

Milton Abbot Primary School



Newsletter 12th November 2021 Autumn 2, Issue 1

www.miltonabbot.devon.sch.uk



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Jones at the beginning of December, as she begins an exciting new challenge working for the NHS after over ten years here at Milton Abbot School. It is going to be with enormous gratitude that we say a heartfelt thank you for all the care that Mrs Jones has poured into our school over the years, and always with the best interests of the children at the forefront of everything she does. Amongst her many achievements, Mrs Jones was instrumental in providing the Local Authority with numerous reasons why we needed a new roof, until they eventually agreed and we got one! The children were also treated to Mrs Jones' musical talents on several occasions entertaining those who would listen or better still join in! With her first aid skills over the years Mrs Jones would always treat all with a smile and a caring remedy. In her day-to-day work, Mrs. Jones has brought kindness, humour and common sense, which the present team and colleagues over the years, have always appreciated, especially through confusing times such as the early days of the Covid pandemic.

We will be sending Mrs Jones off with gifts to say thank you and good luck, so if you would like to contribute towards these please send in donations in an envelope marked 'for Mrs Jones'.

Diolch yn fawr iawn Mrs. Jones!

Mr. Luxford.



Children in Need

We will be enjoying a ramble for Children in Need on Friday 19th November, **please see the letter posted on Class Dojo last week** for full details. The children will need walking boots or wellies as some parts of our ramble can be quite squelchy underfoot. The ramble is over a fair distance and so Little Owls, as in previous years, will enjoy their own ramble at school. As this is the final day of our Road Safety Week, the children are invited to carry a tiny toy vehicle with them on the ramble.

Parent Governor Opportunity - update

We received no applications for the role of parent governor at Milton Abbot School, for the first time in my 7 years as Headteacher. This is a vital role for our small school community, so we will reflect on what to do next. Please contact our Clerk on: clerk.miltonabbot@gmail.com if you feel this is something you could offer - you would be joining a very supportive friendly and committed team.

Pupil Parliament - Playground Equipment:

A key goal of the Pupil Parliament this year has been to raise money to buy playground apparatus, to inspire exciting games and for increased physical exercise - they really wanted equipment to help build more muscles. We are excited to announce that large play equipment will be installed at the end of January on the middle playground.



The Pupil Parliament will be meeting this week to share thoughts on the COP26 and what we might be able to do to make a difference to the commitment of keeping global temperatures as low as possible. We explored the key objectives of the COP26 representatives in assembly last week and it was clear that these issues are taken very seriously by the children of Milton Abbot School. One idea that the children discuss regularly is to reduce and recycle more of our food waste - could be another big fundraising goal coming for a food composter, such as the one below:



Christmas Plans:

The school team have begun to make plans for Christmas and we are looking forward to holding some traditional events with parents invited in, including whole school Christmas dinner with a Community Hero awards, carols in Church with a Stomp-style performance from Key Stage 2 as part of their musical learning this term, and a Christmas Nativity for Little Owls and Barn Owls held in school. We are currently able to invite parents in to share these events, though we are of course cautious in our wish to remain sensible about how we manage these events and so further details will follow. We are also hoping to hold a fashion show as an Expressive Activity for the children to catwalk their Design Tech textiles skills including Christmas cushions and waistcoats.

You will also receive a letter about the Christmas theatre trips we are holding this year at the Northcott Theatre, Exeter - the timings are unusual for each Key Stage. Tawny and Eagle Owls will be enjoying A Christmas Carol as an evening performance, which we think will add to the winter magic as we come out into the December darkness. Little and Barn Owls will be having fun watching

Julia Donaldson's 'What the ladybird heard' as an early performance, and so we will be asking you to bring your child to school early that day.

Proposed dates below. You will be notified of any changes to these as early as possible:

13th December at 13.30pm - Christmas Carols in Church with Tawny and Eagle Owls stomp performance

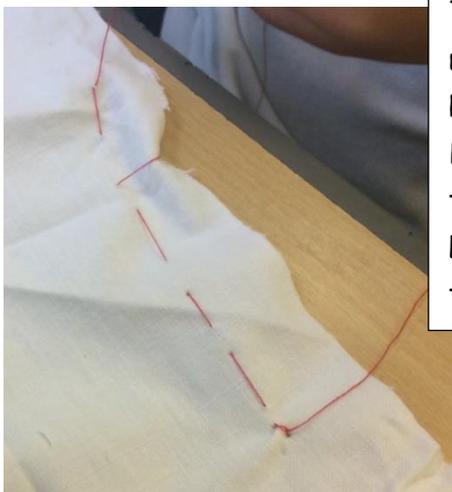
13th December Evening Performance Christmas Carol at the Northcott Theatre, Exeter - transport provided from Milton Abbot School (leaving school 1715 approx.)

15th December at 10am (leaving school at 0800) Christmas Nativity for Reception and Barn Owls
What the ladybird heard at the Northcott Theatre, Exeter - morning performance. We will be travelling by coach with Lydford Primary School.

16 December - Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day- please send in some chocolate for our festive chocolate tombola

17 December - Christmas tombola we will be selling lucky squares and you could be in with a chance of winning a hamper of...chocolate!

Curriculum Snapshots from the beginning of term...



Sewing and healthy eating in Tawny Owls, Rhythmic and musical notation in Eagle Owls, Remembrance poppies made by Barn Owls and a Diwali-themed week with a party in Little Owls. What a busy start to term!



Regular reminders: These pages contain information previously sent out which we feel should be available on each newsletter.

Covid-19: Contingency plan on website:

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 disruption to a pupil's education where possible, whilst remaining cautious and to get testing as soon as symptoms appear. We have 'case thresholds', included in our plan, which break down what might cause us to revert back to 'bubbles' and limit mixing of the children, etc. If your child has to self-isolate at any point, then we can offer remote learning, providing they are well enough to participate. You may be aware via the media, that the Government's 'Step 4' guidance currently in place does not oblige schools to inform the parent 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)

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.

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](#)

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**