

May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term has flown by! All of the children have settled back into school routines extremely well. They quite literally cannot wait to come into school in the mornings – which is a joy to see. I have been so impressed with how polite and respectful the children are. I have seen some amazing work being done in KS1 with their phonics knowledge and in Reception with some fantastic independent writing. I have also had the opportunity to spend time in each classroom across the school which has been wonderful.

New Extended Care Manager from July

We are really excited to welcome a new Extended Care Manager who will start with us in July – ready to take over from Mrs Blay who is retiring from the role. Mrs Moolman will be leading the team for our Summer Holiday club and tea club and has some new and exciting ideas to make the club even more of an enjoyable experience for the children over the summer. If you would like to book a space for your child at ‘breakfast/tea club’ or for the summer holidays, please contact the school office. Our club will be running over the summer break more details will follow soon.

Awesome coffee

On a Monday morning, as part of supporting the well-being of our school staff, ‘Awesome coffee’ arrive at the school so that the staff can have an early morning hot drink. We have asked for the van to be parked up at the top of the road so that any parents/carers can also have the opportunity to purchase a hot drink/snack.

Science week

After half term, we will be having a Science week focus for the children – there will be a whole school Science investigation involving biscuits – and much more. We will share the highlights from the week with you on our Facebook page.

Safeguarding - use of WhatsApp on mobile devices

We are very aware that some of our children are using WhatsApp on their mobile devices to stay in touch. The last thing we want to do is discourage children from maintaining contact with their peers, especially during the current climate where face - to-face socialising (outside of the school environment) is so difficult, but we are also aware that WhatsApp and the messaging groups children are using can and have caused some issues among friendship groups. We would encourage parents to discuss the use of WhatsApp with children and how to use it and other messaging apps/services appropriately.

Please see the following guide from NetAware which you might find useful to consult before or during these conversations with children about use of messaging: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/whatsapp/> The internet can be a hugely positive force in maintaining relationships and many people have found it absolutely invaluable over the past year. Let’s all work together to ensure that it stays positive for everyone!

Covid - 19 update - Face coverings

We still need to be vigilant regarding the spread of Covid-19, particularly with the new variant of Coronavirus which has now been identified in a number of schools in Milton Keynes. Please can you ensure that when you are dropping off and collecting your child **you are wearing a face covering** (unless you are medically exempt). There are still a number of parents who are not wearing them at the school gates. It is essential that we are still all working together to protect our school community against the spread of Covid-19 and following social distancing guidelines.

Community plea

On behalf of local residents in Grenada Crescent, please can parents and children not to use Grenada Crescent as a 'cut through'. It has been reported that there have been some parents and children using the callow mound which backs onto Grenada Crescent as a short cut, which has resulted in broken fences and wildlife being disturbed. Please can you keep to the pathway so that we can protect the local environment particularly the crested newts and respect our fellow residents.

Attendance

We expect children's attendance to be at least **96%** - this is in line with the expectations of both the government and Milton Keynes. We would like to thank those families who have been working hard to ensure children's punctuality and attendance is high.

Getting these important habits established early on in a child's life will make a real difference to their futures. We really do appreciate that you tackle the traffic, come rain or shine, and with young families to get to school on time so that children can begin learning on time.

There is a direct link between attendance and achievement and therefore it is very important that your child attends school every day, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Did you know?

- 95% = 10 days absent a year
- 90% = 20 days absent a year
- 85% = 30 days absent a year
- 80% = 40 days absent a year
-

Punctuality matters too! Missed minutes = missed learning = missed opportunities!

If your child is late every day:	In a year your child would lose the following days of education:
5 minutes late	3 days
10 minutes late	6.5 days
15 minutes late	10 days
20 minutes late	13 days
30 minutes late	19.5 days

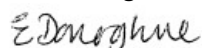
The school gates open at 8.20am and the school day starts at 8.30am, every child should be in school at that time.

Please ensure your child arrives at school by 8.30am. As you can see from the information above, persistent absence or lateness can have a detrimental effect on your child's learning.

Please note that we are not permitted to authorise leave of absence for holidays or birthday celebrations. Please ensure that family holidays and any term time leave are arranged outside of school term time. All requests for authorised absence will be responded to in writing and will only be authorised in the most extreme circumstances. All holidays will be marked as unauthorised and may be subject to a fixed penalty notice.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a lovely half term break and hopefully we will have some sunshine that we can enjoy!

Miss E Donoghue



Headteacher

Dates for Diaries

31st May – 4th June	<i>Half Term Holiday Club will be running from Tuesday to Friday. There are still spaces available to book.</i>
Monday 7th June	<i>INSET day</i>
Tuesday 8th June	<i>Back to school for children</i>
Friday 11th June	<i>Class Photos</i>
Monday 5th July	<i>Reports out to parents</i>
Wednesday 7th July	<i>Transition Day – children move up to their new classes *Meet the teacher evening 3.45 – 4.30pm, 5.30pm – 6.30pm</i>
Wednesday 14th July	<i>Sports Day</i>
Tuesday 20th July 5.30pm	<i>Year 6 Production</i>
Wednesday 21st July 5.30pm	<i>Year 6 Production</i>
Thursday 22nd July	<i>Break up for summer holidays</i>

**This is a provisional date – if Government restrictions are not lifted then this will become a virtual event.*