. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!

Amen

Values

In our school community, many school rules are set based on expectations from our agreed set of **values** which we believe are an important aspect of personal growth.

These values are traits or qualities which represent our highest priorities and which we deem important.

Trust, Honesty, Thankfulness, Respect and **Faith** are our core values. Alongside these, in learning and achieving together we further develop our Christian values; **Nurture, Tolerance, Forgiveness** and **Guidance**.

These **core values** define how we want to behave with each other in our community; help us to resolve any hidden conflicts, remove stresses and give us a firm direction in life. Each month we will be focusing on a value in depth for aspiration, to helping us move towards solutions and away from problems.

As we welcome our new children into school, this month we shall be focusing on **Nurture**.

Staffing

We warmly welcome our new members of staff Mr Knowles into Kingfisher class, Mr G Kemp into Macaw, Mrs Laskey into Goldfinch, Mrs Griffin into Robin & Mrs Wilson into Puffin.

Nut allergies in school



We have a few children in school who have severe nut allergies and carry an EpiPen.

If they come into contact with nuts the results could potentially be life threatening

therefore, we respectfully request that you do not send any products which contain nuts to school for your child's snack or in their lunchbox. Thank you for your understanding.

Open Morning & MacMillan Coffee Morning



We would like to invite you to an open morning on **Wednesday 18th September 2019** between 9.00am and 11.00am. We are asking that Parents/Carers bring in cakes and/or biscuits with them as we are incorporating a MacMillan Coffee Morning and all proceeds raised will be passed on to this worthy cause.

Parent Consultations

Our first parent consultation evenings will be held in the Autumn Term to establish a positive and challenging start to the year for all our children. These will take place on:

Tuesday 22nd October	3.30pm – 5.00pm
Wednesday 23rd October	3.30pm – 6.00pm
Thursday 24th October	3.30pm – 5.00pm



Further information will follow for you to indicate times on these days, which would be most convenient for you. As far as possible, teachers will try to accommodate your wishes. On the day of your appointment, children are welcome to wait in the seating area in the hall but we request that they are not present during the discussion, unless particularly invited to do so by their teacher. There will be an opportunity for you to look at your child's books before and after the meeting.

Term-time holiday



The Department for Education stipulate that head teachers **may not** grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional** circumstances. The Milton Keynes Code of Conduct reflects these arrangements and states that a fine can be incurred if a child is removed from school for ten unauthorised

sessions (five days). Please note the Secretary of State for Education removed the discretion of head teachers to grant up to ten days leave in term time for holidays. Henceforth, all holidays will be marked as unauthorised and could be subject to a fine of £60 per child per parent.

School Uniform

Please could we remind you that all items of clothing **MUST** be labelled. We already have various unnamed items in our lost property cupboard, so we are unable to reunite them with their owners.



Health & Safety



Children enter Cygnet class at **8:45am** via the classroom door in the EYFS area. Staff are on the playground from 8.30am to provide an opportunity for any parents to speak to their teacher before the school bell.

All children in Key Stage 1 and 2 (Years 1 to 6) are asked to assemble before school on the playground. At **8.45am** parents are asked to kindly leave their children when the bell rings. The children will then line up to enter the school with their class teacher. It is important that the playground is clear at this point to enable the children to walk safely to their classes without any obstructions.

The safety of our children is paramount. As the class teachers are getting to know the parents/carers of their pupils, it may take a little longer for children to leave their classrooms in the younger year groups. Teachers will not release their pupils until they are reassured an adult is available to collect them.

Up-dating information



In order to enable us to keep our records up to date, **please will you check and amend the details on the Data Collection Sheet we will send you shortly and return it to school as soon as possible in the envelope provided.** People who are listed on your child's contact details must be able to arrive at school within 30 minutes to collect them if needed. Could you also add **any person who has your permission to collect your child from school.** This will help us when checking if someone different has arrived to take your child home.

If your child has been diagnosed with a medical condition, allergies or dietary needs please write the details down on the Medical Conditions section of the Data Collection Sheet.

We also need confirmation concerning any medication required in school for your child i.e., inhalers (are they still required, do they need replacing, is the dosage still applicable, etc...) Guidance from Health & Safety requires parents of children receiving medication in school to complete a "Permission to Administer Medication" form which is available from the school office. All medication brought to school **MUST** be labeled with the child's name and clear instructions for administration.

If your child is unable to come to school for any reason, all absences need to be reported to school. Please could parents either ring the school each day of their child's absence and leave a message on the absence line (**01908 270377 option 1**) or notify us via the



school website (**absence notification**) or via ParentMail PMX. In line with our school policy, if your child is unwell with vomiting or diarrhoea we ask that they be absent from school for **48 hours from the last symptoms** i.e. two clear days from the last episode.

And Finally!

Cold Harbour C of E Primary School would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new children and parents who have joined us this term. Please find attached a list of dates for your diary over the next term. Further information will be provided where necessary.



Autumn Term 2019: Academic Year 2019 - 2020

Monday 9 th September	Foundation children begin!
Wednesday 11 th September	Year 6 Girls Netball competition
Wednesday 18 th September	Open Morning & MacMillan Coffee Morning
Tuesday 1 st October	Year 5&6 visit to Holdenby House, Northampton
Monday 7 th October	Year 1&2 visit to Rockingham Castle, Northampton
Tuesday 15 th October	Harvest Festival KS2; St Mary's Church 1.45pm to 2.45pm
Wednesday 16 th October	Harvest Festival KS1; School Hall
Friday 18 th October	Fraser Portraits, photographer
Tuesday 22 nd to Thursday 24 th October	Year 4 Caldecotte Xperience
Monday 4 th November	Return to School