

Kilnwood Vale Primary School

Newsletter

16 September 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have had a wonderful couple of weeks welcoming the children back to school, and we have been so impressed how resilient they are taking the changes in their stride as they get back into their new routines, enjoy being with their friends within their bubbles and challenge themselves with all of the learning opportunities available. There has been a real buzz in school which has been great to see.

It has also been a delight to welcome the new children and families into Gruffalo class and Nursery, where they have enjoyed exploring their new learning environment.

With our additional children joining and the organisation of pick up and drop off, I would like to stress the importance of every family following the access rules:

- Children should arrive at school within their allocated time slot. 8.30 – 8.45 or 8.45- 9.00am
- Children and siblings should remain with their parent or carer whilst waiting for the gates to open and whilst moving around the school site.
- Families should remain 2m apart from other families and use the signage on the floor to support moving around the school and whilst queuing to enter the class.
- If passing another family please keep to the left.
- Parents and carers are free to wear face masks on the school site if they choose to, children are not expected to.
- Parents and carers should arrive to collect their children at their allocated time slot. 3.00 – 3.15 or 3.15 – 3.30pm

In addition, I would like to remind you of the updated government guidance:

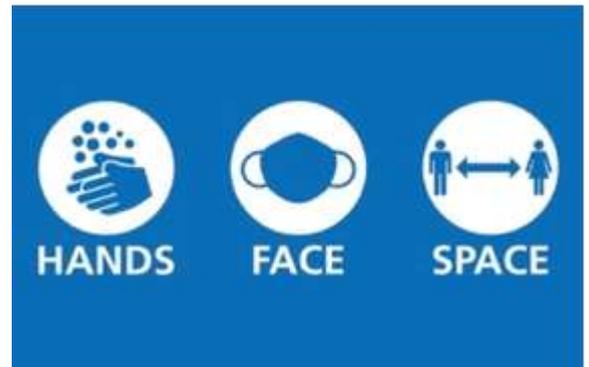
'Hands. Face. Space' emphasises important elements of the guidance we want everybody to remember: wash your hands regularly, use a face covering when social distancing is not possible and try to keep your distance from those not in your household.

Following these simple steps could make a significant difference in reducing the transmission of COVID-19 and help protect you and your friends, colleagues and family from the virus.

Further changes were announced on 9 September that were implemented on Monday 14 September, limiting groups to no more than 6 people both inside and outside of the home. Please refer to the guidance for further detail: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-meeting-with-others-safely-social-distancing>

Finally, by us all being respectful and responsible we will be able to keep each other safe and keep the school open for the children to grow, learn and flourish.

Miss Newton



Our school values

We will be reminding the children of the school values over the coming weeks, focusing on Responsibility as children and staff ensure that everyone follows the rules to keep ourselves safe at school.



Cool Milk

If you would like your child to receive milk at school and have not yet registered - please log into Cool Milk <https://www.coolmilk.com/>

Effective communication

If any contact details have changed, including address, emergency contact details and email addresses. Please make sure that the office is updated.

Reading Update

It has been lovely to see the children engaging so well with phonics since they have been back. To support their progress at home, children in Year 1 and Reception will be bringing a reading book home to share with you every Thursday. So that they can be thoroughly cleaned before being reassigned, we ask that books are returned to school every Monday.

The school reading books are just part of your child's reading experience; please do supplement and support your child's love for reading by sharing other picture books that you have at home with your child, finding words in magazines, cereal boxes, posters and when out and about. You can also find additional online reading books via websites such as Oxford Owl <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

In addition to daily phonics and English activities, your child's Teacher or Learning Assistant will read with your child 1:1 at least weekly and record their progress in their diary. It is vital that you also record when you have read with your child so that the teachers know how they are progressing at home.

If you have any queries about this system please do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher.

Admissions for 2021

We are already planning for next year with admissions opening with West Sussex County Council in October. Due to Covid we are unable to open the school to external visitors to tour the school, instead we will be producing a virtual tour of the school which will be made available via the school website.

Gruffalo Class

Everyone in Gruffalo class enjoyed listening to the story and retelling the story to their friends.



Attendance:

Suspected Covid Symptoms:

As recommended by government, our primary safety measure to prevent the spread of Covid-19 is ensuring that those with the virus are not in school. We ask that all parents are vigilant in ensuring that their children do not attend school for 10 days if they develop any of the following Covid symptoms:

- A high temperature (38C or higher)
- A new persistent cough
- A loss of (or change in) their sense of taste or smell

Children must also isolate at home for 14 days if any of their household have symptoms or have had a positive Covid-19 test.

If your child has symptoms, please keep them at home and arrange for a Covid test by calling 119 or booking a test on the NHS website here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Please be aware that if your child has any of the above symptoms they should not return to school unless they have completed the isolation period or received a negative Covid test. A GP's diagnosis without a test is not sufficient for this purpose.

A summary of required actions is attached to this letter and also available on the school website for your reference.

We appreciate all parents' cooperation with these measures in helping to keep all children, families and staff safe.

Key events:

We will be keeping key events in the school diary, but are mindful that the way that we carry them out will be different whilst Covid restrictions are in place. For example the Welcome Parent meetings will be pre-recorded and sent out to parents with a follow up question opportunity. Class assemblies will continue as the children are proud to share their learning, new skills and talents. We will record the class assembly that will then be shared with other class bubbles and parents from the class.

Non Covid related attendance:

Spotlight on Safeguarding



Please make sure your child's teacher is aware if somebody different is picking up. We will not let your child go unless we have permission. This can be written in your child's diary or in a letter handed to your child's teacher. If plans for picking up change during the school day we ask that you contact the school office as soon as possible to ensure that the message can be passed on to the class teacher in time for the end of the day.

Nut Free School

Please note that we are a completely nut free school. We maintain this in order to protect the children with allergies to all kinds of nuts. Please can you check that all pack lunches do not contain nuts or nut products.



Uniform and Changeable Weather

The weather can be very changeable in Autumn, please ensure your child comes to school with suitable clothing for both rainy days (a named waterproof coat), and sunny days (named hat and sun cream or long-lasting cream applied before school) – we will be outside in all weathers so they need to be prepared!

Also a Big plea – please make sure everything the children bring to school is clearly labelled. Thank you!

School Lunch



Please be advised that the current lunch menu is available on our website.

As parents, you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child's attendance at school. During the academic year, pupils are at school for 190 days and at home for 175 days.

Unauthorised absence of 5 days or more may result in the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice. Fixed Penalty Notices are issued by the Local Authority in accordance with West Sussex County Council's Code of Conduct. The Penalty Notice is £60, per child per parent/carer, if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in the Local Authority considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

The Headteacher will consider the reasons for the request carefully and you will be notified of the decision. For further information, please refer to our School Attendance Policy.

Requests for any leave of special absence from school must be made in writing to the office 2 weeks prior to the date of the request.

If you have any questions please ask to speak to Miss S Griffin, Family Support Worker.