

Thursday 22nd October 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your support over this half term in what has been a very different one for us all. Tight Covid compliant procedures have meant that school has looked a bit different in many ways but the children have adapted well and routines are now well established. In fact, I have been amazed at the children's resilience and ability to understand the current situation. Handwashing has never been better - the amount of good lathering up I have seen has been pretty impressive!

Well done to all our Foundation and Nursery children who have completed their first half term. Again, it has been amazing to see the progress these young children have made in such a short time and we are very proud of the way they have integrated into our school.

After stringent risk assessments and extensive planning, we have also reintroduced hot meals at lunch times and, with a few adjustments this week, children are now able to enjoy a hot meal with their peers without any compromise to year group bubbles.

Most of you would have had/are having parent consultations online this week - another new experience for us all! I know our teachers have enjoyed the opportunity to talk with you and we thank you for your feedback. 95% of the time, the technology has been kind to us and any issues that have arisen have usually been resolved quickly. If you have not had an online consultation, our teachers will be in touch on Friday afternoon by phone.

Homework tasks will resume after the half term via Google Classrooms or Tapestry. It is really important that the children complete these tasks and we very much appreciate your support with this. Further information will follow regarding remote learning after the holiday.

Instrumental Lessons

In order to make up missed sessions, David Novalbos will teach violin on both Tuesday and Friday afternoons in the first week back after the half term. Please make sure your child has their instrument and music books in school. David Lloyd will make up the missed woodwind lesson later next half term.

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents

The clocks go back this weekend. At this time of year, as nights become darker earlier, road safety awareness is even more important. The following link provides some guidance for parents which you may find useful.

<https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Milton Keynes Council - Advice for Halloween

Milton Keynes Council is asking local families to take extra precautions if they are planning Halloween activities this year, in light of COVID-19.

"Cases of COVID-19 have been rising rapidly in Milton Keynes. We all need to continue to take action to keep our families and communities safe and protect our NHS. When celebrating Halloween please be sensible and stay safe – and look for different ways to enjoy Halloween this year."

Please see the advice from MK Council at the end of this letter.

Bike ride to London!

This lovely young man from Y1 learnt to ride his bike without stabilisers during lockdown. He is now planning to ride the full distance to London over the half term (accompanied by his dad of course!) We wish him well and look forward to hearing all about it after the holiday. Fingers crossed for good weather! Good Luck Jack!



Housepoint winners!

Well done to all our children for their well-deserved housepoints this term.

Our overall winning house for the first part of this school year is Bronte with 1126 points! House Captains will be consulting on the reward children will receive and we will let you know after half term.

Y6 Applications for a Secondary School place - September 2021

A final reminder that applications have to be made by 31st October 2020. A late application means you are less likely to get any of your preferred places so please ensure you meet the deadline.

A reminder that school opens again to all children on **Monday 2nd November**.

Have a great half term and thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Angie

Angie Bailey

Deputy Headteacher/Head of School

MK Council Guidance: Should we go trick or treating?

Milton Keynes is currently at the lowest Government COVID-19 alert level, medium, which means gatherings inside and out of up to six people are allowed. However, local cases of the virus are rising, and the council's public health experts are asking people to think twice about whether to go trick or treating at all.



Stops at multiple houses – where some vulnerable people may be shielding and may already feel concerned about answering the door – increases the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Please remember:

- People with any symptoms of COVID-19 (new continuous cough, raised temperature, change or loss of sense of taste or smell) must isolate and shouldn't take part in any activities
- Groups should be no larger than six, indoors or outdoors
- Social distancing rules apply, so if you're trick or treating please step back when you knock at a door

- Use hand sanitiser regularly, and wash hands before going out and when you get back – before eating sweets
- If someone doesn't feel comfortable answering their door, don't keep knocking
- Buy packaged sweets to share, and consider leaving them on your doorstep individually - rather than unwrapped treats in a bowl

Five alternatives to trick or treating:

- Have a pumpkin trail in your street or neighbourhood... Help children carve or draw pumpkins and place them in your window. Neighbouring children can have fun pumpkin spotting. You could give your children prizes for the number of pumpkins they spot.
- Watch a Halloween film.... Even young children can enjoy some family favourites. MK Council is funding MyCinema throughout the October half term with 12 spooky drive in films shown. Thanks to council funding it costs just £5 per car with all proceeds going to MK Food Bank. Films will be announced on 19 October on the booking site at mymiltonkeynes.co.uk/my-cinema
- Have a virtual trick or treat with friends and family... Arrange to be around in advance and share your costumes via video call or just share a spooky joke over the phone – every call made could mean a treat goes in the trick or treat bucket/bag.
- Have fun decorating your house... There are lots of templates and crafting ideas online.
- Have a Halloween scavenger hunt... Give children a list of Halloween themed decorations to look for on a walk, such as spiders, cobwebs or ghosts. Or hide treats around your house and set clues to find them.