



Headlines

Autumn Term Week 1

www.melthamceschool.co.uk

Date: Friday 10th September

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Happy new (school) year!

Good afternoon everyone. Welcome back to school! I hope your summer holidays were fun and exciting and that the children (and you!) are ready for the new start.

So... no bubbles, no masks, playtimes together, lunchtimes in the hall, working across classes and even singing practice (*I can hear Key Stage 1 in the hall as I'm writing!*) What a lovely start to the year—it seems so long since it's been like this that I can barely remember everything we used to do! Don't worry though, I'm sure I'll figure it out along the way and of course I have the children and the staff to remind me!

Of course we don't know what's coming over the autumn and winter with regard to COVID, but we'll start positively and happily and we'll see what happens together as a community. I've spent lots of time already this week in classes speaking to children and it's been wonderful to see smiling faces and children working happily side by side. I have to say that play times and lunchtime have felt a little strange! Having all the children together out there seems awfully crowded, but we'll readjust and it's how it should be; I know they have relished the opportunity.

But of course we are not fully open yet! Soon, we will be welcoming our new starters to Reception once again. Mrs. Wimpenny and Mrs. Osbourne have been conducting introductory meetings this week and we can't wait to get them in to school to meet them properly and start to get to know one another.

Dates

Year group welcome presentations by email by 24th September and Class news letters by 17th. Please keep an eye out for any class updates or tweaks via Twitter and through School Spider. Parents Consultation Evenings will be the week beginning the 29th November this year—on the Monday and the Wednesday. At this point, I'm not committing to physical meetings or telephone appointments. I will keep you updated in due course.

Year 1 classroom pick up

Crickey it's busy by the year 1 classroom doors! As we are now all entering by the main gate again, please may I ask that on pick-up, at 3:15, Year 1 parents wait for their children a little further back on the MUGA to thin the traffic. Thank you.

Uniform

Thank you for sending your children back to school in their uniforms. They look so smart! Please make sure that the children are wearing the correct colour of shoes though (there are a few pairs of very brightly coloured trainers out there) and that they are wearing only a single pair of stud earrings and a watch as jewellery. Please can I remind you

about the PE uniform, details of which can be found on the school website. Plain sports clothes please. No football or Rugby shirts this year.

PE Kits & Forest School kits

Remember to send in your children in their correct PE kits and Forest School clothes on their days. Your child's class teacher will let you know when this is and if you will need to send any spare clothes to leave in school on children's pegs or in their lockers.

A little bit of suck it and see...

As you are aware, we have re-started the year, stripping away most of the organisation of last year. However, it's tricky to get things working exactly right straight away (especially for me!) so we will be reviewing the systems we have in the coming weeks and make any changes if we need to. We'll keep you posted.

Allergies

Please be aware that we still have children in school who have nut allergies. Please may I ask that the packed lunches and snacks you send **do not** contain nuts.

COVID and isolation this term

I have attached the leaflet I emailed earlier in the week to this week's Headlines which offers some extra guidance for parents returning their children to school. Please remember that if children test positive for COVID, they will still have to isolate for 10 days. This year however, anyone who is identified as a close contact by the NHS will not have to isolate providing they are under 18 years or double vaccinated. This should allow for a much less interrupted school year. However...

We will still need to look out for the three most common symptoms of COVID as we did last year: the new persistent cough, the temperature and the lack or change or taste and smell. This means we may still need to send your children home and request that they are tested.

I still need your support with this. Keeping children away from school to be tested if they show these symptoms is crucial to maintaining an infection free school and stopping us having to re-implement short-term measures such as masks and bubbles.

A few dates for after school clubs

- Wednesday 15th Sept - Future Stars with Rick Fox starts. (1 space still available).
- Monday 13th Sept - Footy Tots with Kirk Jacobs starts.
- Friday 17th Sept - Go Girl! with Rick Fox starts (Spaces still available through ParentPay).
- Friday 17th Sept - Football Strikers with Kirk Jacobs starts .

Phones in school

Mobile phones for children are not allowed unless permission has been granted by school. It is not the case that in Year 6 you can *bring your phone*. In certain cases for Year 6 children only, you will need to demonstrate that it is a necessary requirement for the children. You can request a permission form from your child's Year 6 teacher should it be necessary. Devices would then be collected in by Year 6 staff and kept safe until the end of the day. Children must not have devices turned on whilst on school premises. School cannot accept any responsibility for damaged devices and children bringing them without permission will have them confiscated. There is really no need for them to have the devices in school and I would be very grateful if they could remain at home if at all possible. Thank you.

Remote Learning Plan & Purple Mash

Last year all our remote learning for children who were isolating, those who had tested positive for COVID and those awaiting a PCR test result was posted waiting on Purple Mash. This took a phenomenal amount of the time which teachers would ordinarily put into their work for and with children in class. This year, without bubbles and mass isolation for close contacts, I want the teachers to devote as much of their time to their in class teaching as possible. In which case, there are some minor changes to our remote learning provision.

If your child is awaiting a PCR test, your class teacher will send a Year Group pack of activities whilst you wait for any result. If that test is positive, then the work will be released on Purple Mash. Work posted on Purple Mash for children who may have contracted COVID will be as closely matched as possible to in class learning. You will be able to look at the latest version of our Remote Learning Plan on the school website.

Can you help...

It's good to grow

In school, Mrs. Pearson who (among other things) does an extraordinary job with our school growing and cooking provision, has signed us up for the Morrisons "It's good to grow project." For every £10 you spend (in store or online) at Morrisons, you'll get a Grow Token to help our school get everything they need to continue our growing projects. Download the My Morrisons app today to start collecting Grow Tokens Don't forget to add Meltham CE Primary as your chosen School! (you could also ask grandparents and other relatives to support us too!! We will be able to exchange the Grow Tokens for FREE gardening equipment. Thank you for your support.

(You can follow Mrs. Pearson and the children's efforts in the garden over the course of the year by searching the Twitter handle [#Melthamgrowing](#))

Forest School clothes

If you have any old waterproof trousers or coats that your children have grown out of or no longer need, donations will be greatly received. All classes will take part in Forest

School at some point this year, and whilst most of you will bring your own on the day, we always need spare for those children who forget or do not have access to such things. If you have a donation, please clearly label it as Forest School clothing and it can be left by the front door of the school.

Key Stage 2 Art project

The children in KS2 are about to embark on creating a large group textile piece around the theme of 'Windrush' to support the whole school study of the book 'Coming to England'. We are looking for some pieces of Caribbean style patterned fabric to cut up and use in their sewing. Any pieces, any size would be welcomed to incorporate into the piece. An old shirt, skirt, scarf would be great! Fingers crossed you can help.



Social Media

Please do follow your child's class on twitter for updates of all the exciting things the children will be getting up to during the school year. Once we have updated our permissions list, you should be able to see lots of exciting things going on across school.

Just to make you aware that we are still unable to use the school Facebook page. A problem which currently seems incurable. I'm sorry for problems this may create. Don't forget that school will continue to provide crucial information via School Spider and email.

Drums

School has a drum kit which it is not currently using. It seems such a shame to be gathering dust when there might perhaps be someone out there who is just starting out on their own percussion journey, or if you know another local school or group who could make use of it. The kit is serviceable and suitable for beginners or use as spares to supplement an existing kit. If you would like the kit, please email the office over the weekend or next week and it can be collected from school. Only one I'm afraid, so hurry up if you're in need!

Thank a lot for reading and have a great weekend.
Mr. Gibbins