



11.09.20 1

Grow, Learn, Believe, Achieve

Dear Parents,

I hope the start of this year has gone ok for you so far. From my perspective the children have settled in really well and I have been amazed by the smiling faces walking confidently into new classrooms from Reception to Year 2. Hopefully you have been able to access your child's Milford Google account and register them for Google Classroom. In the event of a future closure, this will be our primary way to teach and provide learning to your children so it is important to sign up. If you are having any issues, please do get in touch - the system worked really well from March/April last year so we are fairly adept at resolving problems!

I am really impressed with the 'wonderful walking' the children have been displaying and how respectful they have been. Some beautiful manners have been seen in the dinner hall and I even caught some children wiping down some hand washing splashes they made without being asked.

Thanks to those who managed to attend the virtual Monster Phonics session on Wednesday 9th September. Please see below the links to the webinar recording and the slides.

Link to webinar recording on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clp9aQI9zu8&feature=youtu.be>

Link to file of webinar slides:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/prabydxj6odp4v3d2k8wl/Parent-Webinar-Phonics-Explained-How-to-help-your-child-with-phonics.pptx?dl=0&rlkey=8u9evt6t2q72wah4zouhykcvx>

I hope despite the strange times we are in, you all continue to feel a part of our school community and I really look forward to getting to know you all better over the coming months. Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Stear and all at Milford School

DIARY DATES

Mon 14.09.20 Reception in full-time 8.35am-3pm
 Fri 18.09.20 Meet the Teacher:
 Y1 - Powerpoint presentation
 Y2 - Powerpoint presentation
 Thurs 24.09.20 Year 1 Meet the Teacher on Zoom - 1.30pm
 Wed 30.09.20 Harvest Gifts to school
 W/B 12.10.20 Parent Consultations (details to follow)
 Mon 26.10.20 - Fri 30.10.20 **Half-term**

Fri 06.11.20 Inset Day
 Fri 13.11.20 Mufti Day for Children in Need
 Fri 11.12.20 Christmas Jumper Day
 Fri 18.12.20 Last Day of term school closes early time tbc
 Mon 04.01.21 School resopens
 Fri 26.02.21 Inset Day
 Fri 28.05.21 Inset Day
 Wed 21.07.21 Last day of term

Dogs on School Premises

Please ensure that dogs are not brought on to school premises. Please tie them up to the fence at the front of the school building, away from paths and gates.

Drop Off and Pick up times

Reception-drop from 8.35am - 3pm
 Y 1 - drop from 8.45am - 3.10pm.
 Y 2 - drop from 8.55am - 3.20pm.

Site entry and exit

Thank you everyone for being so patient as we continue to work around smooth entry and exit from the site. It appears to be improving and could be helped further by ensuring you try to stick to your child's drop off and pick up times as much as possible to avoid any backlogs. During busy times it can be difficult to maintain full social distancing, so in these circumstances it might be prudent to bring a face covering with you so that you can 'don' it should you feel it is necessary and safer to

Absences

We are required by Surrey County Council to send in an absence return every half term. As a result we ask that on the first morning of absence parents ring the school office and leave a message by 9.25a.m. explaining the reason for his/her absence. If a child is away and we do not get a message to explain, we will contact you to ensure your child is safe. If we are unable to contact you we will work our way through the contacts on your information form. Please ring the office every morning of your child's absence.

Request for Leave of Absence during term time

We will not authorise absence for holidays during term time and any such absences will be marked as unauthorised. Surrey County Council guidance gives Headteachers the power to authorise absence only in exceptional circumstances. Examples of exceptional circumstances, given by the Department for Education (DfE), are: service leave and family crisis.

Free School Meals Eligibility and Pupil Premium

Although all infant school children are now eligible for a free school meal, it is still important to us that we are able to identify who would have been eligible if the system hadn't changed as this information is used for the school to be able to claim pupil premium-essential funding. You or your child's information is not given to anyone else but is used purely for the school to be able to claim the premium. The Pupil Premium is additional funding given to schools so that they can support their pupils and close any potential attainment gaps between them and their peers. Please e-mail the School Office on parents@milford.surrey.sch.uk for a form as soon as possible, even if you are not sure whether you are eligible, in order for us to make this claim as accurately as possible.



Updating Records/Information

Your child will receive an envelope next week which shows the details we currently hold. Please return the form unchanged and signed if the details are correct, but if they are not, please alter them clearly on the form.



NSPCC - Let Talk Pants

We will be talking to the children during this half-term about keeping safe. Please have a look at the website below to familiarise yourself with the content.

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/

Medication and Inhalers

If your child receives medication, including inhalers for asthma, please ensure that the school is informed of this and medication is supplied for use in school. As with any medicine/inhalers that need to be given during the day, a form (obtained from the office) must be completed giving details of the medicines and clear instructions as to how they should be administered. Please refer to our 'Supporting Children with Medical Needs' policy. All medication must come via the School Office and not via the classteacher.



Please bring in any inhalers/medication that were returned at the end of the summer term.

St Mark's Foodbank

The Community Store was started at the beginning of lockdown and is run by volunteers and is working in partnership with St Mark's Foodbank to help those who find themselves in financial difficulties resulting from Covid-19. In addition to St Mark's Foodbank's normal operations, the Town Council has provided a space at the Wildred Noyce, where The Community Store is set up to provide all the essentials that families and individuals need. It is a real community effort with donations from many local businesses as well as donations from the general public. Sadly, although lockdown restrictions are easing, there are more and more families and individuals in need of our support to see them through these difficult times as redundancies increase and the furlough scheme comes to an end. The most recent figures show that to date The Community Store has provided 15,547 days worth of food and hygiene products, supporting 129 adults and 102 children from Godalming and the surrounding villages.

All donations that are in date and unopened are very gratefully received. We publish a list once a week of items that are particularly needed on the Godalming Town Council website and on the Godalming & Farncombe Community Coronavirus Assistance Facebook page.

Airborne Nut Allergy

Please be aware that we have children in school with a nut allergy and a potential 'airborne' nut allergy. If your child has had any contact with foods that contain nuts please ensure they wash their hands before coming to school. Also please double check any foods sent in for snacks for after school clubs and lunchboxes for nuts. We would appreciate your help with this matter.

Message from The Friends

Welcome back! Hope everyone is well and had a wonderful summer break. Welcome also to all the new reception partners at what must feel like a very strange time to start school. Milford has such a wonderful community and not being able to be experience that is very strange....but we are still all here. As Mr Stear mentioned in the newsletter not much can run this year. This is normally a full term, with discos, cake sales, Christmas build-up, etc. but for now we will just have to build our community in other ways. Please do continue to connect via ClassList. We currently have someone temporarily standing in as Friends Chair so if anyone is keen to take on the role of Chair please do get in touch with Mr Stear or Erika Keat (previous Friends Chair) to discuss. It couldn't be a better time to do it, with hardly anything running you will have time to get involved and work out how to best help the school run events. It is such a rewarding role and wonderful to be a part of the school, raising money for our children. The Friends are looking for someone or a team of people this term to run the production of Christmas Cards and the Tea towels. They won't be able to go into class but will need to do all the ordering and organising. Please let us know via the email address below if you are keen to take this up.

Without being able to volunteer in classrooms there are not many ways to be involved in school but helping with the Friends is a great way to contribute.

Enjoy your weekend and please do get in touch if you would like to know more about taking on Chair or helping with the few events that are running this term.

The Friends of Milford School -
friendschair@milford.surrey.sch.uk

Fundraising for our school

There are very few events that will be able to run over the course of this academic year, which is a real shame as the school uses money the Milford School Friends raises to buy 'nice to have' items for classes or resources to be used in classes (amongst many other things). With this in mind, should you wish to make a donation to the school or the Milford Friends, there are a couple of ways you can do it. To give money directly to the school, you can send a cheque titled 'Milford School Fund' in to the office or to donate to the Friends, the following bank details can be used:

Account Name: Friends of Milford School

Account Number : 01004559

Sort Code : 309349

Breakfast and After School Clubs for Autumn term

We are currently reviewing Breakfast and after school clubs with a view to running them after half-term. Further details to follow.

Coats and P.E Kits

We expect children to have a coat in school at all times. Reception and Year 2 need to wear their PE kits coming to school on their PE day. Year 1 need to leave their PE kits at school, and it will be returned for washing regularly.

Classlist

Please join our Milford School 'Classlist' as this is a secure way for information to be shared between classes, the Friends and parents. The school office authorises joiners to ensure only Milford School community families have access and it can be a useful reminder of things coming up.

Parking

Following a request from a parent, I have approached Surrey and Waverley to request that those parents that need to drive to school can have exemption for the car park next to the doctors between two set times across the day. This is something I attempted a few years ago but am hopeful might be able to happen soon. I understand the difficulties and extra pressure with just the front entrance to school being available and hope that we will be granted permission for this to happen to make this easier for everyone. Thank you for your patience.

Crazy world!

I feel I should apologise to our new joining families for them not having the usual experience many of our previous families have had. Due to Covid 19 we have been unable to hold the traditional style 'Meet the Teacher', 'Welcome morning', Grandparent's Day (hugely popular), reading help in class (hopefully some news on this soon), Harvest assembly, Remembrance assembly and Christmas performances. Rest assured that we do have some plans for a version of these events to happen but it will clearly be very different from how things are usually done. I do hope you take the opportunity to have a quick chat if you see myself or any of the staff around the site and want to once again welcome you all back to Milford School. Keep smiling!