

September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back everyone! We have had a really positive start to the Autumn term. I think we were all somewhat apprehensive as to how the wider removal of all Covid measures would work and I am really pleased and proud of how well the staff, children and parents have managed it and the most recent outbreak! The children have made the transition back to school brilliantly. The atmosphere around the school is calm with children all engaged in their learning and smiling happy faces everywhere. I fully appreciate how busy it is at drop off and pick up, please know that we are constantly reviewing our processes to ensure we can get over 500 children to safely enter and exit the school. I would like to thank you all for your patience as we all get used to the new routines.

Covid-19 update

As you already know, we have had several positive confirmed cases of Covid-19 in our school. I have consulted with Public Health and following their advice we have introduced further measures. Unfortunately, this has meant that we cannot have our whole school 'live' assemblies, or any school events attended by parents. We have also had to restrict visitors into the school and reinstated face coverings. Please can you ensure that you do wear a face covering when entering the office reception area or when dropping off/picking up your child. This is a temporary measure whilst we have positive cases in the school. Thank you for your support with this.

Staff changes

We are really thrilled to be welcoming the following new staff this term:

Teachers: Mr Banihashemi and Miss Ellie Barker

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Rodriguez Galvan and Miss Tyrell

Sports Co-ordinator: Mr Luya

Catering Team: Miss Carvalho and Miss Thomson

Extended Care Club Manager: Mrs Moolman

Receptionist: Ms Taylor

Miss Fisk is our new Learning Mentor from September and is working closely to support our children and families.

Celebration

We are really proud of our catering team led by our amazing Chef Diane! Last week, we had an unannounced Environment Health inspection right in the middle of 'roast dinner day' and the team rose to the occasion, and we were awarded a 5* rating – yet again. This is the highest award we can achieve!

Information regarding breakfast, tea and holiday club bookings

Please see below for key information regarding the booking for our wrap around care and holiday club.

Breakfast club – 07.30 – 08.30am

We are very fortunate to run our own breakfast club for the children and our Chef provides a light breakfast for them including options such as: cereal, toast and a further option on a Friday of croissants, bacon/sausage/vegetarian sandwiches.

All bookings need to be made on via the SchoolGateway app and payment will need to be made at the time of booking. Breakfast club can be booked up to 7.00am on the day required.

Tea club 3.30 – 5.00pm, 3.30 -6.00pm (including a hot meal)

All bookings need to be made on via the SchoolGateway app and payment will need to be made at the time of booking. **Bookings must be made by 12.00pm of the day before.** This is so that we can ensure that we can plan and prepare sufficient food to guarantee your child receives a hot meal. This will be prepared by our Chef and served between **4.15pm and 4.30pm. Please note that 48 hours must be given for cancellation.**

We appreciate that there may be times of a genuine emergency where you may need to book your child in at the last minute. To do this you will need to phone the school office. Please note that if you do not book by 12.00pm of the day before, we cannot guarantee that your child will receive a hot meal. They will, however, receive a light snack.

Holiday Club

We operate our holiday club from 8.00am to 5.00pm daily during the school holidays. Bookings are available for the October half term. Please note that you will need to make payment upon booking and that after the published closing date, we are unable to cancel, or refund any Holiday Club bookings, as staffing provision will already have been made. **We are closing bookings on the 15th October 2021.**

A full timetable of what your child can expect, and further information can be found on our school website.

Communication

I am fully aware that, with our current drop off system, you do not get the opportunity to speak to the class teacher in the mornings. Please ensure that if you have a message to pass on to the class teacher you can either email them (email addresses will be in the curriculum newsletters), speak to the school office staff who can pass on the message or arrange for an appointment, or speak to staff on the school gates who can get a message to them.

Uniform

It has been wonderful to see our children return to school and taking pride in wearing their school uniform. Thank you for supporting our children in wearing our uniform so smartly, including the PE uniform. Thank you for helping us maintain high standards of school uniform across the school. Maintaining high standards of uniform reflects the high standards that we have of all our children in all aspects of their work at our school.

Attendance

I would like to remind you that Milton Keynes Council does not permit children to be taken out of school for holidays during term time. It is only in **particularly exceptional circumstances** where leave may be granted at the discretion of the Headteacher. Please see our Attendance policy on the school website for further details.

Upcoming events this half term

School Council Elections

The children are all very excited about the upcoming voting for the new School Council on Thursday 30th September, the results will be announced in assembly on Friday 1st October.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are hoping to host a Macmillan coffee morning on Friday 15th October – *this is providing we have been able to lift current Covid measures. I will keep you updated on this.

Harvest Assembly Y5

Y5 have been preparing for a Harvest Assembly on Friday 22nd of October – *this will also be dependent on whether we can invite parents on site at this point in the term, due to Covid restrictions. Further dates will be added to the calendar in due course, and you will receive an updated list of dates.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and we are all looking forward to an extremely successful year ahead at Newton Leys.

Miss E Donoghue

E. Donoghue

Headteacher

Dates for Diaries

Friday 15 th October	<i>Macmillan Coffee morning*</i>
Monday 18 th October	<i>Individual photos</i>
Friday 22 nd October	<i>Harvest Assembly – Year 5*</i> Break up for half term
Monday 1 st November	<i>Children return to school</i>
Wednesday 3 rd November	<i>Parents' Evening</i>
Thursday 4 th November	<i>Parents' Evening</i>
Friday 3 rd December	<i>Christmas Fair</i>
Wednesday 15 th December	<i>Christmas Lunch</i>
Friday 17 th December	<i>Break up for Christmas holidays</i>
Tuesday 4th January 2022	<i>INSET day</i>
Wednesday 5th January	<i>INSET day</i>
Thursday 6th January	<i>Children return to school</i>
Friday 18 th February	<i>Break up for half term</i>
Monday 28th February	<i>Children return to school</i>
Wednesday 2 nd March	<i>Parents' Evening</i>
Thursday 3 rd March	<i>Parents' Evening</i>
Wednesday 9 th -11 th March	<i>Year 4 & 5 Residential visit – Frontier Centre</i>
Friday 8 th April	<i>Break up for Easter holidays</i>
Monday 25th April	<i>Children return to school</i>
Monday 2 nd May	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
Friday 27 th May	<i>Break up for half term</i>
Monday 6th June	<i>Children return to school</i>
Thursday 21st July	<i>Break up for summer holidays</i>