



Lydiard Millicent CE Primary School

Believe ~ Learn ~ Grow

Keeping in Touch Letter

Friday 10th July

Dear Parents/Carers,

We very much hope that you and your families are well and that your children are looking forward to the transition sessions next week. Staff are very much looking forward to them. Everyone has been sent information about these sessions but if you have any questions, please contact the School Office.

We are pleased to be able to give you some more information about September. As explained in the letter from our CEO, we are able to confirm parts of the plan now and then further details will be issued once our plans have been approved.

September Plans

We are delighted that we have been able to plan for a return for all children. On Monday 7th September, term will start for Years 1-6. On Tuesday 7th Sept; our new EYFS children will begin their phased induction - a separate booklet has been sent to EYFS families.

'Bubbles' - School will continue to look and feel a little different from the last time we were all in school together. The guidance still requires schools to establish 'bubbles' to reduce the number of contacts children and adults are exposed to. For our school, each class will be considered a 'bubble'. We won't use this term with the children - they will use their usual class names - but it is important to note how the 'bubbles' are established as this is a key part of the protective measures and to how any confirmed cases of COVID-19 are managed in school.

The School Day - To reduce the number of people on site at any one time and to ensure that social distancing rules can be adhered to, we are planning staggered drop off and pick up times. These will be as close to the school day as possible and will not reduce the amount of overall learning time. Once our plans have been approved and the staggered times have been judged as appropriate for your setting, we will assign the slots to families and communicate this with you.

Uniform - Normal rules around school uniform will apply with the exception of footwear. Children should wear trainers with their normal school uniform. This will reduce the need to change footwear for the Golden Mile and any light physical activity during the day.

Lunches - We will continue with packed lunches on return to school in September as children will continue to eat outside or in their classrooms. This is to keep each class bubble separate at all times. We are changing caterers for September and more details will follow about this.

Equipment - Children can bring lunchboxes, coats and bags to school but as these will be stored together on trolleys and in cloakroom areas, we ask that they are cleaned regularly. It is still important that we limit the amount of items that travel between the home and school settings and therefore items coming in should still be kept to a minimum. Toys and other such personal items must not be brought in from home.

Breaks & lunches - These will continue to be staggered so that all children are not on the playground or field at one time and we will continue to use zones so that children are only playing with the children in their class bubble. This is to reduce the number of contacts.

Handwashing & Hygiene - We will continue with the hygiene and handwashing measures we are using now and your children will need to wash their hands regularly throughout the day and always on entering the classroom and before leaving at the end of the day. Children and staff will not be permitted to come to school if they are unwell.

Preparation - We want children and parents to feel ready for the start of school and we know that even those who are feeling really excited about returning may also feel a little anxious. In September, in the week before school starts, we will write to parents to confirm the arrangements (in light of any new guidance) and we will also release another 'back to school' video. We have also been working with the other schools in the Trust to design a recovery curriculum plan for Autumn 1 that focusses on re-establishing routines, relationships and feeling safe at school. We will share more details of this next week.

Summer Holiday Activities

In order to provide some support over the summer period, our Key Stage Leads have been busy gathering some summer-themed activities which will be available on the website. These are purely there for you to access should you need them and there is absolutely no requirement that they are completed.

Transition Plans - 3rd and 4th September

Ahead of opening to children on Monday 7th September, we will be working in school to continue to prepare for this. As well as statutory training such as safeguarding and health and safety, staff will spend time this week carrying out activities that further support your child's transition.

Thursday 3rd September -

Years 1 - 6 will take part in a new class Zoom meeting. The meetings will be spread out throughout the day to ensure there is no overlapping of classes so families with more than one child can attend. Links will be sent next week. In addition to the Zoom meeting, all families will receive a phone call from their new class teacher so they can be updated about what has been going well over the lockdown period and also areas that may need revisiting or further development.

Friday 4th September -

Welcome back family show rounds, particularly (but not exclusively) for children who were unable to attend their transition session and/or may be feeling a little anxious or worried about returning to school. These will be ten minute slots and can be booked by calling the School Office who will allocate a time slot.

Year 6 - Our Year 6 team have planned some of the end of year rites of passage to be carried out virtually and we are looking forward to seeing the children next week to say goodbye and present leavers' gifts but we had all hoped that the guidance would have allowed more than this by now. With that in mind, we will review the situation under the guidance in September, with the intention of offering the opportunity for the children to come together as a class which has not been possible this term. We also know that Y6 families have not had the chance to gather in the usual way - this is an end of an era for adults too - and we very much hope to be able to invite Year 6 families to a school event in the next academic year when such gatherings are permitted.

Roof - You may be aware that over time, we have had some issues with leaks in our school roof and we have been working with the Trust and Wiltshire Council to resolve these problems. We have recently found out that we have been awarded a grant by the DfE that will enable us to undertake the necessary work in the forthcoming year. We will, of course, let you know about the works and when they will be taking place as soon as we have had confirmation from the contractors, but we wanted to share this good news with you.

Message from our Safeguarding Team

Some things that happen in the world can make us scared, confused, and unsafe, or like we don't have any control. However you feel, it can really help to share your feelings and get support. The ChildLine website has great resources and advice for supporting children in their worries.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/#coronavirus>

Thank you for your continued support and patience and for everything you have done to support your child's remote learning. It has been such a long time for everyone and not without challenge and we have huge admiration for everything you have managed, juggled and achieved. This way of working and learning was new for us all. Thank you for your hard work, your creativity, your understanding and your kindness. Whilst there is a huge amount of planning and risk assessing involved for September, we are all delighted to be able to plan something that has such a positive goal - our school family back together.

With very best wishes,

Mrs C Luce & Mrs dos Santos

Principal Head of School

JULY BIRTHDAYS

YEAR R - Albi F, Gracie M, Mya A, Nadine S, Sienna E

YEAR 1 - Leo H

YEAR 2 - Emily D, Florence R, Holly M, Riley D, Tatsuki I, Vaarun P

YEAR 3 - Jessica P

YEAR 4 - Annabelle H, Fyn F, Joshua B

YEAR 5 - Evie W, Sophie M

YEAR 6 - Ella B



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

YEAR R - Collette W, Megan C, Elijah D, Jasmine C

YEAR 1 - Gracie C, Alfie G

YEAR 2 - Elsa H

YEAR 3 - Anis H, Connie E, Chloe B

YEAR 4 - Georgia W

YEAR 5 - Austin L, Maisie B, Toby P

YEAR 6 - Oliver C, Thomas M