



# Headlines

Autumn Term Week 6

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

Date: Friday 16th October 2020

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## Good morning everyone

As you will all know, over the last seven days, school has been directly affected by the coronavirus pandemic. At times it's been a difficult and emotional week in school for the children in the classes whose friends have been asked to learn from home, for many of our staff (*myself included*), and for many of you. But I'm pleased to say that the families who have been directly affected are, at the moment, well. Equally, the children in school are also doing well and enjoying their time at school. So I'd like to take a moment to thank you all for your messages of support over the last week—it really feels like a whole school family when we're all trying to make things work together.

We have continued with our enhanced cleaning, and Pete the caretaker, along with Sue, Julie, Christine, Angela (*our cleaning team*) have worked hard to ensure the school is clean and safe. The adults in school have continued to make sure that children interacting across class bubbles is kept to an absolute minimum and of course, we're cleaning hands regularly and distancing as much as possible.

But when it finally arrived, it made me reflect on what we do differently. I am confident the cases at Meltham CE are unrelated. This means our class bubbles are working as well as they can. I am happy with the enhanced hygiene in school and incredibly proud of the efforts the staff and children are making to maintain focus, keep enjoyment levels up and balance that with the restrictions that keep us all safe.

However, there is more we can do...

## Face coverings in the playground

From this afternoon, I would like to ask that parents, carers and childminders picking-up and dropping-off from the playgrounds wear face coverings.

I know some of you already do, but there are so many of us in such a small space that, even though timings are staggered, we are congregating in groups larger than six. For this reason, and because we have now had positive COVID-19 cases in our school community, I think it is time to make this logical step. Please help to keep everybody safe by continuing to spread out in the playgrounds and by wearing a face covering.

## Parents evening

Parents evenings will be conducted by phone over a two week period (*w/c Monday 9th November and w/c Monday 16th November*).

Next week, class teachers will send out a letter with an hour time slot for your conversation. The organisation of

this has been extremely difficult, so please try to be available for your call. If however you *absolutely* will not be available to take a call during the hour slot you are offered, please contact the school office ([office.meltham@kirkleeseducation.uk](mailto:office.meltham@kirkleeseducation.uk)) and they will try hard to offer an alternative appointment. As ever, if you do not live with your child and would also like an appointment, please contact the office but be aware that appointments will be slightly shorter if two calls are needed. Appointments will last 10 minutes (*the same as the appointments in school*). The appointment letter will indicate the last three digits of the telephone number teachers will call. If it is incorrect, please contact the school office as soon as possible. We will attempt to call a maximum of three times during your time slot. Because school has only two telephone lines, staff will be making calls from their personal devices so you should look out for withheld numbers. Because of GDPR, we will not leave answer phone messages.

This year our teachers will be focusing on the return to school, friendship and social and emotional aspects of learning. It will be your chance to find out how your children are settling in and ask your teachers questions. I really do hope that come the summer term, you will be able to come in once again and speak face to face with the chance to look at your children's work.

## School meals

After the half term holiday, Key Stage 2 children will return to eating lunches in the school hall. After Christmas, it will be the turn of Key Stage 1 and Reception children.

Timings and arrangements will be tight, but I feel that as a school, we need to do our very best to offer more. Children in Years 3—6 will have two meal choices. I have included a menu, but be aware that after half-term, it will be week 2! Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue taking hot sandwiches in class. I'm sorry if your child is in Key Stage 1, but their turn will come soon, I promise. All children must continue to bring named water bottles as they will use them both in the hall and in class to take a drink. If your child does wish to change their dinner option from a packed lunch to a school dinner or vice versa, please do let the school office know ASAP.

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### Stuff at half-term and a Christmas competition

I attach a flyer for October half-term activities for 8-17 year olds. There is a wide variety of activities on offer, all bookable online. I have also attached a Christmas poster competition from Zest for Print who are wanting to 'Christmas up' the village over the festive period. All the details are on the flyer and it would be lovely if we could see a winning poster from a Meltham CE child! There are prizes on offer...

Thank you to Mr. Aspey and the teaching staff for keeping the remote learning up and running and making the improvements we needed this term.

### Keeping your child minders informed

If you use a childminder, especially for pick-up, please don't forget to keep them informed if your family has been affected by isolation or by quarantine as a result of COVID-19 tests.

### October Half Term Sports Camp

Legacy Sport will be hosting activity days in October half term at Meltham Sports Complex. There are lots of different activities going on including Archery, Hockey, Football, Dodgeball and Bushcraft Survival. Please get in touch if you want to book a place on 07525 370437.

### Remote Learning and Isolation

A message from Mr. Aspey:

*"As you know... Purple Mash is now the system teachers are using to send homework and remote learning home. This replaces work being sent out via school Spider. If your child is required to isolate you will receive a learning timetable (through school Spider) that reflects as closely as possible what the children would be doing in school. Your child will find all the work, resources and the timetable in their area of Purple Mash. Using Purple Mash they can complete the work and hand it back to their teacher.*

*Purple Mash includes a Parent Portal for you to keep track of what your child is asked to do. Follow the link below or use the QR code to access a selection of guides and help videos. We hope these guides for Purple Mash will help make remote learning a lot easier for you. The guides include: Parent Portal, Finding work set, Hand in work from Purple Mash app, Hand in work (Tablet.Phone) and Guide to Mini Mash (For Foundation stage parents.)"*

<https://tinyurl.com/Melthguides>

