

Milton Abbot Primary School



Newsletter 24th September 2021 Autumn 1, Issue 1

www.miltonabbot.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the academic year, and what a busy start to the Autumn term we have had. A huge thank you to the teaching team for all their efforts in continuing to make our beautiful old building the best that it can be - including painting the front entrance a refreshing 'Cornish Cream' and our Little Owls Early Years Classroom a calm 'Wild Willow', as well as staining our playground sheds blue, with huge thanks to Sarah Hammond and family for their kind donation. There has also been painting in the classroom of a different variety, namely the creation of 'The Learning Climb' for every pupil to be reminded that new learning can often leave us confused or frustrated, but through this struggle we can use hard-thinking to achieve our goals (more below). We also welcome Mrs Sally Elliott as our Early Years Leader, who brings with her a wealth of experience, expertise and a bright smile. We will be saying 'good luck and keep smiling' to Mrs Baldwin soon as baby bump is telling her to begin her maternity leave sooner than she'd originally intended - we will keep you posted when the big day arrives. Finally, we are excited to be carrying out a number of projects with the Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust this term. These projects will enable us to link up with other local schools in a range of different ways, we will tell you more about this as it happens. As this is our first newsletter of the year, please take note of the safeguarding roles and routines below, as well as a Covid-19 update. Best wishes, Mr. Luxford.

Safeguarding at Milton Abbot School:

'Everyone has a duty to safeguard our children and protect them from harm.'

Mr. Luxford is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for school and is deputised by Mr. Walkerdine. Together, they lead the whole school team on safeguarding, ensuring all staff are vigilant in keeping pupils safe and secure, and protecting them from radicalization or extremism. This is accomplished through regular staff training including weekly scenarios and termly surveys. Our Child Protection and Inclusion Governor is Jane Byrne, who is also our Chair of Governors, and she leads on challenge to ensure that our systems are robust and effective. Please find a copy of our safeguarding poster at the end of this newsletter. Further information, advice and signposting on a whole range of issues can also be found on the 'Safeguarding Circle' on our school website: [Safeguarding Circle - Milton Abbot Primary School](#)

Covid-19: For Latest Advice:

Every school is required to have a Covid risk assessment and 'outbreak management plan' and ours can be read via our school website: [Covid 19 information - Milton Abbot Primary School](#). A key Government focus is to avoid as much disruption to a pupil's education as possible, whilst remaining cautious and to get testing as soon as symptoms appear. We have 'case thresholds', included in the plan, which break down what might cause us to revert back to 'bubbles' and limit mixing of the children, etc. You may be aware via the media, that the Government's 'Step 4' guidance currently in place does not oblige schools to inform the school community if there is a positive case. This is because there has been a change in systems which sees Public Health England manage cases via the NHS 'track and trace' team, who will now make contact with anyone who needs to take

further action as a result of this positive test. The guidance to schools states:

“Individuals identified as close contacts are **not required** to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- they are **fully vaccinated** (e.g. at least 2 weeks after second dose)
- they are below the age of **18 years and 6 months**
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Children who are unwell should **not** attend the setting and should remain at home until their acute symptoms resolve (+24 hours for a fever).

- **IF** these symptoms develop into cough, temperature, changes to taste and smell, should isolate and test.
- **IF** test negative to COVID-19, still need to remain at home until at least 24 fever free and acute symptoms resolved.

Parents and settings should not try and ‘second guess’ diagnosis – if they have the key symptoms, isolate and test.

We continue to apply hygiene routines in school and are following all advice concerning distancing to minimise risk of transmission. I know that our families are taking this very seriously and I thank you for continuing to be vigilant for symptoms and being highly cautious if you are concerned over your child's health.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54145299> (this has a good BBC Video on Symptoms)

Remote Learning:

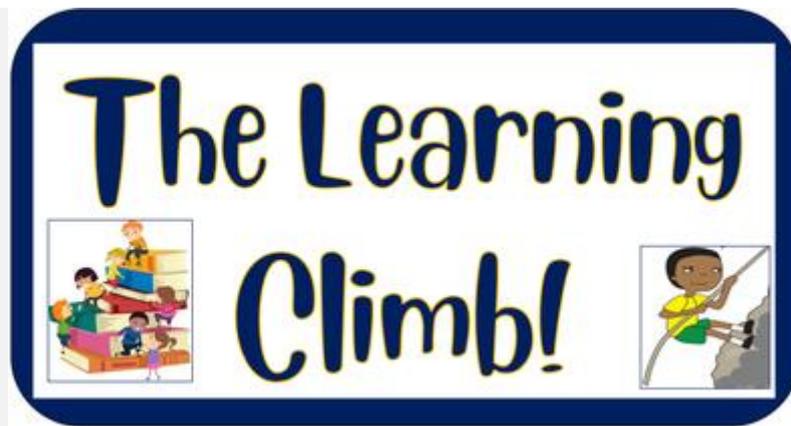
If your child is required to isolate at home, then we will make contact with you to offer remote learning opportunities, seeking to work in collaboration with you and only if your child is well enough to do so.

Contacting School: Please can all absences and requests for before/after school clubs be directed to the office in the first instance, via phone, email or Mrs. Jones on Class Dojo. Thank you.

Learning Moments this week:



Lambs hearts in Eagle Owls Science... Stone pudding in Tawny History... The Scream in Barn Art!



We have re-launched 'The Learning Climb' this year, based on the principles of The Learning Pit, which reassures our children that new learning can often leave you feeling confused, frustrated and worried. 'The Learning Climb' teaches that these are feelings we all share because there is a positive struggle to grasp new ideas or methods; it is also there to inspire pupils during this struggle to **have-a-go**, don't give up, **problem-solve** and do their **hardest thinking** and before long they'll be climbing their way to success. At Milton Abbot we are always keen to recognise success and teachers award great Learning Climbers in our Celebration Assemblies, as well as saying say well done to Curriculum Experts who have climbed their way to success in different subjects.



Milton Abbot School



Everyone has a duty to safeguard children and protect them from harm.

The Designated Safeguarding Officer is:

Chris Luxford (Headteacher/Inclusion Lead)

contact: head@miltonabbot.devon.sch.uk

This role also leads on Domestic Violence and Child Exploitation, as well as completing regular scrutiny and reviews of our safeguarding systems, reporting to School Governors.





The Deputy Safeguarding Officer is:

Greg Walkerdine contact: admin@miltonabbot.devon.sch.uk

Greg is an experienced teacher, having taught in a large urban school before joining Milton Abbot School. Greg is our Pupil Premium Champion and is also trained in risk assessment systems, including Evolve which prepares teachers for safe trips. He is also our Key Stage 2 Phase Leader and meets regularly with Governors.

The Child Protection and Inclusion Lead Governor is:

Jane Byrne — contact: admin@miltonabbot.devon.sch.uk

Having been an Executive Headteacher of an outstanding school for a number of years, as well as a National Leader of Education, Jane possesses a full range of knowledge and experience to support and challenge our school systems, linking in regularly with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Pupil Premium Champion.

Please report any safeguarding concerns to the above immediately. We work closely with other agencies when monitoring or sharing safeguarding concerns. If above are not available please phone Early Help/MASH with any concerns on 0345 155 1071 or via their e-mail: mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk



Worried About a Child? Contact MASH

If you are concerned that a child or young person is being abused please
email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk or call

Devon: 0345 1551071 | Out of hours please: 0845 6000388 | Emergencies: 999