



Lydiard Millicent CE Primary School
The Butts
Lydiard Millicent
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN5 3LR
Principal: Mrs Carly Luce

Keeping in Touch Letter

Tuesday 20th July

Dear Parents/Carers,

We very much hope that you and your families are well. As Mrs Luce said in her letter, no one could have foreseen the journey our schools would take after that very first lockdown announcement in March 2020 and we are so proud of the children, their resilience, how they have adapted and continued to work hard and try their best. We know that they deserve a wonderful Summer Holiday. Again, we want to thank you for your continued support and understanding as we maintained our protective measures to keep our community as safe as we could.

We are very much looking forward to returning to many of our pre-Covid routines but as is true for many of us over the last year, this period of change has also given us the opportunity to reflect on what works well and continue with some elements that we would want to continue to do even as we return to 'normal'.

A reminder that school finishes at 1.30pm on Thursday 22nd July and gates will be opened at the slightly earlier time of 1.20pm for collection.

September Plans

The school term begins for children in Y1-6 on Thursday 2nd September. For EYFS children, Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September are being used to conduct the 1:1 virtual parent sessions and a link will be sent out on Wednesday 1st September for these meetings. On Monday 6th September, our new EYFS children will begin their phased induction - a separate booklet has been sent to EYFS families.

'Bubbles' - Keeping the children in 'bubbles' is no longer a requirement and so children will be able to mix with their friends in other year groups at play and lunch times. For a lot of children, we recognise that this will be quite overwhelming and so we have a plan for gradually reintroducing larger mixing including Whole School Worship together and our Golden Mile. Government guidance has advised that in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups if there was an outbreak.

The School Day - We will be returning to our typical school opening times. Gates will be opened just before 8:45 and teachers will open classroom doors and welcome the children from 8:45. The class doors will close at 8:55 when the gates will be locked. The school day will end at 3:00 for KS1 and 3:05 for KS2. We can see how well the one-way system has been working and so will continue this in September for drop-off and collection. Parents will no longer be required to wear a face mask.

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.

We felt this would also be a good time to remind everyone of our standard uniform expectations:

- We ask that all items of clothing – especially T-shirts, sweatshirts, and trainers – are clearly marked.
- Jewellery is not permitted. If ears are pierced, then a single stud may be worn as long as it is removed or covered during PE. Watches may be worn.
- Nail varnish and makeup are not permitted in school.
- We request that hair is its natural colour with no extremes of style (undercuts/tramlines etc). For health and safety reasons and to reduce the spread of head lice, all pupils (boys and girls) with hair of shoulder length (or longer) should wear it tied back at all times with accessories that are school colours or that match the child's natural hair colour. Hair bands, ribbons/bows or 'scrunchies' and other hair wear should be moderate in size and hair bands should not have large items attached. It is important the child's face can be seen and eye contact maintained and so children's hair should be away from the face.

Lunches - Children will return to eating in the Hall and enjoying dining together. We will still continue to offer children their choice of meals each day and the salad cart will be back in use. The current dinner menu will be continuing in Autumn 1. For Thursday 2nd September, options will be Cheese & Tomato Pizza and Garlic Dough Balls with Jacket Potatoes and on Friday 3rd September, options will be Fish Fingers & Chips, Quorn Hot Dog or Jacket Potatoes. The week beginning Monday 6th September, will be week 1 of the menu.

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. Toys and other such personal items must not be brought in from home.

Breaks & lunches - Children will play in key stages and as a whole school on our large playground and field. They will no longer be required to play in zones.

Handwashing & Hygiene - One of the protective measures that guidance has stated must continue is the requirement for hand washing. We will continue with some 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.

Medication - Please ensure that you have collected your child's medication on Thursday 22nd July, and return anything still required and in date on the child's first day of term. For asthma, please return inhalers, spacers and the asthma card which has been sent home with your child's inhaler.

School Office - The School Office will 're-open'. We know that for many families, being able to pass messages via email or phone has been convenient and efficient, and would encourage families to continue doing this.

Isolation due to COVID - From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil or staff member can return to school, as long as they are well enough.

Staff - We are pleased to inform you that we have appointed Miss Harriet Gauger as Year 1 teacher to cover Mrs Sharp's maternity cover and Mrs Bryony Vukelic as Mrs Jones' job share partner in Year 2. Mr Jason

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Richards will be joining the team as an HLTA supporting Year 4 in the morning with some afternoons as PPA cover in KS1. Mrs Jayanti Baranwal will be joining the TA team supporting Year 2 and will also take on an MDSA role. As a 1:1 TA, we welcome Mrs Rachel Bedwell who will be joining Year 5. Mrs Bedwell joins us from our wider family at Ridgeway Farm and we are so pleased that she is remaining within the partnership. The School Office appointment of Ms Summer Fitzgerald as Admin Officer completes the Lydiard team.

Please see the table below showing staff placements for next academic year.

	Lydiard	
	Class Teacher(s)	Support Team
EYFS	Mrs Sharon Baker (Mon, Tues, Weds) Mrs Lisa Trinder (Thurs, Fri)	Mrs Jacqui Ambrose
Year 1	Miss Harriet Gauger (Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs) & Mrs Hannah Hyde (Fri)	Mrs Debbie Butler
Year 2	Mrs Grainne Jones (Mon, Tues, Weds) Mrs Bryony Vukelic (Thurs, Fri)	Mrs Jayanti Baranwal
Year 3	Miss Leah Thomas	Mrs Helen Tidy
Year 4	Mrs Jeanne dos Santos	Mr Jason Richards
Year 5	Mr Andrew Large	Miss Tracy Cuthbert Mrs Rachel Bedwell
Year 6	Miss Sadie Herbert	Mrs Sarah James Mrs Jayne Darragh

We are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back in September. Once we have returned, we will review the situation at that time and issue a calendar of events for the term, including our plans for inviting parents to school events. If you have any questions, please contact the School Office by phone or email. We will do all we can to ensure your child has a safe, happy and positive start to the year.

With very best wishes,

Mrs J dos Santos & Mrs L Gibbard

Head of Schools