

## Millhouse Primary School & Nursery

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**Millhouse**  
Primary School and Nursery

Headteacher: Mr G Allen

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

We just wanted to write to you all to give you an update on things that have been happening since we have been partially closed.

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to you, as parents, for all the cooperation and support you have given us. We also would like to say thank you and well done for your patience, perseverance and support with the remote home learning on Google Classroom. We know it has been a struggle for many of you and that it continues to be a huge balancing act between home-schooling (often with multiple children), your own work and trying to keep normal life going. Believe us, we understand how difficult it can be; many of us are parents ourselves and in the same position as you are. Hopefully, your children are finding the live class meets and teaching videos useful and enjoyable. Remember, if you have any questions or problems with the home learning, please email your child's year group team and one of the teachers will try their best to help.

Whilst we are talking about home learning, it is important to note that during this lock down, the Department for Education expectations are significantly different and higher than during the first lock down. This is why we have been pushing forward with getting everyone set up on Google Classroom. The expectation for primary schools is that there is between 3 and 4 hours of learning available for the children and that this should include new learning and not just consolidation. We are also clearly aware that the first lock down and disruption from class closures during the last term meant the children have already lost a significant amount of their education, so we want to make sure the children don't miss as much new learning this time. We are really pleased that we have approximately 75% of the children logged on and actively engaged with the home learning and are working hard to get the remaining children up and running as soon as possible. Once again, thank you for helping us do this.

We are aware that there are still some children who do not have regular access to a device or the internet. The teachers have collated a list for us and we are trying our best to get devices for all those who need one. We were allocated just 57 devices by the Department for Education and have already allocated all of these. We have a list of over 30 more children who need a device or internet access. We have emailed the DfE to ask if we are able to get any more and are waiting to hear back from them. Unfortunately, the laptops we use with the children in school are not able to be used outside of our school domain (connection security issues), otherwise we would have allocated these as well. As soon as we have devices ready to loan out, we will email the parents who have requested with the pick-up details.

The teachers have given us a positive report on their live sessions this week. They really enjoyed seeing and speaking to the children. If your child hasn't managed to log on to a session yet, please check the times on the letter sent last week (also on our website) or email your child's year group.

We have five key worker groups of children working in school. Each one is following the learning plans that are on Google Classroom and are working in either phase or year group classes. Our risk assessment states that we can only have a maximum of between 12 and 15 children in each group during this time due to the social distancing that is expected and most of these groups have reached

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capacity. We also have to ensure we have enough staff to cover the home learning so if any more groups are needed we would need to see if we have the staff available to lead them.

Finally, it might seem like a contradiction from some of the previous points, but the most important thing during this time is the wellbeing of the children, parents and staff. Everyone is doing a great job and trying the best they can during these difficult times. Yes, we want the children to be engaging in the home learning but we also recognise that there will be times where this is the last thing that they or you want to do. If this happens, take a break, go for a walk, watch a movie or just have a nap. If our wellbeing isn't looked after we won't be in the right frame of mind to be able to do or support any learning. Any child or parent who is struggling with their wellbeing or mental health should contact Mrs Haken or their year group teachers and we will support you.

We have had no information on how long we will remain closed to most pupils but will keep you updated and let you know as soon as we do. For now, we have got through another week of lock down and will keep supporting you and your children.

Once again, thank you for your support and continued cooperation.

Stay safe and take care.

Kind regards,



Mr G Allen  
Headteacher



Mrs J Haken  
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs D McGarry  
Deputy Headteacher