



# Headlines

Autumn Term Week 1

[www.melthamceschool.co.uk](http://www.melthamceschool.co.uk)

Date: Friday 11th September

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## Happy new (school) year!

Hello and welcome to the new school year! Hasn't it been a long time coming?

It certainly is an exciting and challenging time to become a head teacher, and I hope that I will be able to continue leading the school in a way that will allow Meltham CE to continue the wonderful work Mr. Beaumont and the staff have done over the last 12 years. I also hope that in the coming months and years, we will be able to help our school go from strength to strength.

I personally wanted to take a moment to say thank you for all the kind messages I have received, and for the support you have offered both me and the school this week. We will try our very best to make sure we continue to be—so far as is currently possible—the school we all know and love.

Of course we have had to change and modify so many things (details of which can be found on our website), but we are open, excited and ready for the challenges that this extraordinary new term will bring. At this point I need to take a moment to thank the amazing staff who have worked so hard to get us ready for opening this week—without them, none of it would have been possible.

On Wednesday we welcomed back your children, some of whom have not been at school in almost six months. Although I wondered what the impact of so long spent at home would be, I am delighted to say that they have come back happy and are excited to be here.

Soon, we will be welcoming our new starters. Mrs. Wimpenny and Mrs. Osbourne have been doing introductory meetings this week and we can't wait to get them in to school to meet them properly.

Over the course of the next year we will work hard to identify any gaps we need to address in order to help children recover any lost learning. We will also be looking for, and supporting children with, any effects of spending so long away from school, their teachers and their friends. Please accept our thanks for all *your* efforts over the course of the summer term. Who knew that we were all teachers? You have done a wonderful job to juggle complex lives and the commitments of work to help children keep the gaps as small as possible and more importantly, to keep them as happy as possible.

If you have questions about learning, please contact your children's teachers.

## Introductory meetings

This year we cannot hold our usual introductory meetings to inform you what happens in your child's new year group. Instead, the teachers will produce an information slide show for you which will be made available by September 23rd. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

## Bags in school

If at all possible, it would be easier if children in Years 2 to 6 do not bring bags to school. Children only need their packed lunch boxes and their water bottle. In order to maintain our bubbles, we are taking everything into class during the autumn term and as you can imagine, its already crowded, especially in Years 5 and 6! Reception and Year 1 will continue to bring book bags.

## PE Kits

Today we will begin returning the PE kit left over the summer. It could take a little while, but we hope to have all named items returned to you soon.

As you know, all children will come on identified days for PE and all PE this term will be outdoors. That means warm kit including a coat please. If they haven't already, your child's teacher will let you know which day they can come in their sports clothes.

## Forest school

This half term, children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 will have the opportunity to 'breakout' and experience Forest School learning in our woodland areas. As with PE, the children will not need to come in uniform that day: warm, outdoor clothes (preferably waterproof) are needed. Again, class teachers will let you know your days. Over the course of the year every class will have at least half a term of Forest School. It should be fun!

## 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.

## Milk

The deadline for ordering milk for your child for this term is Thursday 17th September. If your child would like milk please make a payment of £11.50 via ParentPay.

## 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.

Just to make you aware that we are still having issues with Facebook so are unable to post things on there at the moment.

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### **Isolation, quarantine, Covid-19 testing, social distancing, class closures, school closure...**

This is a very different unusual time for all of us. The impact on our lives has been varied and considerable. As time goes on, we will of course have children and families awaiting tests, self-isolating and we work with the knowledge that parts of our school may be subject to closures.

In order to minimise the impact on school, we will work outside whenever possible, maintain class bubbles wherever possible—and where it is not, we will ensure adults keep social distance and hands are sanitized or washed frequently. Full details of our protective measures can be found on the website.

We are currently working on a new and improved platform for remote working, full details of which will be with you by the end of September. Until then, if children are isolating and awaiting tests, your class teacher will make contact with you. If whole classes need to close, we will resume home learning letters in the same format as last summer.

More details to follow...

### **No assemblies...**

The protective measures outlined by the government currently prevent us inviting you into school. This means we cannot have class assemblies and it is very unlikely we can have the usual Christmas performances either. This makes all of us very sad, but we are working on ways to work around this! No matter what happens, Christmas in primary schools cannot be stopped! We'll let you know in due course how and when we plan to stage and broadcast our 2020 Christmas spectaculars!

### **Staffing**

Miss Ellis is expecting her first child this Christmas—very exciting for her and Mr. Mosley. She is planning to begin her maternity leave after the October half-term. The closing date for applications for the Class 12 maternity cover is on Monday. I'll let you know how we get on and who is going to be our new Year 5 teacher.

### **On a more serious note**

You will be aware of the incidents reported involving a suspicious white van this week in the area. Many of you will have seen the police presence outside school yesterday. The police have also been present at other local schools. Please be vigilant, speak to your children especially if they walk to and from school alone and contact the police immediately should anything happen.

### **School Uniform Suppliers**

We are using the local firm, 'print imp', to provide our school uniform. Please check Facebook and the School website for full details: [www.printimp.co.uk/MelthamCE](http://www.printimp.co.uk/MelthamCE)

Or phone 01484 681713

### **A message from Mr. Beaumont...**

I'd like to say massive thank you to all the Meltham CE School community for my wonderful 'send-off' at the end of the summer term. I was overwhelmed by the amount of money that was collected. I have asked a local sculptor, Pat Walls, to create a hand carved, Yorkshire Sandstone sundial to grace my garden. I am thrilled to have been involved in the design for this and have even been up to the quarry to choose my very own piece of stone! I'll send you some photos of work in progress and the finished sundial of course! In addition to the sundial I received so many cards and other gifts from beer to wine, tea-towels to soap along with some lovely messages. I'd love to thank everyone individually but it would be an impossible task! I loved the video that the children made in school as a goodbye and was delighted by the many videos sent in from others at home. My best wishes to you all for the term, I will be thinking of you.

Alex Beaumont