



Headlines

Autumn Term Week 3

www.melthamceschool.co.uk

Date: Friday 25th September

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Friday's message

There's quite a lot of information this week, so I'm sure you'll forgive me if I keep the chit-chat short this week...

It's the end of another super week at Meltham CE. We've had two real live assemblies (covid-safe of course, and *just for years 6 and 2*) which were a real pleasure because it seems so long since we've done it! Mrs. Myers delivered us a live assembly beamed directly into classrooms and the outside has been busy with Forest Schools and outdoor games. As I've walked around school peering into classrooms, the children are still happy (*a little tired, especially in an afternoon*) and delighted to be here. Please have a look at your year group's Twitter feed to see exactly what's been going on—there are some fabulous pictures of learning and friendship there which can give you an eye into our school.

Introductory meetings and Curriculum Newsletters

As I mentioned last week, teachers will be informing you of what's going on in your children's classes remotely this year. By Friday evening (barring any technical failures!) you will have received a presentation and newsletter by School Spider which you should also receive via email.

School photos

In the hope of providing some school normality, will we be proceeding with our annual school photos. Of course, as with everything at the moment, things will be a little different. We can only offer individual photos, which means that this year we can't invite in older or younger siblings from outside school or do family groups from across our classroom bubbles. I do hope you will still purchase one, both to support the school and to immortalise this most unusual year (*2020, the year we'll never forget!*).

Forest school

As you will know, all children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are able to take part in Forest School this term. As the year continues, the other children will get their turn too. After almost six months out of school, the impact upon children's social skills and language development is as yet unclear and I will be spending some of our catch-up funding on giving every child access to this exciting program. But do you know exactly what Forest School is? If not, I've attached an information leaflet to fully explain it.

Year 5 and 6—Honley High is calling!

This year Honley High School is conducting a virtual open evening which is scheduled for launch on Thursday 1st October. Details can be found on their website and we will be arranging an opportunity for our Year 5 and 6 children

to have a question and answer session with Assistant Headteacher Heidi Halliday from the high school during school time this half-term.

Class 12

Those of you who have children in Class 12 will be aware that Miss Ellis' maternity leave is fast approaching. She is not in work at the moment as she is not feeling well, but Mr Free, a very experienced teacher, will be working in Class 12 next week. He is being very well supported by the Year 5 team (Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Mellor, Mrs. Price and Mrs. Allen). Next week I hope to appoint Class 12's new teacher for after October half-term. I shall keep you posted and don't worry... they are in good hands.

Remote Learning

Next week school will be sending each child home with a remote learning book. This can be used to do work when children are awaiting covid-19 tests or results and in the event of a class closure due to a positive case. The book need not come back to school and will contain any passwords your child might need to access remote learning on Purple Mash. I will send the book, passwords and a full explanation of how it will work next week. In the meantime, we will continue to send out work packs by School Spider for any children who are currently isolating or who begin to do so before the launch next week.

Later today you will receive a School Spider survey to indicate if you are able to access the internet from home. Please respond to this quickly so we can identify families that may struggle with remote learning.

A small playground thank you (and maybe a tweak)

Whilst I have been outside, both at the start and end of the school day, I have seen the efforts you have made to keep social distance in our playgrounds. It is not easy, I know! Next week I will make some slight changes to the arrangements for collection that I hope will alleviate the crowding in the Reception playground at home time. Don't worry, I won't bombard you all with new timetables, so if you don't receive anything from school, then nothing has changed for your child. I will send notification of any changes directly to the parents and carers of the classes who are affected by the changes.

(Oh, and thanks also for working hard to keep children off the balance trails in an afternoon. As you know, only certain groups of children play there during the day and staff are working hard to keep contact with other bubbles to the necessary minimum).

Please be on time.

Attendance has been super so far this term. Of course we have had children awaiting coronavirus tests at home, but at the time of writing, all have thankfully returned negative. If you arrive late (which I'm sure you won't!) please come to the front office and ring the bell. You might have to be patient as the office staff have to escort late children to their classrooms to minimise bubble contamination therefore they may be away from the office. Please make every effort to arrive on time.

Coats

It's starting to get chilly and with our doors and windows open for extra ventilation it's even more important for children to have a coat with them for break times. Please ensure it's named too.

Flu Forms

Flu vaccinations will be carried out in school on 30th Nov. Consent forms must be returned by 9th Oct. If your form has been mislaid, a copy can be found on the school website under Parent Info, Documents, School Documents.

PE Kits

Thank you for sending your children in their kits (and on the right day!) Obviously the weather is turning a little and we have to be outside, so warm layers are essential on PE days and sturdy trainers are best (plimsoles are a little too absorbent!)

Packed lunches

If you are currently sending your children with a packed lunch, please help us to reinforce the lessons we teach the children in class about healthy foods. I understand that lunches may be limited by what children will eat and by food intolerance, but a healthy lunch is an important part of the school day. If you would like any guidance, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher.

Parents of Reception children.

This Year, as Meltham CE likes to be at the front of the queue whenever it can be, we are going to pilot the new Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. It won't change anything for you or for your children, but we have to issue the following statement... so here it is:

We are writing to inform you, as a parent/carer of a child in our reception class, that Meltham CE Primary School is an early adopter of the new Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. This means we will be exempt from following the current early years statutory framework for the academic year 2020-21 and will follow the Early Adopter Framework instead, until full statutory roll out of the new framework in September 2021. You can be assured that regardless of the framework being used to assess your child whilst they are at Meltham CE, they will receive a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum. If you have any questions please speak to your child's class teacher.

Parent information

Out of School Club Playworker (Temporary) Job Advert for Meltham School's Out

We are looking for a friendly and enthusiastic playworker to join the team to help provide high-quality, safe and stimulating before- and after-school care for the children attending Meltham School's Out.

Hours: Breakfast Club 7.30-9.00 a.m., After School 3.00-5.30 p.m. 5 days/week during term time only. Salary: Dependent on qualifications and experience (current Level 3 After School £10.02/hour). A relevant Level 3 NVQ (or equivalent) and some experience of working with 4-11 year olds in a play environment would be an advantage but not essential.

This post is covered by the Childcare Act 2006 and is subject to receipt of a satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosure for a regulated activity and reference checks.

If you are interested in this position, please contact Karen Bean at Meltham CE School on 07745 476491 or meltham-schoolsout@outlook.com for a full job description and application details. Closing date for applications 9th October 2020.

Healthy Start

I attach a link for Healthy Start. If someone in your family, or another family you know of, have children under four years old, or are pregnant, then they could qualify for help if claiming benefits. The help can contribute to purchasing milk, fresh and frozen vegetables or infant formula. Free vitamins may also be accessed.

<https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>

Northorpe Hall

Northorpe Hall are offering workshop sessions for children about anxiety and worry relating to school after the long closure resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. A link to available online workshops available in October and November can be found on their website (as can lots more helpful information on children's mental wellbeing)

<https://www.northorpehall.co.uk/yp-learn-about-my-mental-health>