



The Mill Messenger



National Support School
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National College for
Teaching & Leadership



The Mill's Weekly Update

Friday 19th June 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

We hope this letter finds you well. We're all waiting for the 'heatwave' next week!

Warm weather provision

Please make sure your children come to school with a hat/cap, their own sunscreen and water bottle next week as it is supposed to be very hot. For the days that the temperatures are due to reach their highest, please send your children to school in clothes that are comfortable and cool for them.

Room 13 Return

Janey has been able to return to the Room 13 studio and been working with much smaller groups of children in line with distancing measures. We are so pleased we can at least offer this to some of the pupils who are in school. Please do look at our Room 13 tab on the school website for creative learning to get involved with.

Reopening to other year groups

As you know, we are using all of our available staff at the moment to run A and B bubbles across Year R, 1, 6 and for the keyworker group C, which is a large group of now over 60 pupils. This means we have had no extra teachers to open more widely. I have spent this week looking carefully at the health and safety guidance alongside our own school risk assessment with our SMT and TKAT to see what might have been possible and at this stage, we have taken the decision that we must adhere to the safety guidelines on pupil ratios and limited contact, both of which would be compromised if we were to open to more year groups at the moment. I hope you understand that I have had to put the health and safety guidance as the priority and that we do not want to place any of our pupils, their families or staff at risk by not following all the safety steps that we have been following so closely up to now.

Google classrooms—a big success

Google classrooms has launched really successfully this week with some year groups already reaching 89% of the pupils joining in with their learning online. We want to aim for 100% of pupils able to access learning from home and your class teachers will keep in touch with you to help you to do this. Well done children who have already been submitting work. I have seen some of your messages to your teachers and their messages back. We hope you are enjoying learning online and getting your feedback from your school adults. One happy Dad in Year 2 contacted me this week to say: "The teachers monitor while my daughter is doing her work at school hours, and answers any help needed.. even the teacher does corrections straightaway.. As a dad it's a difficult time for me to keep my child updated on education but with this private message option with teachers helps me to understand the expectations. It's amazing."

Keep up the good work! Our year group Google sites are still running and all the suggested activities are still on our website as normal. Also keep a look out for some virtual sports day activities from Mr Eagle!

Summer, free school meals funding and September

At the moment, with four weeks until the end of term, it would seem that most schools will be fully shut to all pupils over the Summer holiday break, but this is not confirmed yet for us, so I will let you know when I can about that. You will also have seen in the news a lot about free school meal funding continuing over the summer. Again, we are waiting to be told that officially and receive the guidance. Another unknown is what September will look like in all primary schools, but what we are already doing at The Mill is planning how we will staff groups and bubbles after the holidays to ensure all pupils in all year groups can come back to school, even if that is on a rota to start with. We are also planning on how we will address all the catching up that needs to be done and more government information about that should be out shortly too, including potential plans for 'catch up tuition'.

We all hope you have a happy, safe weekend.

Kind regards,

Sophie Gosden
Headteacher

The Mill Primary Academy
Ifield Drive, Ifield, Crawley,
West Sussex, RH11 0EL

T: 01293 571893 E: office@themill-tkat.org