

11 February 2021

February Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

We appreciate that you are all working so hard to help your children learn remotely at home and we know that it can be challenging. Although you may not be seeing us so regularly in person, we are still here and will try to help if we can. It is heartening to receive messages of appreciation from parents who are grateful for the support we are providing to parents and children at this time. Thank you.

New staff

Mr David Summerscales joins us as Caretaker after the half term holiday, working alongside Mr Tariq Shah. I'm sure you would like to join me in welcoming him to Margaret McMillan. I'm sure Mr Shah will appreciate some help with looking after our school grounds and buildings! We also say goodbye to Miss Akhtar who moves onto pastures new – we wish her all the best.

Half term contact tracing

We have been asked to continue to provide contact tracing for the first 48 hours of the half term holiday. **If your child experiences symptoms of Covid on Saturday 13th February or Sunday 14th February, please inform school via the office email address office@mmps.bradford.sch.uk.** I will then be in touch and if a positive case is confirmed, will be able to notify any affected children. Any symptoms that begin after this time and then result in a positive covid test should be reported to the NHS Test and Trace.

e-safe monitoring

All school computer devices, including laptops lent to children learning at home have forensic monitoring software installed. This is a safeguarding programme which monitors all activity including everything typed on the keyboard. I receive a report when there is inappropriate use of a school laptop. Please make sure your children are supervised when using school laptops at home and ensure that children understand that you will be contacted by school if there is anything inappropriate written or accessed. For severe incidents we may have to ask for the laptop to be returned.

Storytime Magazine

All families with children in Y2-Y6 should have received a free Storytime magazine through the post. We want to encourage children to read whilst they are away from school and this gives them something new to read. Teachers may post some activities linked to the magazine on our SeeSaw app.

Fleeces and ventilation

An effective way to help reduce the spread of any virus is through good ventilation in rooms. This is difficult during the freezing temperatures in the winter months. I have asked teachers to ventilate rooms when children are out of the classroom and to open window vents. This will mean that classrooms may be a bit colder at times throughout the day so children can wear additional jumpers or fleeces as well as their uniform.



Health and Safety

You may have noticed a yellow line drawn in front of all classroom doors. This indicates 2m distance from the door. I ask that parents remain behind the 2m line in order to protect our staff and children during dropping off and collection times. In order to make sure Margaret McMillan Primary is as Covid safe as possible, please make sure you wear a mask at all times on school grounds. Although we are open for children of Key workers and vulnerable children, the over-riding principle is that **if you can keep your child at home, then you should.**

I have been asked to remind everyone that during lockdown, there should be no mixing of households. This means that people living in one house should not be meeting or visiting others who live in a different house.

WEDUC App

Our school communication app WEDUC is the main way that we communicate with parents. We will no longer use paper based letters - with the exception of this final newsletter. If you want to know what is going on at school, please contact the Office so we can provide you with an Enrolment Code for WEDUC. Once you have your enrolment code, you will then need to download the app to your phone/tablet via your relevant App store, entering your unique enrolment code and then follow the step by step instructions to complete your registration.

School closes for the half term break this Friday 12th February and re-opens on Monday 22nd February. Hopefully the snow will all be gone by then!

Thank you for your continued support, stay safe,
Lorraine Martin,
Headteacher