

Milton Abbot Primary School



Newsletter 16th October 2020 Autumn 1, Issue 2

www.miltonabbot.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Each term I am very privileged to be able to visit each class and complete formal lesson observations to see the teaching and learning in action. My focus was on maths this term and I was particularly impressed by the purposeful learning atmosphere in each class, from our youngest Snowy Owls to our very mature Eagle Owls. The children expressed enjoyment of the challenges being set by the class teacher and pride in their successes, which is fantastic and makes me extremely proud to hear as a Headteacher. A big thank you goes out to the children for the way they have returned to school in Autumn, and a heartfelt thank you goes to our teaching team and learning support assistants, who are tireless in their consideration of how to support and challenge every child, as well as delivering a wide ranging curriculum that the children regularly tell me they are really enjoying - especially when the learning involves Oreo phases of the moon it seems! Best wishes, Mr. Luxford.

Covid-19: For Latest Advice:

<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)

Morning drop off: Please can I remind all parents that **morning drop off for KS1 and KS2 is from 08:45**. Before lockdown it was 08:40 but we have had to alter this to allow for the bus drop off. Thank you.

Staff training day: School is CLOSED on Friday 23rd October – this is for our statutory annual safeguarding refresher. Please do not send your child into school on this day. The last day of Autumn term 1 is therefore Thursday 22nd October when we will be enjoying our charity 'Pumpkins and Pyjamas' day....

'Pumpkins and Pyjamas' Day - Thursday 22nd October: Mostly to say a big thank you to the children for being so brilliant during our first term back after lockdown but also to raise money for the cancer charity CLIC Sargent, we will be hosting a 'pumpkins and pyjamas' day. Your child is invited to wear pyjamas (or comfy non-uniform if they prefer) to school. They will still need a warm coat in school and would advise they wear additional clothing underneath their pyjamas to keep warm. We hope to enjoy a range of Autumnal activities including fun with pumpkins! Your child is invited to bring in a carved pumpkin from home, which will be enjoyed in their class (bubbles will remain fixed) for the day before returning home to you ready for half-term and any Halloween fun you may choose to do. Thanks to Tom's Dad, we have a giant pumpkin in school and every child will have a chance to guess how heavy it is - how many bags of flour does it weigh? We would encourage you to help your child come up with their guess beforehand, thank you. All we ask is that you bring in a donation that will be sent to this worthwhile charity. Thank you to HOOT, our brilliant PTFA, for supplying the prize.



This is the pumpkin but how heavy do you think it is? The unit of measurement is in bags of flour weighing 1kg.

You will have a chance to guess during our Pumpkins and Pyjamas' day!

Parent Consultations: We will be running parent consultation appointments after half-term. Due to the current covid-19 concerns, we will be offering you the choice to have a virtual meeting via Google Classroom (Google Meet) with the class teacher or a phone conversation. A letter will be sent home outlining all the details shortly after half term. We are keen to offer face to face meetings and will do so in the Spring term as soon as it is more apparent that it is safe and sensible to do so. Teachers are missing the regular contact due to the current restrictions, as I'm sure many of you are too, but would remind you that we can happily call you on the phone if there is anything you need to discuss and can also book appointments to meet if required. I am certainly missing my assemblies, including our end of term celebration silliness but know we must continue to stay alert and stay safe.

Village 'speed safety' campaign: As a school we are in full support of our village community campaign to have the pavement in the village widened - it is only 80cm wide in places. Our School Council met with the Parish Council a short while ago to make our feelings known about how fast some cars travel through the village. This led to some police involvement for a short while. However, we could get nothing done about the pavement at this time. Now, this situation has reached new heights of worry as several people have now been caught by vehicles and hurt, as you will have seen in the letter sent home yesterday. We will be asking children who walk to school to wear hi-vis vests, making slow down posters, asking the children to write to the Parish Council expressing their personal views on the matter and will have a School Governor representing us on the Community Speed Watch group. If you wish to find out more then please visit: www.miltonabbotspeedsafety.org

OCRA - Quad Kids event: Key Stage 2 children enjoyed a fun afternoon of athletics with our friends at OCRA, who we have really missed, so it was great to get back to our sporty best!

