

Milton Abbot Primary School



Newsletter 4th December 2020 Autumn 2, Issue 2

www.miltonabbot.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As December begins, we continue to look for ways of making everything feel as 'normal' as it can for our children this Christmas. We may not be able to enjoy our usual Christmas nativity play but we are still going to enjoy the pleasure of performing and being creative with our film 'Lapland Lockdown!'. This follows the emotional journey of Father Christmas as he receives the news that he is considered non-essential and must not leave the North Pole...will he and his team find a way of spreading the Christmas spirit? We will be asking for support with costumes and learning lines, before filming begins. The film will be premiered for the children during the last week of term, before it is available for families to share and enjoy. We would also hope to send a video of our dancing and singing for the film to the local residential care homes who we usually visit in person! Best wishes, Mr. Luxford.

Christmas Jumper Day for Food Bank and Christmas Dinner Day - Wednesday 16th December

We will be inviting the children to wear a Christmas jumper (or favourite jumper) to school on Wednesday 16th December. In return we would appreciate a **donation of food suitable for the local 'food bank'**, such as tinned food or cartons - with thanks. This is also the day of our whole school Christmas Dinner, which will be cooked by our brilliant Bridget as usual, and served to the children in their 'bubbles', though we hope to Zoom so everyone can see each other and enjoy pulling crackers and singing some festive hits. If your child wishes to have Christmas dinner, please select from the menu below and **SEND A DOJO TO MRS JONES** who will be coordinating the event - thank you!

Main Course

Roast Turkey & Seasonal Vegetables and Traditional Winter Stuffing

Or

Roasted Vegetarian Patty

Dessert

Christmas Biscuit and Ice Cream

RSVP with details below either via [Dojo](#) or E-mail
(admin@miltonabbot.devon.sch.uk) to Mrs Jones

I(Name) would like to order my Christmas Lunch

Roast Turkey

Vegetarian Patty

I do not wish to have Christmas Lunch and will bring a packed lunch

(On-line payments paid meals £2.30 or UFSM R, Y1 & Y2)

Reading for knowledge, reading for pleasure

Firstly, thank you to Mrs. Baldwin and Henry for producing a video on reading with the new Read, Write Inc books at home - we hope you find it helpful. It can be found on our website on the Reading Roost page: <https://www.miltonabbot.devon.sch.uk/reading-roost.html> . Indeed, a thank you to Mrs. Baldwin

for her enthusiasm and energy in introducing this new scheme, we are already seeing some great results for our earliest readers and several parents have said the same. In our recent Reception survey, all parents reported that their child had made pleasing progress in their reading already -brilliant! Finally, we continue to challenge our fluent readers across school to read widely and encourage them in a number of ways, most recently we have introduced a 'Book Nook book look' folder which will allow pupils to signpost each other to great reads and invites them to request school to buy books that we haven't got but should.

Expressive Curriculum - 'thinking, talking, creating, learning'

As part of our shared belief that 'reading and writing float on a sea of talk' (J. Britton), we put a great focus on communication skills and imagination. As part of this we have been successful in a grant application to buy podcast equipment for school and will be launching our 'Talking Learning' podcast this term, with a focus on Geography learning in school, though the discussion may lead anywhere! We will regularly invite pupils to talk to us about their learning and teachers to give advice and reading recommendations. We hope to make episodes available via our website or on Class Dojo - early days but it's going to be a fun addition to our mission: *Speak Up, Speak Out, Speak Clearly!*

Safeguarding Matters

Mr. Luxford is the Designated Safeguarding Lead at school and Mr. Walkerdine as Deputy Safeguarding Lead. You should contact the school if you have any safeguarding concerns or contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) direct on: 0345 155 1071 or mashsecure@devon.gov.uk.

As a school we carry out weekly safeguarding discussion and scenario setting as we seek to ensure our systems to keep every child safe from harm are robust and effective. To support our record-keeping, we have invested in the 'Child Protection Online Management System' (C-POMS), which is used widely across Devon and keeps a digital record of any concerns or incidents.

Whole School attendance for Autumn term is: 97.87%. Target: 95-97%.

Relationships and Health Education (RHE) introduced in January

As shared on Class Dojo this week, from January it will be compulsory for all Primary schools to teach Relationships Health Education. Milton Abbot School has created a Relationship and Health Education policy based very closely on Governmental guidance, which will soon be available on the school website and makes clear what we are expected to teach and what parental right to withdraw their child means. If you would like to share any views on this document, which was attached to the Dojo message, then please contact the Governors via the Clerk on: clerk.miltonabbot@gmail.com. Thank you.

Healthy Schools Policy - review, relaunch!

As part of the new policy above, we want to start 2021 with a whole school focus on health. This will include working with the children to review and revamp our Healthy Schools policy. We will be asking that only **water is in water bottles rather than squash** and that everyone seeks and enjoys regular exercise. Please can we also ask that **any child with long hair has it tied back** in some fashion. Teachers will be reminding children in class. We thank you for your support with this.

Quote of the week: "Exercise is an amazing tool to help us feel happier, more energised, and more optimistic." Joe Wicks

