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Newsletter – Autumn 1 – 2020

It's good to be back....

Wow! As a school and community, we have been through some challenging and unpredictable times lately, but it has been so great to welcome all the children back to school. They have done you proud adapting to our new systems and routines. The children have enjoyed being back in school with their teachers and friends and it has been fantastic to get back to teaching and educating your children. By working together, we can get everyone back on track.



Staffing updates

After half term we will be welcoming back Mrs James to our Mill Lane site as she returns from her maternity leave. She will be joining our Year 3/4 team. We know you will all make her feel welcome as she also gets used to our new routines and systems.

Parent Communication

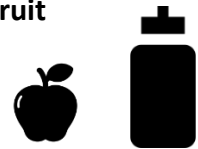
School uniform and PE kits



Please ensure that your child wears the correct PE kit to school on their PE days. This is a white t-shirt and black shorts, however during the colder months we are happy for children to wear tracksuit bottoms and a jumper. If your child does not have PE then they should come to school in their normal school uniform, which includes a purple jumper or cardigan. They should not be wearing other coloured zip up or hoodies on non-PE days. Thank you for your help with this.

Tuck, healthy snacks and water

At Holt Road all children receive fruit at breaktimes as part of the government's **free fruit** scheme so there is no need to send your child into school with an additional one. Children have access to a variety of fruit such as bananas, apples, pears and tomatoes, it varies over the year depending on what is in season. Currently no additional tuck is being served at Holt Road.



At Mill Lane we are unable to have our tuck trolley as normal so children will need to bring in their snacks for break times. Please can we remind parents that we would advise that children have healthy, nutritious snacks that will help sustain them throughout the morning until lunchtime. Large bags of chocolate or sweets will only give the children a sugar rush making it difficult for them to concentrate back in the classroom. Fruit/vegetable snacks, crackers, raisins are easy alternatives.

We also ask that **only water** is brought into school in their own water bottles, not only for your child's better health but also to prevent accidents. As all children are eating their lunch in their classrooms these need to be kept as clean and fresh as possible. Recently a number of children have brought in

squash or juice and have accidentally spilt their drinks in the classroom, this has unfortunately stained our carpets. Please contact your child's teacher if you need to discuss their drink. If you have already spoken to your child's teacher about this, then you do not need to contact them again.



Bags and bubble times

Please can we remind parents that our risk assessment still requires us to admit children through the gates in their allocated bubbles. Some of the children are trying to enter the gates before their time. Can we also remind parents that ruck sacks and bags are not permitted under our risk assessment.

In wet weather, spare shoes can be brought in a carrier bag and hung on their peg if they are wearing wellies to school. Plastic wallets can be used for reading books. If your child has been given permission to bring a bag because they need to bring in medical supplies etc. then you do not need to contact school again.

Assertive mentoring sessions

These virtual sessions will give you the opportunity to find out how well your child has been accessing the curriculum this term and will explain what they need to do next to move on in their learning. Look out for a letter on our Parent App indicating how we will be carrying out this term's sessions along with a booking form which will allow you to select time slots for when you are available to "meet" your child's class teacher.



Charley Charley One – reminders

Some of our Year 5 children have been taking part in the Charley Charley One programme on a Tuesday afternoon this term. It has been great to see them participating in the Challenger Bronze Award which has been designed to develop character and resilience. The group have also been working on their teamwork and problem-solving skills through skills such as First Aid, Navigation Skills, Command Tasks, Sports and Games and Survival Bush Craft. Please can we remind parents that the children need to bring with them an

extra snack and drink for after school. The children taking part this term must come to school in appropriate clothing that will allow them to take part in activities outside, whatever the weather. Please can we ask that parents check that their child is wearing appropriate clothing for the sessions.

School photographs

Your child should have brought home a photo slip from Kittle photography yesterday. Please scan the right-hand side QR code or following the instructions to Kittle's website to view your child's photo and place your order.



Harvest donations

Can you help the Horsford Helpers with food parcels? The Horsford Helpers are looking for donations of soap, toothpaste, washing up liquid, coffee, cans of fruit, custard, tea bags, biscuits, fruit juice, treats for children. If you can help, we will have trolleys outside the school gates after half term for you to leave your donations with us. We will then arrange for them to be delivered to Horsford Helpers. Thank you.

Dates for your diary

Horsford's Diabetes Day – Friday 6th November

As we have a couple of children at our school who have diabetes, and many staff who are diabetes trained, we have decided that we would like to celebrate World Diabetes Day this year and try to raise some money for Diabetes UK charity. This year World Diabetes Day is on the 14th November, which is a Saturday. We have decided to celebrate it in school on **Friday 6th November** instead. To highlight the work that Diabetes UK does, we are asking everyone to come to school dressed in something **blue** and to donate a £1 towards this amazing charity. The children are going to be designing posters for us to advertise this event within their classrooms and Mrs Kirton will help to judge the winners along with Mylee in Y5 and Louis in Y4. The winning designs will be used on our Facebook page and parent app.



Children in Need Day – Friday 13th November

As we are celebrating World Diabetes Day the week before, this will be a slightly lower key affair than usual, however children can come to school in non-uniform on this day and pay a £1 which will be donated to this charity.

Clubs

Y1/2 running club will continue after half term. Tabby McTat still have two weeks left. Zog class will start on Tuesday 18th November. If your child is in Zog class and would like to take part, please contact the school office.

Y6 homework club will start at Mill Lane on Thursday 12th November. Messages have been sent out to parents whose children have got a place.

Attendance

Here are the class attendance figures for this half term:

Miss Thurston – Cheshire Cat	98.56%
Mr. Neave – White Rabbit	95.55%
Miss Allan – Tabby McTat	98.41%
Miss McIntyre - Stickman	95.75%
Mr. Allen - Zog	96.83%
Mr. Sidy – 34S	97.25%
Mr. Patient – 34TP	95.67%
Mrs. Pratt – 34CP	93.69%
Mrs Nadin – 5N	94.69%
Miss Smith – 5S	89.31%
Miss Blyth – 6B	94.84%
Ms. McMurray – 6M	94.47%
WHOLE SCHOOL	95.51%



Well done to **Miss Thurston's class Cheshire Cat** who have the highest attendance for this half term. Have a lovely half term holiday. We look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 2nd November.

Best wishes

J.Kirton N.S.Owen

Mrs Kirton & Miss Owen