



1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Dear Families

How on earth did it get to be July? What has happened to 2020 and where has the sunshine gone? Before we know it we will be singing Christmas songs!

I have lots of information to share with you and so will try to organise this information as clearly as possible;

**Home Learning;** We are continuing to deliver virtual lessons as we move into next week and the details of each of these lessons can be found in an attachment to this letter. The number of participants in these sessions are growing and I know how beneficial they are for our children. Please contact the school office to be booked onto a L/S or M/S lesson. Codes for class group lessons and Year 5 or Year Six lessons will be sent out before the end of the week.

In addition, we hope you have been able to access our current whole school topic; 'let's get out and about' and make good use of these resources. You can find this file on the home learning page of our school website or simply click on the following link;

<http://middleton.herts.sch.uk/pupils/lets-go-out-and-about/> . Please do continue to send in your images of activities you are exploring at home as we are keen to make a special presentation of these photos. Please send them into [homelearning@middleton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:homelearning@middleton.herts.sch.uk) .

**Transition Days;** You will have received a letter this week, informing you of the class that your child will be returning to in September. Within this letter, there is also the offer of two days in school between now and the end of term for your child to meet their new staff team and classmates and help to prepare them for life at Middleton in the new academic year. At present, it is difficult to describe with any clarity how these transition days will work, as they will be dependent upon numbers of pupils accessing the days and the guidance as it stands post July 4<sup>th</sup>. We completely understand if parents do not feel confident allowing their child to attend these transition days and we respect the decision each family reaches as being pertinent to their own set of circumstances. As detailed in your letter, we ask that you contact the school office to let them know if you wish your child to attend these two transition days. More information will then follow as we lay firmer plans.

**Pupils in school;** it is fabulous to now see so many familiar smiling faces within school. I thought I would share a few images with you and explain some of the measures that are currently in place within school.



Pupils sit widely distanced apart and must remain in their own space at all times. They are not closely supported by adults so must work with greater independence.

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Regular handwashing and hand sanitisation is built into the day and we encourage both staff and pupils to be outside as much as possible.



Playtimes look quite different as we encourage activities which allow the children to socially distance rather than play and share closely together.



There is no movement internally of the school building at all. Even the staff must remain outside and are signed into work by Mr Hayes. The staffroom is closed which means staff must work half days and arrive and exit their shifts by the outside doors.



Yet, there is still lots learning taking place and lots of fun to be had! It is just that school looks a little different for our pupils and staff alike at present.

**Pupils who are leaving us;** we are very sad to be saying our Goodbye's to Year Six pupils, as well as three pupils from Middle School this term. Their last few months with us have not been the months we would have hoped for and COVID 19 has a lot to answer for! However, we won't give up without a fight and are hoping to hold a celebration event on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July for these children and their families. I will take photos to share with our whole school community after the event.

**Staff who are leaving** us; we are also very sadly saying Goodbye to three members of staff this term. Mrs Matthews ( TA) left us last week ( for a new business venture), Mrs Crumpton will be

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leaving us in July ( for a new job) and Mrs Goodall will be retiring in July after 20+ years service at the school! We hope to celebrate her achievement with a get together in the Autumn term when we may be allowed to gather socially once again!

**Coloured hubs will end for all children on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July. This will allow us to hold a staff INSET day and then deliver transition days for all pupils. The key worker hub will hold it's final day on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July.**

**Kingfisher Klub;** Although the school will not be open during the Summer Holidays, we are hoping to hold four days of our holiday scheme. These dates are provisionally set for Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July and Monday 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August. The days will run from 10.00 am until 3.00pm and will cost £20.00 per day. Due to COVID19, they will operate very differently to normal and be limited to a much smaller cohort of pupils. If you would like your child to attend on any of these dates, then places will be provided on a first come first serve basis. Please contact the school office to book your places. ( 01920 485152)

Finally, we do not yet know what September will look like within school. We are trying to remain optimistic and positive but will need to wait for directives from the government over the coming days and weeks before firm plans can be shared. It is equally frustrating for staff and parents as it is for the children themselves. As a leader I am used to being in control and organising the school and I am also at a loss as to how to best move forwards when we know so little about how this crisis will progress. As soon as I have any further information I will share it with families. I hope that I will have more to share with you by the end of next week.

Sorry this has been such a busy letter – so much information to share! Fingers crossed the sunshine will return and you will be able to enjoy the great outdoors.

Stay safe

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