



# Headlines

Autumn Term Week 5

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

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## Hello!

More than ever before, getting to grips with what is happening inside school is difficult for you as parents and carers. With no assemblies to come in to, only limited time at classroom doors and being asked to arrive and leave as quickly as possible, it's hard to get to grips with what a primary school does under covid-safe measures.

The children spend much of their time in their classrooms, which when the weather is fine is not a problem as we all have plenty of outdoor space to #breakout into, but on days like today it can seem quite small in school. We will take all the opportunities we can to get your children outside and the adults are working extremely hard to vary activities in class. Obviously we have so much learning to make up for, but many of the children are finding the readjustment to school routine tiring (there are some sleepy children in classes, especially in an afternoon). Please rest assured that we are balancing expectations with understanding.

This week we have had Year 3 assemblies in the hall and also a Year 4 assembly—each week two different year groups use the hall for what only seven months ago was a regular daily practice: an assembly! The children continue to enjoy the expertise of our sports coaches (Rick Fox and Kirk Jacobs) and Years 1, 2 and Reception are having fun in the woods on their Forest School days. Classes have the opportunity to use the woodland and outdoor spaces which are not class play spaces and we are now holding phonics groups and small group support work in some of the other school spaces. We are still working hard to be creative both in classes and in the Art Studio and I have seen some lovely ceramic work in progress this week.

So while I know a great many of you tell me, “I don't do Twitter Mr. Gibbins,” it really is the best window into our school at the moment—I'm not a great social media fan myself, but just to join and follow only us would only take ten minutes of your weekend and you will get a fuller flavor of some of the lovely things your children are doing in class...

## Coronavirus

So far Meltham CE has not had a positive case of COVID-19 in the immediate school community, but being a realistic sort of person, I'm under no illusions...

As time goes on, the worry is that people become more complacent about distancing, hygiene and face coverings. Should I have to close a section of the school as a result of a positive test, I want to make sure that it affects as small a proportion of the school as possible whilst being comprehensive enough to ensure any potential infection is dealt with correctly. For this reason, our children are staying in their classes and their play spaces wherever

possible. I understand it's not ideal and would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support.

Thanks also for your understanding at drop off and pick up, and I would be grateful if parents would continue to try not to congregate near to classroom doors and contact class teachers via email wherever possible.

## School photos

School photos were taken yesterday with all our classes visiting the studio separately. Almost all the proofs were sent home yesterday (the last class proofs are coming home today!) and this year we would like to ask that parents place orders online by Monday 19th October. Of course, if you are unable to order in this manner, you can still return them to school by the same date.

## Class 12

School welcomes Mr. Jonathan Davies to Class 12 this week. Yesterday was his first day as class teacher, and I'm pleased to report he is settling in well. If you do see him on the playground, I'm sure you'll say hello and welcome him to our fantastic school community.

## Christmas Cards

Monday 12th October is the final day for Christmas card designs to be ordered—I've seen some really super ones this week which will make a lovely Christmas card, especially this year when it's so hard to see our loved ones.

## Community

I was contacted this week about the improvements planned for the bewilderingly titled Meltham Pleasure Grounds (*I'm not from these parts!*). It would be great for members of the community to have the opportunity to feedback on the proposals, so I have attached the plans to this week's newsletter for you (and more importantly, your children!) to take a look. You can feedback through survey monkey until 30th October and the details are on the flyer.

## Northorpe Hall

I've put this section up again from last week's Headlines—times are hard for many of us at the moment and Northorpe Hall offer workshop excellent resources and 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>

Have a lovely weekend, Mr. Gibbins