

Friday 10th September 2021

Dear Parents,

A Message from Claire

It has been a wonderful start to the school year with the children very pleased to see each other and begin their learning again. We have all been very impressed by how smart everyone is looking in their uniforms, how quickly the children have adjusted to the routines in school and we are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Reception and Nursery children next week. As most of you are aware, Giles Brook is working with another Milton Keynes school, Cold Harbour, and so I split my time between the two schools.

Our school community is extremely important to us. We pride ourselves on being an 'open door' school and so Angie and Debbie are always available if you need to speak to someone. If you need to contact me in particular, then please leave your details with the office and I will get in touch. Hopefully our more familiar parents know us well enough to know that we really do want you to feel you can talk to us anytime. The same goes for our wonderful staff team. I hope our new families feel the same quickly too. I know the staff have worked very hard in designing an exciting curriculum for the year ahead and we are all very much looking forward to working with you all as we return to some sort of pre-Covid normality - long may it continue!

Best wishes

Claire

Staff Update

Congratulations to Mrs. Deepa Shah who is expecting her second child in early December. Deepa will be working in the upper part of the school this half term until she goes off for her maternity leave. We are all delighted for her and her family.

Pupil Voice

It is really important that all our children have a 'say' in the way our school community teaches and learns and we are now in the process of recruiting and launching all our school committees. Both Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils have an opportunity to share their ideas with teachers, parents and governors by applying to be a part of the School Council, Eco Council (KS2), Arts Council, Digi Leaders (KS2), Sports Leaders (Y6), Librarians (Y5 & 6) and House Captains (Y6). The application forms for School and Eco Council will be coming home with your child today if they have chosen to apply. Secret voting will take place on Friday 17th September and we wish all those applying the best of luck. We are looking forward to lots of new suggestions and ideas!

Swimming

Y5 children who are still to reach the 25m standard will attend swimming lessons this term. Lessons start on Monday and Y5 parents have been informed if their child is taking part. Y4 children will begin swimming in the Spring Term 2022.

PE kits

For the moment, children should come to school wearing school PE kit on PE days - that is a white or blue T shirt, black or blue shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms and trainers/plimsolls. Thank you.

Healthy Snacks

A reminder that children should bring a healthy snack to school for morning break. This could be a piece of fruit or a cereal bar/something similar - no crisps or chocolates please. Thank you!

Music - Instrumental lessons

Instrumental lessons begin again next week. Most MK Music teachers remain the same although we welcome Ms. Gemma Shirley who takes over the teaching of violin from David Novalbos.

Lessons run on the following days: -

Monday afternoon – violin with Gemma Shirley

Tuesday morning – trumpet with Mark Green

Wednesday morning – guitar with Cicek Randall

Thursday afternoon – keyboard with Emily Gibbs

Friday morning -woodwind with David Lloyd

Please make sure your child has their instrument and any practice books with them on the day of their lessons. From Monday, the children will have a timetable in their classes stating the exact times of their lessons. Y4 children starting music lessons for the first time will have received a letter yesterday - please make sure you confirm your place by Monday. Thank you! Details of hiring/buying instruments will be passed on to you by the MK teaching team. Delays due to the pandemic and home learning mean that Y4 children have been prioritised this year. Should any places arise, we will consider interest from Y3 later in the year.

Covid Update

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home. If they are showing any symptoms of Covid 19 - a persistent cough, a high temperature or fever, a change in taste or smell - please ensure that they are taken for a PCR test and the school informed if the result is positive. I'm sure many of you are regularly doing lateral flow (LFD) tests, particularly those of you with secondary school pupils in the household.

It is also important to be aware of other symptoms such as headaches, fatigue and sickness which can be evident in young children. Regular testing helps to keep our families, our locality and our school community as safe as possible. Please find a flow chart attached with this letter to support your decision making if your child exhibits any symptoms.

Dates for this half term

13.9.21 - Foundation Stage stay and play sessions

- Nursery children start (staggered entry over the week)

14.9.21 - Foundation Stage stay and play sessions

15.9.21 - Foundation Stage children begin school part time 8:45 to 1:30 p.m.

17.9.21 - Voting day for school committees, school councils etc.

22.9.21 - Foundation children start full time

1.10.21 - Harvest Celebrations

5.10.21 - Y2 Oxford University Museum - dinosaurs!

6.10.21 - Y6 Oxford University Museum - evolution

7.10.21 - School Photos

8.10.21 - Hello Yellow - mental health day

19.10.21 - Parents evening

-Y3 visit to Hazard Alley

20.10.21 - Parents evening

21.10.21 (Thursday) School closes for the half term break

I'm sure there will be other dates to follow. Also look out for all our curriculum newsletters on Monday!

Well, what a delightful first week back and a great way to start the school year. It has been so lovely to have that buzz around the school again and to see the smiles on the children's faces as they tackle new challenges, explore new things and share their excitement with their friends.

Have a good weekend and see you all next week!

Angie

Angie Bailey

Deputy Headteacher/Head of School