



21.07.20

Dear Families

May I begin this letter by thanking all of our families for their overwhelming support throughout the COVID19 Pandemic. We have found our way together and we have been just as grateful for your support as you have ours THANK YOU ❤️

As many neighbouring schools have broken up for the Summer Holidays we are still welcoming pupils into school for their transition days. Yesterday and today we have enjoyed the company of a further three classes in school; the Owls, Toucans and Kestrels. As promised, below are some photos of their time in school;
OWLS;



TOUCANS;



KESTRELS;



*Mrs Deborah Hartley
BA hons, P.G.C.E, Adv.Dip
Headteacher*

Walnut Tree Walk, Ware, Hertfordshire, SG12 9PD
Telephone 01920 485152 Fax 01920 486738
E-mail admin@middleton.herts.sch.uk



When we began this academic year back in September, who could have imagined that we would be ending it in this way? We know how challenging the last few months have been for many families and we hope that in some small ways we have been able to support you through these difficult weeks. A huge thank you to those families who have shared with us their beautiful photographs of time spent during lockdown. You will find a Summer holiday tribute to these staff and families posted on our web site tomorrow or you will be able to click on the following link;

<https://youtu.be/tGYC0uAdobg>

September 2020 – school will attempt to return to some form of normality, but in reality will look very different! We have a four week plan initially which takes us until the end of September. During this time frame, we will operate within very strict class hubs. Pupils and staff will not be mixing with pupils and staff from other class hubs. This means that many of our usual timetabled activities will not be able to take place. We will not be swimming or taking part in offsite learning which involves a bus ride! We will not be taking part in whole school phonics or number groups. We will not be able to hold assemblies or Jolly Time or run intervention groups such as JIGSAW. But, we will have all of our children back in school which is very exciting. It is the children who make our school and they are the very reason that we turn up to work every day. Middleton has not felt the same without our usual throng of children! Government guidance states that adults must remain at least two metres away from the pupils! As parents you will know how impossible an ‘ask’ this is! We will be supporting our pupils within their class bubble, but encouraging independence wherever possible. We will also be adapting our curriculum to enable us to get outside as much as possible and be mindful of social distancing. I do need to share with families that in my need to protect staff we will not be engaging in restrictive physical intervention with pupils unless in an emergency situation. If your child is unable to remain safe in school, then during this initial four week plan we may need to write personalised risk assessments for individual pupils and possibly ask you to collect your child from school. As yet, we are still awaiting information from the local authority as to how transport will work in September. We have expressed our desire for pupils to be transported within class hubs but have been told that this is unlikely to be manageable. We have been informed that the local authority will contact parents over the Summer to discuss individual arrangements. They are also encouraging parents to transport themselves where possible. As you can imagine, this leaves us with a logistical issue at drop off and pick up times in September, with potentially too many vehicles for the site! Watch this space for further information when we know what we are expecting!

Herts Catering will be returning to school and hot meals will be available for pupils every day. You will have received a letter about a price rise and costings for the term last week. Please use Gateway to pay for school dinners in advance where required. In addition, if you would like your child to have milk next term then please pay for this via Gateway before the term starts.

Pupils will have a quieter start to the school year, with only three classes in school each day the first week of term. A quick reminder that the first week will look as follows;

Tuesday 1st – INSET

Wednesday 2 nd September	ROBINS, TOUCAN and EAGLES classes in school
Thursday 3 rd September	PENGUINS, PUFFINS and KINGFISHERS classes in school
Friday 4 th September	OWLS, SWIFTS and KESTRELS classes in school

So, it only remains for me to wish you a happy and safe Summer. Do watch our video message for the Summer (through the link mentioned above) and look after one another. Stay safe, smiling and sane!

See you in September

Mrs Hartley

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