



The Mill Messenger



National Support School
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National College for
Teaching & Leadership



The Mill's Weekly Update

Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Well, this week has been a lovely one because we have been able to welcome back some of our children. Numbers have been fairly stable all week but perhaps as the weeks go on, as you feel more confident, you too will decide to send your child back to school into the year groups we have so far reopened. If you want your child to join Reception, Year 1 or 6 from next week, please email me at head@themill-tkat.org or Miss Plant our Deputy deputy@themill-tkat.org and we will pop your child onto the A/B rota and confirm with you.

Staff heroes

I'm sure you will echo my thanks to all Mill staff returning as soon as they could. Thanks to them we have been able to open every class in the years that the government has requested, not to mention run the school site and office AND staff a large Group C Keyworker group. Lots of you will already know that many of our staff have worked on rota throughout the lockdown period since schools 'shut' on 20th March and many gave up some of their Easter holidays and half term break to be here.

Drop offs and Collections

You've all been absolutely fantastic at the start and end of days at both gates and for those of you using the back gate, one Mum (I won't say who!) made my day when she said to me as she was walking the big loop of the back playground 'Ooh it's a bit like being in Crufts!' Thank you all for your good spirits and organisation - you have made a stressful time so much easier by supporting us.

What happens next?

We await to see what the next guidance is around school reopening to other year groups and the summer holidays. I do try not to tell you anything speculative until we actually know facts.

Covid-19 testing

If we have a member of staff or child who has been advised to stay home and request a test due to presenting potential [Covid-19 symptoms](#), we will always let those of you with children in the group know. We will then let you know the result and what happens next. We don't want to make anyone feel unduly worried, but we do want to be open with you and make sure you know about it so that you can decide about your child's attendance. More information about testing [here](#).

Staying safe when you go out

Government guidance link here to: [Staying Safe Outside the Home](#)

In the light of the general guidance to the public (linked above), the DfE has updated guidance for parents and carers. Parents, children and young people are encouraged to walk or cycle where possible and avoid public transport at peak times. So when planning the journey to school, if using public transport, parents are advised that their children should follow the safer travel guidance for passengers. The guidance says that pupils and parents should do all they can to help make sure they and others can travel safely. This can be done through:

- not leaving home if anyone in their household has symptoms of coronavirus
- avoiding travelling on public transport, particularly at peak times
- maintaining a 2 metre distance from others who are not in their household
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- avoiding touching their face
- washing their hands thoroughly before and after travelling
- wearing a face covering if they need to use public transport

A final thank you

To all of the parents in Group C who responded to my request earlier in the week to let us know if you did not need all week provision. Because of you, we've been able to offer places to other children of keyworkers more quickly. Some of you who got in touch are frontline NHS workers or carers who have made arrangements on their non-rota days to support other keyworker parents. Thank you.

Enjoy your weekends,

Yours sincerely

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Headteacher

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