



# Micklem Primary School

## Newsletter 1st April 2022

### Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a busy term for all of us. We have enjoyed having parents back in school. We have seen parents at our Zones of Regulation information session, our Phonics workshops, using our library and the open classroom session prior to parents evenings. Thank you to those parents who made time to take part. We hope to continue opening up our school so look out for future events.

We have taken a 'business as usual' approach as much as we can - taking up any opportunity that we are offered to engage in activities such as sports tournaments, cultural events as well as trips that enhance the children's learning. For most of this term our staff absences have been around 10% of the workforce. As you can imagine this has a big impact on how our school operates. Supply staff are in short supply and very rarely have we been able to get unplanned supply cover. The staff at Micklem are a fantastic team and have stepped up to make sure we can still offer our wraparound care, cover lunch duties, help with cleaning, do extra playtime duties, be extremely willing and flexible to cover for absences in the classroom. I am very grateful to their team spirit and dedication to the school as I am sure that you are too. Staff appreciate your 'thank yous' and that you value their support.

### Changes for the summer term

#### PE DAYS

Please make sure your child has a PE kit in school. Coming to school in PE kits was linked to the pandemic. This is not now necessary and I have noticed a deterioration in uniform standards. From the start of the summer term, please make sure your child has a PE kit in school. Ideally this will be a T-shirt in their house colours, a pair of navy or black shorts, trainers or plimsolls. They may also have tracksuit bottoms to wear instead of shorts for outdoor PE.

#### SCHOOL UNIFORM

This is a link to the uniform expectations set by the Governing Body. Long hair must be tied back and please make sure that any earrings worn are studs and not hoops. Thank you for your support. [Uniform | Micklem Primary School](#)

*Please make sure all uniform is labelled with your child's name*

#### ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY

Thank you for your efforts to ensure your child is in school every day and that they are on time. Your child has a right to attend school and should not be kept at home, apart from illness or an exceptional circumstance. Term time holidays are not authorised. We accept that children do get ill. However if your child is persistently absent for the same illness, with the guidance of our Attendance Improvement Officer, we will seek permission to contact your child's GP to raise our concerns about the impact on attendance. If your child is not going to be in school we request that you use our absence line to make us aware of this. We still spend a huge amount of time chasing parents who have not bothered to let us know why their child is absent. For safeguarding reasons we must follow this up. This at times involves members of staff going to homes to check or us calling the police to carry out a welfare check. A simple update would avoid this.

We support many families with improving attendance and if there are barriers to your child being in school everyday please let us know. We will do everything we can to support you with this. If we are not aware of issues and unauthorised absences reach a trigger point, we will send you a warning letter that you are at risk of the local authority issuing a fixed penalty notice. If the unauthorised absences continue we will proceed with the fixed penalty notice so please talk to us before it gets to this point.

On a final note - just a reminder that registration is at 8:55. Our school gates are open for 8:45 for children to come into class. Can I request that all children and parents aim to be in school from 8:45 rather than arrive at 8:55 which means they miss the register and are marked as late. Late arrival to school is an unauthorised absence.

#### Summer Term

We have some exciting events taking place over the summer term. These include Taking Science Outdoors Week (w.c 16th May), we will be celebrating the Queen's jubilee and linking this to special jubilee celebration day on Friday 27th May. On June 21st we will be inviting families to our 'Midsummer Musical Evening'. Having just listened to year 4 perform with their comets I know this is going to be a fantastic event and a showcase for our musical efforts as a school. Year three will be visiting Batchworth Lock as part of their Geography learning and I know plans are being made by class teachers for other trips to enhance our curriculum, including a visit to SKY studios.

#### Governors

Thank you to the members of our community who responded to our request for more governors. I am delighted to say that we have added to our Governing Board the following:

Parent Governor - Rupert Cavanagh-Mainwaring (year 1 and nursery parent)

Parent Governor - Rupinda Nastor (reception parent)

Co-opted Governor - Suzy Carter

Co-opted Governor - Dee Norman



You may have read the email we sent out from HCC about COVID going forward and there was a key message in there about us being kind to each other. I found this quote and thought despite rising inflation, fuel costs and all the terrible things happening in the world - kindness is something within us all and something that we can all give freely.

Have a lovely Easter break

Miss Ormonde

**Thank you for your kindness and generosity**

What a compassionate and caring school community we have. We raised a fantastic

**£357.76 for Comic Relief**

**£215.95 for the First News Ukraine Schools appeal**



Children in year 3 had a great time rising to the Red Nose Day challenge of designing a habitat for their red noses



### **Eco-Council news from Mrs. Browne**

You may have recently heard from your children that they have been planting trees! Back in the Autumn term when we were discussing COP26 and making our #PromiseToThePlanet, many of the children had expressed a desire to plant more trees. We listened and luckily, so did the Woodland Trust who generously donated 195 saplings to Micklem. Every class from Reception to Year 5 took turns to go outside and put a sapling in the ground. Most of these will, in time, make a hedge along the northern boundary of our field. Some will grow to become the walls of an outdoor classroom. In the summer term, to help the saplings establish, the Eco-Council will be encouraging children to water their tiny trees during dry spells. If you have any small buckets or watering cans you could donate to the school, these would be greatly appreciated. Maximum 2L capacity please. These can be handed to Mrs. Browne or your child's teacher.



## Westminster Abbey Commonwealth service

On Monday 14th of March, 8 of the Year 6s attended the Commonwealth service at Westminster Abbey. The ceremony lasted for 2 hours and we saw some of the royals: Prince Charles and Prince William as well as Princess Camilla and Princess Kate, who gave us a smile. At the beginning, a choir sang heavenly songs to welcome us. Then, after everyone settled down, people representing different countries brought flags in. Different leaders from other countries, as well as our Prime Minister, gave motivating speeches throughout the ceremony. At the end, everyone walked past us and left Westminster Abbey. **By Tanishka, Varshika, Francesca, Noah, Raihan, Archie, Tyler and Ellis**



## Just Talk

In Hertfordshire, over 35 teams and organisations work together to develop and share useful tools, training and information to support children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. This ranges from self-help tools to information on how to access support if it's needed.

This is known as the 'Just Talk' programme - named by Hertfordshire young people. Public Health, Education, NHS, and voluntary sector partners all work together to ensure we develop and share the most useful information possible with young people, parents/carers and professionals.

You can find out more about Just Talk on our website

For ongoing up-to-date information, training and webinar opportunities, and links to useful

resources, please follow us on Facebook: @JustTalk Herts