



Micklem Primary School

School News

Friday 8th September 2023

Reflection on our learning

Welcome back! I hope that you all enjoyed the six weeks holiday and that you made fantastic memories despite the weather. It was so nice of the sun to wait until we were back in school to make its appearance! It is looking like it will start to cool down after the weekend, but please ensure that while the sun is with us that your child has suncream on, a sun hat and a bottle of water. This will enable us to keep them safe in the heat throughout the day.

The start of September is always an exciting time in schools, as we welcome new faces, new ideas and new attitudes. This newsletter will go through some of the key information for the upcoming year along with some new rules and expectations. We, as always, appreciate your support with these new initiatives and will do our best to explain why the decisions have been made to benefit the children, their safety and their education.

I am really looking forward to working with you again this year, and feel that we will be taking the school in the right direction by working collaboratively for the benefit of your children. We will be planning more family and friends events this year as we seek to engage with yourselves and the wider community.

Have a great weekend, stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you again on Monday.
Mr. Swift

Entitlements

Please ensure that you have applied for free school meals if you are eligible. This, of course, will entitle your child to a free school lunch every day, but it will also open the door to other opportunities. Holiday clubs, such as, HAPpy clubs are free to children that are eligible for free school meals. The number of children eligible for free school meals on census days, also impacts the amount of funding the school receives from the government. It's a win-win!

Getting Involved

We are always looking for ways to get our parents and carers involved in school life. If you are interested in volunteering at the school, please contact the office via the email address admin@micklem.herts.sch.uk and let them know how you would like to help and what times/days you are available. We would also love to hear from you if you are interested in joining our PTA. This is an opportunity to plan and run events for the children that raise money for the school - a fantastic opportunity for parents/carers and the school alike.

We are also hoping to get parents in over this year to share some of their life experiences. If you have a job/career that you would like to share with our children, or if you would like to share your culture or religion with our school, we would love to hear from you.

Contacts

If you have any questions or concerns, you can always contact our School Office on 01442408964 or admin@micklem.herts.sch.uk. They will help you with any questions that you have, or pass you on to someone that can support. If you have questions relating to your child's education, then your first conversation should always be with the class teacher. They are the ones that spend the most time with your child and will have a greater understanding of specific situations and issues. If after that, you feel that there is a need to discuss the situation further, then you can approach Miss Noble (Deputy Headteacher) for Teaching and Learning or Pupil Premium concerns; Ms Palmer (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator) for any inclusion queries; or Mr Swift (Headteacher) for Safeguarding concerns.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding at Micklem is a priority. All children should be safe at school and at home and it is our duty to enable this. Our designated safeguarding team are: Mr Swift (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Miss Noble (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) and Ms Palmer (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead). Remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and if you have a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child you can report it by calling 0300 123 4043.

Parents can support keeping children safe in our school community by:

- Reporting any concerns about a child's safety or welfare to 0300 123 4043.
- Not using mobile phones or taking pictures on school grounds (including the playground at pick up and drop off).
- At events where you are allowed to take photos (express permission will be given) photos of other people's children **must not** go on social media.
- Signing in at the Office if you are entering the building (this includes visits outside of school hours).
- Closing the visitor gate behind you when you enter the school. Please do not hold the gate open for anyone - even if they are someone you know (friends, family, staff, children). The Office must buzz in any visitors.
- Understanding that we have to follow up concerns or allegations with parents and that our priority when we do this is always the child's safety and wellbeing.

New Rules

Last year, we asked our staff, pupils, parents/carers and governors to vote for 3 rules for life. These are the rules that we all wanted to instill in our children from an early age. These were not just rules for how to be in school, but rules that would define how our child behaves in the wider world. The rules that have been chosen will now be used to hold everyone in our school community to account. These are not just the rules for our children, but for our staff, governors and parents/carers as well. We are all working together to support the children, but occasionally we will have differences of opinion. It is particularly in these times that we will all need to lean on these rules. Our new rules are:

Be Kind. Show Respect. Aim High.

You will see these rules all over our school and will see them being upheld by all stakeholders. Our school is a school where everyone belongs, will feel safe, where there will be **No Outsiders** and these new rules will support that mission.

Attendance

Attendance is crucially important when it comes to success in education. If your child is not in school, they will miss learning. Last year, our overall attendance was 92.14%, we are aiming for 95% attendance for every child. Attendance below 90% is considered persistent absence. Our pastoral team will be supporting families with low attendance to ensure that we are all working together to increase the attendance of our pupils. Please refrain from taking holidays or within term time, as this impacts on your child's learning. Similarly, please try and book medical appointments outside of the school day, where possible. We understand that there will be times where your child is too ill to be in, and we accept that. For example, we would like to remind you that vomiting and diarrhoea does require a period of 48 hours without incident before your child can attend school. Thank you for your support in this matter, it is crucial to your children's education, that they are in school.

Uniform

Uniform is now supplied by Mapac and can be ordered directly through their website <https://www.mapac.com/education/parents/pages/find-my-school>. The only item not available through the website is a Micklem branded book bag, which can be purchased through the school shop on Arbor and collected from the school office..

Our uniform consists of: navy sweatshirt or cardigan; sky blue or white polo shirt; grey or black trousers or skirt; plain black shoes (not open toed). Micklem branded sweatshirts and cardigans are available through Mapac, but unbranded alternatives are available in a wide range of high street stores and supermarkets.

Our PE kit consists of: navy sport fabric top with Micklem badge (available through Mapac); navy or black shorts; navy or black jogging bottoms (when the weather requires); plimsolls or trainers (must be suitable for outdoor games); navy PE bag (available from Mapac).

All children with hair long enough to tie up must do so. Children are not allowed hair that is dyed a non-natural colour.

Pre-loved uniform is available to purchase through the school shop on Arbor. These have been donated, washed and are available for as little as £1.

Snack and Lunch

Healthy eating is incredibly important to support children in their education. Children may choose one of our healthy hot meals or sandwiches provided by the school if in receipt of Free School Meals, or if ordered and paid for by parents/carers. Alternatively, packed lunches can also be brought in. We ask parents and carers to ensure that packed lunches provide a healthy and balanced lunch for their child. Children will also be allowed a healthy snack at breaktime: this should be something without a wrapper - fruit or vegetable. We will continue to provide toast in the mornings to those that require it, as we all know how hard it can be to focus on an empty tummy. We are a nut free school, so please ensure that no products containing nuts are brought into school.

Birthday Treats

We love celebrating birthdays, and I'm sure you will hear some very loud singing at the end of the day from the playground! If you are bringing treats in for your child to share with their class, please bring them at the end of the day and support your child to give them out to children and their parents. This enables us to be confident that children with allergies and religious or ethical beliefs are not receiving ingredients that they should not eat.

Home Time

This year, we will be changing how you pick your child up at the end of the day. This is to support a calm and safe handing over. Children will come to the playground and line up behind their lunchbox trolleys. Teachers will then see the children to their parents from there. We would ask that you collect your children from their trolley, so that teachers are not having to identify adults through a crowd at a busy time of the day.

Lunchtimes

I am sure that you have been told by your children that break times and lunchtimes have now changed. We have made the decision to trial staggering KS1 and KS2 break times and have shortened and staggered lunchtimes. KS1 will now have a 15 minute break in the morning, a 45 minute lunchtime and a 15 minute break in the afternoon. KS2 will have a 15 minute break in the morning and a 45 minute lunchtime. We have taken the decision to stagger the times in order to support all children to have a safer and more enjoyable experience at break and lunch times. It means that there is more space for children to play in, there will be more equipment available and greater staff ratios. The decision to shorten lunchtimes was taken to support the regulation of all children during the least structured times in the day. It enables us to support the needs of all of our children, get them fed, give them a break and get them back to class before they start to struggle with the lack of routine. We have already seen a decrease in accidents, injuries and arguments this week. For those of you concerned about your child having time to eat, we have already made adaptations to our timings to ensure that there is plenty of time for children to eat and have a break.

Swimming

How we will be running swimming lessons will be changing this year. There will be a separate letter with further details, but we will no longer be doing weekly sessions at the sports centre, and will instead be running a three week intensive programme this term at school. We have hired a company (that has been used by other local schools) to set up a swimming pool on our playground and teach swimming lessons for all children from Reception to Year 6. Different year groups will have different numbers of sessions, but this will enable all of our children to experience a swimming curriculum every year. Part of the reason for this change is due to cost. In previous years we have heavily subsidised coach travel to the sports centre, but with the cost of living crisis this was becoming increasingly difficult. We will be asking for £4 per child per 45 minute session. We have calculated that parents will save money with this approach over the long run and believe that this will have a strong impact on the children's ability and willingness to swim.

Homework

We will be sharing learning for your children to complete at home on a regular basis. It is the expectation that every child reads at home daily and has their record signed. On top of this, KS1 will receive phonics practice; LKS2 will receive spellings; UKS2 will receive spellings and maths. Your child will have access to Spelling Shed and Times Table Rockstars to support their fluency skills at home. All homework will be set online - there will not be homework books.

After School Club

We have now outsourced our After School Club and it is run by Good Shepherd Clubs. They have had a successful start to life at Micklem and we have opened our doors to other local schools to enable a better experience and a more manageable financial option for parents. This does now mean that After School Club **cannot** be booked through Arbor or through the school office. Places must be booked via the Good Shepherd Clubs website <https://goodshepherdclubs.magicbooking.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login>. Please be aware that we will not be able to facilitate late pickups, as the After School Club will not take on children that are not booked in. Thank you for ensuring that your child is picked up on time.

We will still be running our engagement clubs after school, and that letter went out yesterday. We apologise if your child is disappointed that they did not get a space in the club that they wanted, and we will endeavour to ensure they get a space the following term, wherever possible. Please do not approach the office about additional spaces in clubs, as our numbers are set.

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. I know that it is a lot to take in, but I believe that the better informed we all are, the better it is for your children. We are all excited for the year ahead and we have had a fantastic first week. Let's now push on and ensure that we are all working together to give our children the best possible education.

Be Kind. Show Respect. Aim High.

Mr. Swift



Upcoming Dates

Date	Event
20/09	Reception Tour
22/09	Jeans for Genes Day
27/09	Flu Vaccinations
29/09	Macmillan Coffee Afternoon
Wc 2/10	Sponsored Readathon
04/10	Reception Tour
06/10	Harvest Assembly
16/10	Swimming Lessons Start
18/10	Reception Tour
20/10	Celebrating Cultures Day
01/11	Reception Tour
01/11	Parent's Evening
02/11	Parent's Evening
03/11	Kittle Individual and Sibling Photographs
10/11	Remembrance Day Assembly
17/11	Anti-Bullying and Children in Need Day

Attendance

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
74.2%	95%	95.9%	96.8%	98.7%	95.6%	90.9%	90.5%

Class above our 95% target