



# Chestnuts Primary School

'Encourage, Enable, Empower'

Tel: 01908 373748

email: [office@chestnuts.milton-keynes.sch.uk](mailto:office@chestnuts.milton-keynes.sch.uk)

[www.chestnutsprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.chestnutsprimaryschool.co.uk)

Headteacher: Miss Becky Skillings  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Katie Robins  
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Sam Sear

30 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please accept my apologies for once again writing to you during the holidays. As you will be aware, we have had a number of cases of COVID-19 within the school community over the last 10 days.

As a result, I have spoken at length with the Department for Education, Public Health and Milton Keynes Council regarding the situation and how we can make school the safest place possible for all pupils, staff and families. There are some changes to our daily procedures that I need to outline. Some of the changes are just for Chestnuts, but some will be recommended by Public Health for all schools in Milton Keynes. I have been advised that Vicky Head, Director for Public Health in our region, will be writing to all parents and schools with these recommendations on Monday. I will, of course, forward her letter on when I receive it.

In the meantime, the following changes will be happening in school from 8am on Monday 1 November:

- **All adults** on the school premises will be required to wear a mask – this applies to staff, parents and visitors, both in the building and within the boundary of the gates. If you were previously exempt from wearing a mask, please wear a lanyard to prevent embarrassment or being asked to leave the premises. At present, I do not wish to inconvenience parents and staff by restricting entry to the premises at the end of the day but will have to do so should mask wearing not be co-operated with. If a restriction of entry to the premises for parents is deemed necessary, then start and finish times will also need to be adjusted and this has a negative impact on working parents.
- All children in **Years 5 and 6** will be asked to wear a mask when in communal areas. This will be whilst they are moving between classrooms, going to the toilets and on their way in and out of the building. Children will not need to wear masks whilst outside at break and lunch. We are unable to provide masks so please ensure your child brings one to school and is aware that they will need to put it on before entering the building.
- **All staff** will continue to carry out LFD tests twice weekly to identify any asymptomatic cases.



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Apollo Avenue Fairfields, Milton Keynes MK11 4BA. The company number is 07698904 and is registered in England.



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- Any children in **Year 3 and above** who live with someone who has a positive case of COVID-19, will need to do an LFD test daily for 7 days from the positive test result. If the child's test is negative, they will be allowed to come to school. However, if it is positive they will be asked to stay at home, isolate and obtain a PCR test. If they are unable or unwilling to take the test, they will need to stay at home for the 7 days. To enable us to be sure that all children are safe to be in school we ask that you email us on [covid@chestnuts.milton-keynes.sch.uk](mailto:covid@chestnuts.milton-keynes.sch.uk) should any member of your household test positive – even if they don't attend our school.
- You can order LFD tests to be delivered to your home address from the Gov.uk website - <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. They should arrive within a day or two of being ordered. Alternatively, you can collect LFD tests from pharmacies and testing sites across Milton Keynes. You can find your closest collection point using the NHS website - <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>. Please let us know if you are finding it difficult to get testing kits and we can try and assist you.
- Residential are not permitted at present and sadly this means the **Year 3 and 4 sleepover** planned for the 12 November will need to be postponed. I am advised summer residential can take place and so the Year 3 and 4 sleepover will be rescheduled for later in the year. Attempts to book residential for Year 5 and 6 are currently underway and we will continue to try to get these organised.
- We have not yet resumed full **mixing of the pupils** at break times, lunch times or in assemblies but have been allowing phases to mix (Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4, Years 5 and 6). From Monday, this will again be restricted with each year group having a designated area of the playground in which to play. The only exception to this will be in Years 1 and 2 where some children will still be grouped for their Read Write Inc. lessons across the phase. These children will be sat on opposite sides of the classroom for these lessons. There will be no change for Early Years children as they have not been mixing outside of their own age group. For those who attend mixed year group **clubs**, these will continue; however, children will be seated away from children in the other year groups.
- **Breakfast club** will continue to run from 8am; however, we will not be mixing the large number of children in the hall and dining room. The children will go straight to their year groups and be



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supervised for breakfast club in one classroom per year group. Unfortunately, this once again means we will be unable to serve the full range of breakfasts but will have a range of foods available such as breakfast bars, yoghurts, fruit, pancakes and brioche buns available.

- **Chestnuts Extra (our after school care provision)** will continue to run and the children will be grouped in phases and kept separate within the hall and dining room. Unfortunately, we do not have enough staff to keep year groups separate during after school hours. The children will still be provided with a range of activities but will not have the same level of free choice each day. Due to space and staffing, we just cannot fully separate the children and allow the level of activity choice that we currently have.
- A supply of CO2 monitors arrived in school on the last day of term. These were provided by the Department for Education and have been placed in each classroom. These will alert us to the level of **ventilation** in each room and ensure that, although we still have to keep windows open at all times, we are able to keep them pulled to when the ventilation is good. It will be cold in school over the next few months so **please wrap your child up well**; provide an extra jumper/hoodie which they will be permitted to wear in the classroom and extra layers under their uniform.
- We haven't changed our **cleaning** regime since the beginning of the outbreak, continuing to clean all touch points and children's work stations numerous times throughout the day. This will be continuing with a further full clean at the end of each day. School was given a thorough deep clean during the half term holiday.
- The children will continue to be asked to **wash their hands** frequently throughout the day, as they have been since March 2020, and hand sanitiser is available in all classrooms and throughout the school. Children will be encouraged to continue using this frequently. If you prefer to provide your child with their own hand wash or sanitiser, then please feel free to do so; however, we cannot take any responsibility for any losses.
- Any child from Year 1 and above who is unable to attend school due to COVID-19 will be sent a link to **join their class remotely** to enable them to participate in the learning in the classroom. Links will be sent to your child's Gmail account and Google Classroom. Children in



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EYFS will be sent activities to complete and teachers will check in with them via zoom. Obviously, if your child is unwell, they will not be expected to participate.

I appreciate this is a long letter with a lot of information included but, as always, felt that the more you knew we were doing and asking of you, the safer you would feel about returning your children to school on Monday. I would be grateful if you could discuss the content of this letter with your child to ensure they are ready for school on Monday and won't be worried about some of the changes. We will of course, take the time to explain to them as well when they return to class.

I hope you have a pleasant weekend and look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Yours faithfully,

Becky Skillings  
Headteacher



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