

# Milton Abbot Primary School



Newsletter 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Summer 1, Issue 1

[www.miltonabbot.devon.sch.uk](http://www.miltonabbot.devon.sch.uk)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am pleased to begin with some exciting news for Milton Abbot School, as Mrs. Baldwin is expecting a baby in the Autumn term. We are so pleased for her, Khylen and their one year old daughter, Florrie. We will let you know of the maternity cover arrangements for September once they have been finalized and we can complete our summer transition plans, which teachers are already really looking forward to. Better never stops - my very best wishes, Mr. Luxford.

**Parents Evenings:** May I begin by thanking everyone who was able to attend parents evening at the beginning of this term, hopefully a virtual experience for the final time, though we will continue to pay careful attention to Covid guidelines. This is such a valued opportunity for our teaching team to share progress and to agree targets moving forward. Any support you can offer your child at home is an investment in their future and I thank you once again for all you do. The key skills that form part of our 'Golden Blocks' at school including reading, times-tables and spellings, and so any additional practice at home makes all the difference.

**Ofsted visits:** You will be aware that we have received two 'visits' from Ofsted in the past month, and we were proud and happy to welcome them. The first inspection at the end of March was carried out 'virtually' and paid close attention to our remote offer and how the children have returned since March 8<sup>th</sup>, including catching up on any missed learning. The conclusion of this inspection states that: "**Leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective action to provide education in the current circumstances.**" The full letter can be read via this link: [50162598 \(ofsted.gov.uk\)](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/50162598). I thank the children and the whole school team for all their efforts during these Covid times.

The second visit was on 5<sup>th</sup> May and was in person, with Devon HMI Matt Middlemore inspecting. He spent a full day with us and his letter will be published on the Ofsted website in the next few weeks, I am currently awaiting his draft to approve factual accuracy. It was a great opportunity to show off the progress made by our pupils, as well as the range of curriculum opportunities we offer. Matt was pleased we had returned to swimming lessons, after school clubs and the planned Year 6 residential was going ahead - as are we all. I will let you know when the final letter is available.

**Art - Deep Dive:** As Expressive Arts leader, Miss Pawlik will be leading a 'deep dive' into the art provision at Milton Abbot School on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, whereby she will be reviewing curriculum design, learning in action and outcomes. She has designed some fantastic art enrichment, including a whole school sketching day on Dartmoor, observing and drawing historical sites in our beautiful locality. A date for this will be sent home soon and the outcomes shared with you at home. This activity will take place annually as we want the children to observe their drawing and shading progress over time. You can still hear our Talking Learning...talking art' via our school website, with Year 6 children expressing themselves wonderfully well.

**Safeguarding and Equality:** The Governing Body will be holding a planned review of how Milton Abbot School applies the Equality Act (2010) and where we could develop further, as part of their ongoing cycle of monitoring. You can find out more about the Equality Act 2010 via: [Equality Act Advice Final.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#). At Milton Abbot School we say 'Yes to equality and diversity' and 'No to prejudice and hate'. We want every child to be proud of who they are and able to speak up, speak out and speak clearly.

**Online safety:** Everyone has a duty to protect our children and safeguard them from harm. If your child has experienced any online abuse or unexpected content please inform the school office, we have a duty to report this to our school Governors and to the local e-safety team. At school we remind children regularly of the rules for staying happy and safe online.

If you are concerned that a child is being abused please call

**0345 155 1071**

or email [mashsecure@devon.gov.uk](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk).

Professionals should complete the **MASH contact form**.

If it's an emergency call **999**

**Year 5 'Spirit of Adventure' Week:** When Year 6 attend their annual residential trip to Heatree at the end of July, we like to share some adventures with Year 5! We will be once again riding high with Cholwell stables and the children will ride a horse over the moors - a truly wonderful human experience. We are also hoping to book some more adventure activities to build teamwork and self-confidence, including mountain biking and low adventure at Tamar trails. We love Dartmoor!

**Clubs are back!** We have had a busy and fun week of after school clubs, thank you for everyone who has come along to join in the fun! Anyone can come along for just £1.00, and you pay as you play meaning you don't have to attend every week - although we can build up skills if you do.

