



COLD HARBOUR
C of E Primary School

GROWING, LEARNING, ACHIEVING TOGETHER

Highland Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 7PD. Telephone: (01908) 270377

Executive Headteacher: Claire Britnell B.Ed (Hons)

Email: office@coldharbour.milton-keynes.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

8th January 2021

The end of our first week of the spring term has come to a close and I would like to extend a warm welcome back to our families with children in school and to those who are keeping their children at home. We've all had to adapt to new ways of working, so I wanted to take the opportunity to say what an amazing job you're doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this time.

It certainly has presented us with some challenges as we get used to this new way of working and I would like to thank everyone for their patience and thank all those parents who have passed on messages of support. It is appreciated by all.

Learning in School

On Tuesday, the Prime Minister announced another national lockdown. No one wants to close schools but closures are critical to reduce population spread to a level the NHS can cope with. This is essential to save lives. There has been a drastic jump in cases which has been attributed to the new variant of COVID-19, which scientists have now confirmed is between 50 and 70 per cent more transmissible.

We therefore ask you that if it is at all possible (for example, one parent is now working from home), to please keep your child at home. For the safety of all, we must ensure that our children and staff have as little contact with others as they can. It is in everyone's interest to ensure we can maintain socially distanced learning in school to protect both our children and staff particularly as the new covid strain is more easily transmissible. Hygiene measures remain key and classes are well spaced to limit contact across year groups.

If you would like to withdraw your child from school as you are now able to stay at home then please email the school office office@coldharbour.milton-keynes.sch.uk

Home learning and technical support

In the last lockdown, home learning was mainly provided through powerpoints and worksheets. This time around we have provided work that is more interactive where children will receive the same learning experiences for Maths, English and Topic as the children have in school. Your child will also be provided with feedback on their work (which is something parents felt was not given during the first national lockdown) and the children will have more contact with their teacher. The feedback may not be immediate just yet as the teachers are learning how to create videos to support your children and also help with home log-in issues but we will soon get into the swing of everything! And remember, the teachers are working in school as well, on a rota basis, so they may be having to teach during the day but respond to any queries about home learning at a time outside of school hours. Your patience is appreciated.

If you do find yourselves having any log-in problems then please direct these to Andy Colley who is supporting Cold Harbour with our IT. The email address to use is: parent_support@coldharbour.milton-keynes.sch.uk

We have now provided our families with nearly 20 Chromebooks to help give you access to home learning but unfortunately we only have a limited supply and therefore can only offer 1 per family who have put in requests and meet the criteria. We understand that if you have more than one child in a family, only



having one device at home presents a challenge but please don't worry, timetable the machine between the children, be kind to yourselves and do what you can. I would say that having your child read everyday, complete some writing by maybe writing a diary or practising handwriting, and learning their times tables is a great start.

To help us know what we are doing well and how we can improve things further, I would really appreciate it if you could complete the following survey by clicking this link: <https://forms.gle/NS8QCCA9QjzSMEJbA>

We are always keen to improve our practise to make things better for you or more manageable so some feedback would be welcomed.

Some families I know do not have internet connectivity at home. The government is providing extended free data allowances for those in need so that you do not use up all your data. For others without access at all, they are also providing free wireless 4g routers. If you feel you could benefit from these, there is also a section on the survey to register your interest and we will then be in contact for further information, which the DfE uses to assess whether or not you are eligible. I don't know how quickly the government will be able to supply these as they are obviously dealing with high demand, but we will do our best for you.

Online registers

What is new this time around, is that we have arranged for your child to participate in a virtual registration meeting every morning. This is to support your child in keeping to a routine and ensure that they are ready for the lessons of the day. This is a good opportunity for your child to ask any questions about their learning. It is also a good way for the children to stay 'connected' to their classmates and avoid the feeling of isolation. To support their well-being, it is lovely if they can attend. Again, I know a couple of parents have expressed how this can be difficult to organise but we can only ask that you try your best.

Google classrooms

We are currently trying to move to the Google Classrooms platform where the children will be able to access all their learning in one place. Unfortunately, we have been experiencing some technical difficulties with this, so for the time being your child will continue to receive their learning through parentmail and class dojo.

Video lessons and live lessons

Teachers have been creating video lessons for your child to access their learning and you will be seeing more of these. I know the phonics lessons received in FS and KS1 have been very successful and the children have enjoyed seeing their teachers in action! We will eventually move to some live lessons once Google Classrooms is up and running and we will provide you with details of this nearer the time.

Home packs

We are providing home learning packs for those who prefer a printed copy of the learning materials. Please ensure that you let your teacher know if this is preferable so that we are not wasting resources by printing for everyone. You can collect your packs weekly at the following times: Packs can be picked up on **Mondays: UKS2 - 9.00am, LKS2 - 10:00 am, Foundation/KS1 - 11:00am**, if you are collecting for more than one child you can collect them all at the same time.

Please ensure that you adhere to social distancing rules when collecting.



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Reading book exchanges

If you wish to exchange your child's reading books, please do so each of your children's class teachers by 1.00pm the day before the designated day for your year groups. It would be really helpful if you could pop any books in the quarantine box when you come to school to pick up the home learning packs.

Monday 11th	Tuesday 12th	Wednesday 13th	Thursday 14th	Friday 15th
	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	
Monday 18th	Tuesday 19th	Wednesday 20th	Thursday 21st	Friday 22nd
	Foundation	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3

Please take a look at the '7 top tips' attached to this email to help support your child with reading at home.

Welcome back

Miss Ruth Sadi returns to teach at Cold Harbour this week. She will be teaching Cygnet class on a Friday and at other times will be supporting children across the school.

Children due to start school for the first time in September 2021

If you have a child, or know any children who are due to start school for the first time in September 2021 (born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017), please may we remind you that the deadline for applications is next **Friday 15th January 2021**. You should apply directly to www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Notification of COVID-19 tests or isolation notes

Please could we request that if you have had a COVID-19 test or have received a message on Track & Trace to isolate, that you sent us the notifications as we are keeping a record of all cases. We would still appreciate receiving this information even if your child is home learning. Thank you for your co-operation.

Have a lovely weekend with your family.

Claire

