



Chestnuts Primary School

'Encourage, Enable, Empower'

Tel: 01908 373748

email: office@chestnuts.milton-keynes.sch.uk

www.chestnutsprimaryschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Miss Becky Skillings

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Katie Robins

Assistant Headteachers: Mrs Sam Sear & Mrs Nicola Tearle

17 May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, the country is moving into the next phase of its recovery plan, and certain restrictions have been removed. The guidance that schools have received, however, has changed very little. We are still required to operate in small bubbles and continue to have to have staggered starts and finishes. Therefore, very little will be changing in school at present.

You will also no doubt have seen the letter from Vicky Head, Director of Public Health for Milton Keynes, urging us all to continue to maintain our distance and be vigilant to any symptoms of Covid-19. We continue to be required to send any child home who has a temperature, persistent cough or loss of taste or smell and request that they and their family isolate for 10 days or until they have taken a PCR test at an official testing site which has come back negative. If you or your child develop any of these symptoms, a home lateral flow test is not sufficient unfortunately and we will not be able to allow them back into school.

On a positive note however, we have managed to increase our stock of reading books and so, from today, will be changing the way we manage the children's reading books. There will no longer be a set day for changing books as we have enough in each class now to change them as needed and still quarantine books. When your child has read their book, they will be able to change it. Please remember that for children in Reception and Year 1, we need them to have read the book 2 or 3 times before changing it to develop their confidence and fluency. Reading records will still need to be in school each Thursday to be checked by staff.

We have started to hold some whole school assemblies on a Friday afternoon which makes such a lovely end to the week, seeing all children and staff in one place! We have been doing these outside when the weather is kind to us, with each year group sitting separately to the others. We have been able to share the successes of the week and pupils' achievements outside of school. It has been a real pleasure to see the children sharing their enjoyment in each other's success and we will continue to do this as long as the weather allows.

We are also now allowed to participate in trips outside of school, although each one will be carefully risk assessed. At present, we are looking at trying to get an outdoor trip arranged for each year group. The big difficulty is that we are only allowed to take the adults attached to each bubble on the



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trip and cannot 'borrow' staff from other bubbles or include parent helpers in our ratios. This, obviously, causes some difficulties, particularly for the younger children who require a higher ratio, but we are working hard to try and make this happen.

I am incredibly impressed with the children of Chestnuts who really are applying themselves so well to their learning, allowing us to support them to make up for any lost learning time. Anything you can do to support this is very much appreciated. Reading appears to be the area that has suffered the most during the lockdowns, and so we really would be grateful if you could take the time to share as many books with your children as possible and ensure that they complete their weekly reading. It really does make a huge difference to your children.

This week is the national walk to school week and the council are running a competition for children to identify the benefits of walking to school. Details can be found here:

<https://www.getsmartertravelmk.org/school/help-for-schools/marchintomay>

Can you help reduce congestion around school, enhance the safety of our pupils, and encourage physical activity in your children?

Thank you for all your support and for continuing to work with us to keep Chestnuts safe and open.

Yours faithfully,

Becky Skillings
Headteacher



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