

Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Parents,

May we start by thanking you for your co-operation and support this week as we have worked to establish new routines with the children and implement the staggered drop off and collection arrangements. With a few little adjustments, we are pleased to say the week has gone very smoothly. We very much appreciate your support in maintaining social distance from other parents on the playground, for arriving at dedicated drop off and collection times and leaving the playground area swiftly so that we can avoid mixing of bubbles. This is in everyone's interests and for the safety of everyone in our community. Thank you.

Where you are able to do so, please continue to walk and cycle to school with your child and make use of the parking at the Pavilion. It is only a short walk away. We request that children from other local schools do not enter the playground area unless they are tasked with picking up a younger sibling. Thank you.

Procedures for symptoms of Covid 19

Please find attached with this newsletter the parental flow chart from MK Council which indicates procedures to follow if your child develops symptoms of Covid 19. If you need further clarification, advice is available from the Department of Education Coronavirus Helpline on 0800 046 8687.

Identified Covid 19 symptoms remain as:-

- A new and persistent cough
- A high temperature of 37.8 and above
- Loss of taste or smell

If your child has any of these symptoms, they must not come to school. Siblings should also remain at home. A test must be booked. Children can only return when a negative test has been confirmed for the symptomatic child.

We are aware that we are entering the Autumn season - the usual time for colds and runny noses to take hold. Please make sure your child has tissues in their pocket if this is the case. We will be promoting the NHS "Catch it, bin it, kill it" approach and ensuring high emphasis on hand hygiene as always. The 48 hour absence policy remains for any cases of sickness or diarrhoea.

Free School Meals

All children in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 can receive school meals at no cost to you. This is a universal entitlement for all infant aged children. In addition, every child whose parent is receiving one of the benefits listed will be eligible for Pupil Premium funding. This is extra money for the school, provided by the government, to pay for targeted support for learning.

Entitlement to Free School Meals for children in school in Year 3 and above is **not** universal. You will need to make a **separate** application and your eligibility will be dependent on the benefits that you receive.

Who is eligible?

You must be in receipt of one of the benefits listed below to be eligible for a Free School Meal for your child/children.

- Income Support
- Employment & Support Allowance – Income related
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (**not Contribution Based JSA**)
- Child Tax Credit only (with a combined family income of less than £16,190 per annum as assessed by HM Revenues & Customs) **Please note, anyone receiving Working Tax Credit, regardless of income, will not qualify for free school meals.**

- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you receive)
- National Asylum Seekers Support (NASS)
- Guaranteed Element of Pension Tax Credit

How do I apply?

Please contact us for details of how to apply or go directly to the following link:- <http://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

Reading books

All children will have brought reading books home this week. Our teachers are currently re-assessing your child's reading level and will be adjusting colour bands as required once these assessments are complete. We encourage you to read with your child as much as possible; even our oldest children need to be reading aloud at home to an adult. Discussion around the text is also really important to ensure children are reading with a full understanding.

Year 1, 2 and 3 will be changing books on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday and Year 4, 5 and 6 on a Tuesday and Thursday. Please ensure reading books and reading comment books are sent in every day. All returned books are placed in boxes outside classrooms and are quarantined for 72 hours before being cleaned and returned to the shelves. Please bear with us as new systems become established.

Homework

Homework will start on Thursday 24th September. It will be sent out every Thursday and should be returned by the following Tuesday. We have made the decision to use Google Classrooms for homework so that the children remain familiar with this way of working should any year groups have to operate off site at any time in the coming term. We hope this won't happen but it is best to be prepared! Year 1 parents will receive guidance as to how to access and use Google classrooms in the next week. Should you not have IT access, we will provide homework books as usual.

Teacher Contact

If you do need to contact your child's class teacher, please use the following email office@gilesbrook.co.uk indicating your child's name, class and the teacher's name so it can be passed to them swiftly. Alternatively, contact the office by phone. Our staff will get back to you as soon as they can. Thank you.

Internet Safety

There has been some very unsavoury content on Tik Tok this week. Please monitor your child's access to internet sites and note that access to Tik Tok requires users to be at least 13 years old.

Music

Next week, music tuition will resume in school for those children in Year 4, 5 and 6 who indicated that they would be continuing lessons this year. Risk assessments have been completed by ourselves and Milton Keynes Music Service and I will be monitoring lessons to ensure Covid safe procedures are adhered to. Children will be taught in small groups and only with peers from their year group bubbles.

Lessons take place on the following days:-

Tuesday morning - brass with Mark Green

Wednesday morning - guitar with Cicek Randall

Thursday afternoon - keyboard with Emily Gibbs

Friday morning - woodwind with David Lloyd

Friday afternoon - violin with David Novalbos (please note David will not be available until the week beginning 28/9/20 and so he will do lessons on Tuesday afternoon 29/9/20 this week as well as the usual Friday)

Please make sure your child has their instruments and music books in school on their lesson day. There will be no sharing of any resources or materials and the music stands will be cleaned between group use. Further details will follow on Monday for those continuing lessons this term.

Supporting Children's Mental Health

The following link gives access to a leaflet produced by the Anna Freud Centre to help support your child/ren's mental health.

<https://www.annafreud.org/media/11396/tmh-parent-leaflet-final-web-updated-by-ed-april-2020.pdf>

Finally, it has been lovely seeing all your children again this week and to see teaching and learning going on in all our classrooms. The children are quickly adapting to new routines and the school has a lovely buzz again. A big 'Welcome' to all our new Foundation Stage and Nursery parents who attended their first meetings with us this week. We look forward to seeing all our new children at 'stay and play' sessions at the end of next week.

Have a great weekend; it looks like we are in for a nice bit of sunshine!

Best wishes

Claire

Claire Britnell
Headteacher

Angie

Angie Bailey
Deputy Headteacher