



Millfield Primary School

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Principal: Mrs D.M. Hannaford
Vice Principal: Mrs W. Lee



The governing body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

7th January, 2022

Dear Parents,

I should like to welcome everybody back - I hope very much that you managed to enjoy some family time over the Christmas break. We welcome back Mr Wright, who will be teaching in Y1 as Mrs Rose left Millfield at Christmas.

As there are always things in the media around Covid, as well as changes in advice and guidance sent out to schools, I wanted to update you on a few Covid related matters.

Can you help another family that lives near you? Might you need help getting your children to school one day?

Some parents are finding themselves in the situation where the adults in the house have tested positive for Covid and need to isolate but their children have tested negative. Current guidance on children's attendance is clear - the children must be in school unless **they** are too unwell with a non-Covid related illness or **they** have tested positive for Covid on a PCR (currently) or a lateral flow test (from Tuesday 11th January) ie. not because their parents are too unwell/have Covid. In this situation, if the children don't attend school, it will be coded as unauthorised as it is the parents' responsibility to make arrangements for their children to get to school. However, I appreciate that this can be difficult. It's at times like this that parents need to have a trusted friend or family member nearby, who they can ask to take their children to and from school. It may be that on your journey to/from school, you pass the house of a family that has a child in your child's class; perhaps you feel you could make yourself known to their parent/s, offering to help out should it be needed in the future. Clearly this is something you and they would need to be happy about, as you/they would be allowing your/their child to go with another parent - it was just something that I thought might ease things should the situation arise.

There will be NO after school clubs this term

The greatest impact of Covid on day-to-day school organisation is that staff test positive and are then absent from school, sometimes for some time. This impacts on the children's learning, especially if we cannot find suitable cover from supply agencies. This happened before Christmas when I had no option but to close both Reception classes, even though all the Reception staff had been double-jabbed and some had received their booster. Most of our staff have not had Covid and I want to do whatever is reasonable to mitigate the risk of them catching it through School contacts. Therefore I have decided that there will not be clubs this term.

No doubt schools will receive further guidance linked to the changes coming into effect next week around lateral flow tests and PCRs- I will update you once I have it.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs D. M. Hannaford
Principal