

Millhouse News

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Email: admin@millhouse.essex.sch.uk

Tel: 01268 543584

General Information

Welcome back everyone! It was lovely to see all the children in school today – we have missed them greatly. We were impressed with the number of children returning to school – 93% attendance. For some, it was the first time in school for nearly 6 months but you wouldn't know this by looking at them! The children settled very quickly into new routines and looked happy to be back at school.

Thank you to those parents who have complimented us on the organisation of everything, it is really appreciated and makes all the hard work worth it to know parents and children are happy. We ask that you bear with us in the coming days as we manage all the new routines and systems in place. This is new for everyone and there will be times when we might not have something completely right. For the next week we will be reviewing things every day and making tweaks where necessary. Once the basics are right we will review systems every couple of weeks so your patience and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Below are a few points and reminders:

SOCIAL DISTANCING OUTSIDE THE GATES

Please remember to observe social distancing when waiting outside the school gates. It is parents' responsibility to do this for themselves so if you are unable to wait on the gate path, then please wait on the other side of the road.

Please also keep the area around the gates clear. Once you have dropped your child off, please move away so that other children can come in.

STAGGERED START AND FINISH TIMES

If you have **genuine difficulties** with your child's times or in getting your children to more than one gate please email the school office to let us know. Where possible we will try to accommodate you, however, the reason for these arrangements is to keep all the children safe and to avoid different bubble groups (classes) mixing with each other so if we were to change everyone's times it would defeat the object of having this in place and could compromise your child's safety.

We know it is not ideal but we feel it is the best solution in these circumstances and as adults we know we have had to make a lot changes and compromises during this pandemic.

SNACKS

Please remember to send your child to school with a snack to eat at break time. The 'free fruit' for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 has not restarted yet so we are not able to provide the children with a snack. Year 3 parents, please note that children in Key Stage 2 are not provided with a snack anymore.

DROPPING THINGS OFF FOR YOUR CHILD

If your child forgets something and it is urgent that they have it, please call the school office to arrange a suitable time to drop it off. Any visitors to the office will need to wear a face covering.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CHECK YOUR EMAILS AND READ ALL LETTERS THAT ARE SENT AS WE DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS ANYTHING!

CLASSROOM REMINDERS

- **Children must bring in their own water bottle.** All water fountains are out of action and we do not have cups for the children to use due to cleaning requirements after each use.
- **PE Kits should be worn to school on the days your child has PE (these will be communicated to you tomorrow).** PE kits are the following:
 - ✓ Orange or white T-shirt
 - ✓ Black shorts
 - ✓ Trainers
 - ✓ Jogging bottoms (plain grey or black) for colder days. If you have trouble finding these, please check the boys' section in the back to school or clothing ranges.
 - ✓ School sweatshirt / cardigan
 - ✓ Jacket for wetter days
- **Homework will not be set for the next few weeks.** Your child will be given a reading book to take home and this will be changed once a week. Books brought back to change will be left for 48 hours before putting back on the shelf.
- **Pupils walking to and from school on their own.** A form has been sent home to all Year 5 and 6 parents today which should be completed and brought back to school before we will allow any child in these year groups to walk home on their own. **Please note, all children must be brought and collected by an adult until Monday. Only those who we receive signed forms for will be allowed to walk home on their own from Monday onwards.**
- **Children's bags.** Please remember not to send your child into school with a large bag as we do not have the space to store them.
- **Mobile phones.** Children who are not walking home on their own **do not** need to bring in a mobile phone. Please keep these at home.

WELLBEING

If your child has not returned to school yet and you are anxious about doing so, please send us an email and one of our pastoral team will call you to see how we can support. Attendance at school is now compulsory and we want to ensure everyone can return safely and as quickly as possible.

Over the coming days, we will be getting to know all our children again and our pastoral team will be identifying children who may need some extra wellbeing support. If you feel that there is something we need to know and can support your child with, please email your child's year group team and they will pass on the information.