



Newsletter

23rd October 2020

I would like to start the newsletter with a thank you to all of you that have continued to support us in what has been an incredibly stressful and uncertain time. Thank you also to the staff who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes engaging with the children, making them feel safe and secure while also ensuring that school remains as Covid safe as we can be rigorous cleaning and sanitising throughout the day.

Amongst all of these new routines the children are happy and settled in school, enjoying their new classes and topics and behaviour has been fabulous. It is now time for us all to have a break and rest for a week to be ready for the next half term.

As we are all now aware Barnsley, and in fact the whole of South Yorkshire, has now entered Tier 3 of Covid measures with the increasing infection rates. Unless we are informed otherwise during the next week, school will reopen on Monday 2nd November as usual. If there are any changes you will be informed by myself over half term.

We do feel however that we need to address the infection rates by adding a few further measures to our safety risk assessment. These will be as follows

- 1. We ask from Monday 2nd November all adults picking up or dropping off children on the school grounds wear a face mask or covering. This is to protect you, the staff and the pupils. Staff on classroom doors will also be wearing them.**
- 2. School will start to monitor the number of parents entering the playground at any one time. This will hopefully ease congestion around the back of the school building when parents are waiting for children to come out of class.**
- 3. All adults must socially distance if a queue develops on the school grounds and you will be challenged if you are not doing so. Every little helps in keeping The Mill a safe place and open to the pupils.**
- 4. Only one adult per child will be allowed to drop off as this will continue to ease the congestion around the buildings.**
- 5. One-way systems will continue to be used as already set up as these are working well.**
- 6. Key stage 2 children can come into the school grounds on a morning on their own as there is a member of staff every morning overseeing this.**

All other systems will continue to be in place including

- Separate playtimes and playgrounds
- Separate lunchtimes and lunch areas
- Forward facing seating in Y2 upwards
- Separate working areas around the school
- Individual learning resources
- Rigorous handwashing and sanitising
- Quarantining of books

Change of Door Opening times

Now we have become more familiar with the systems and procedures for drop off and pick ups we will be adjusting the times slightly to allow teachers to be able to have a clearer start and end to learning on each day. Following the new procedures above this should be manageable and will be reviewed after two weeks. The classroom doors will now be opened at 8.45am and 3.15pm at the end of the day. Myself and other members of staff will observe how this works and we will be understanding of families dropping off at both buildings.

Break fast and after school clubs

Breakfast club and after school provision will start on Monday 2nd November

If you have not got your name down for either of the clubs and would like to be considered this has to be done by emailing myself on t.gulliver@smat.org.uk. This is due to limited spaces and some year groups are already full.

Punctuality and Attendance

Attendance and punctuality still remain a high priority for us in the school. The children start their learning from the moment they enter the classroom therefore being here at the very start of the day is massively important. There will be times when your child cannot attend the school and we understand this but we need to ensure that wherever possible children are in school on time and prepared for learning. We are working very closely with the EWO and have reviewed our systems in school to ensure that there is early intervention when pupils attendance shows concern.

I am also working closely with Mrs Beckett to look at positive incentives and rewards for the pupils who attend school regularly. These are all looked at on an individual basis.

Halloween Fun

Today was a lovely day in school and well deserved by the children. It was great to see so many of them dressing up and having fun in school.

High Importance

Google Classroom

We are trying to ensure that we are fully prepared for our pupils to transfer onto a virtual platform of learning if the need arises in the future due to National, local or school lockdowns. We will be using Google classroom as the platform and we have asked all our families to ensure that they can log onto this for home learning. Please ensure that you have spoken to the staff via email if you have been unable to do this, as classes are starting to use this for their spellings and some of their homework.

Parents Evening

Parents evening will be done slightly differently this term due to Covid. Your class teacher will send you an email during the next two weeks to inform you of the times that they will be completing their phone consultations after half term. This will be to inform you of how your child has settled back into class and what their key targets are in reading, writing and maths. Please ensure that you check your emails and make a phone appointment with your child's class teacher.

Flu Vaccine

Quite a few families are asking about the flu vaccine for pupils. This is booked in for all pupils, **Reception to Year 6**, on Thursday 19th November. The vaccine administered is a nasal spray, information was sent home to all parents regarding this. This year is slightly different as you need to fill in an E-consent on line. Please log on to this link www.southyourshire.nhs.uk/flu to give consent. Unfortunately, if this is not completed your child will not receive the vaccine.

Class of the Week

As one of our new incentives this year we have a Class of the Week award. This is presented on a Friday to the class in school who have had the most positive comments made about them. These are comments from all the staff including dinner staff and office staff. The class that have made the biggest impact in school that week will be awarded with a trophy to keep for the week and a bag of treats for them to enjoy individually.

Our Class of the Week is **Year 6! Well done to you all.**



On behalf of all of us at The Mill Academy we hope you have a safe and enjoyable half term.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of T.K. Gulliver.

Mrs T Gulliver,
Headteacher.