

# Millhouse News

6<sup>th</sup> November 2020



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## General Information

### **Remembrance**

Unfortunately, like many things this year, we will not be able to hold our Remembrance Parade. We still felt it was important to commemorate the Armistice so this week the children have been creating poppies using a range of different media and techniques. Next week they will be attached to netting and will be hung around the outside fences of the school (weather permitting) for the community to share. We will share photos next week. The children will also be learning about different aspects of Remembrance Day and we will mark the two minutes silence on Wednesday at 11am.

### **Children in Need Day**

A reminder that next Friday is Children in Need Day. Children can come to school in non-uniform and pay a small donation. The children will also learn how the money raised is used to help improve the lives of children around the country.

### **Reporting COVID-19 Cases**

Please remember, that if your child displays symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 you must inform the school as soon as possible by emailing [admin@millhouse.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@millhouse.essex.sch.uk). They and the rest of the household must isolate for 10 days (positive case) or 14 days (others). When emailing the school, please include your child's name, class and when the symptoms first started.

If your child is in contact with someone who has symptoms or tests positive, again, please email the school to let us know as soon as possible.

This communication also applies during school holidays. We will check emails at the start and end of the holiday and put in place any actions required.

### **Reducing the risk of COVID infection**

We are now in a lockdown situation and as such we would expect parents to follow the rules to reduce the risk of transmission. This means maintaining a 2m distance from anyone outside of your household or support bubble and not meeting more than one person from another household outside. The rule of 2 does not apply when collecting your child on school grounds but does as soon as you leave the school. You may not agree with the rules, but we all have our part to play in helping to reduce the infection rate and hopefully this will help everyone get back to more normal life sooner.

## School Attendance

For parents' information:

The government has not changed their guidance in regards to school attendance during the National Lockdown for England. The latest update from them states: *"The government is continuing to prioritise the long term future of children and young people therefore early years settings, schools, colleges and universities will remain open. It is very important for children and young people to attend their education setting for their wellbeing and long-term development. School attendance continues to be mandatory although the expectations have changed for children who have been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable. Schools should consider any concerns from pupils, parents and households, who may be reluctant or anxious about attending school and put the right support in place to address this. The usual school attendance powers and duties continue to apply, including schools and local authorities' ability to use parental responsibility measures, such as fixed penalty notices, where appropriate."*

We have had an update from the local authority as to their stance on attendance. In their most recent FAQs for schools they say: *Should places be held open for families who choose to home education for the lockdown period?*

*Parents wishing to home educate as a personal choice, albeit on a temporary basis, are required to formally notify their child's school of this intention. All schools, when notified of a parent's intention to home educate are required to remove the pupil from the school roll, in line with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. These regulations have no provision for school places to be held open, as the school will have clear statutory grounds to remove the pupil from roll.*

*Parents should also be aware that many schools within Essex have waiting lists for all/most year groups. As a result, as soon as a space becomes available, the school is required to make the space available to those children on their active waiting list. It is important for parents/carers to note that, should they elect to home educate, a place may not be available at their child's current school if, at a later date, they choose to return their child back to the school system.*

We will continue to work with families of children who are not attending school due to COVID reasons to encourage attendance at school but will act in line with the current advice should the need arise.

## Lunchtimes Update

We have had a successful week back in the halls for dinner! The children have certainly enjoyed getting out of their classrooms and having a wider choice of meals to choose from.

There are a few things that we think parents could do to help us make the dining experience even better:

- Discuss the diner options with your child before they come to school. To save food waste and make dinner more enjoyable for your child, it is important they choose something they will like.
- Make sure they know how to use a knife and fork. It was surprising that some children right up to Year 6 don't know how to use a knife and fork.
- Teach the children the art of dinner conversation! The children must remain at the table for their class's meal time slot and knowing how to have a conversation and what makes a suitable dinner table topic of conversation will make this time more enjoyable and stop the children becoming bored and restless.

If your child has a packed lunch, please make sure this is nutritionally balanced. We would ask that you don't put chocolate bars and sweets (chocolate biscuits are ok) in their lunchbox and that you include a drink. Some classes also have children who have severe nut allergies so if your child is in one of these classes, please do not put any nut products in there (classes have been individually notified).