



GREENWOOD TREE  
ACADEMY TRUST

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17th July 2020

Dear Parents,

We've made it! This is not the school year any of us thought we would have when we started in September. It is important to remember I think the reasons behind why it was so different and the challenges it brought. The key point was to keep you and your families safe and to protect the wider community. This is likely to remain the case for some time to come, with restrictions the new normal for us all. Like everyone, we have tried to balance keeping things as normal as possible, while also keeping everyone as safe as possible. Thank you for all your help and support in following new and changing guidelines and procedures. It has really helped.

(I have attached a separate letter to keep, as reference for nearer September to remind everyone of what systems are in place)

#### **Tuesday 1st September - STAFF INSET**

**Wednesday 2nd September** Current Year 4 in school with Mrs. Michelle Cheeseman who has been appointed to replace Miss Grimshaw. Mrs Cheeseman has shared a video on Tapestry to introduce herself. **They will need to bring a healthy snack, packed lunch and water bottle on the day.**

Mrs Pratt will also be in school. This is to allow Year 4s to come together as a class group and to spend some time as a group with their teachers. More details of the day will be circulated as we would like to include such things as ringing the bell for those who haven't done it.

The remaining year groups return on this day to their **EXISTING** class, again to allow them to spend time with their current teachers and their current class groupings. We are also planning transition activities so that the children are ready for the move the following day.

**Thursday 3rd September** Year 4s go to St Mary's and the remaining children move to their **new** classes. Miss Wittman will be available to support Year R transition into Year 1 classroom.

**Friday 4th September** as above

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**Monday 7th September** New Reception start a staggered week as they usually would, with all children in school week commencing 14th September.

I realise that this is a more long drawn out drop off and pick up which has implications for those of you with more than one child at school or those with a child at the middle school but staggered drop offs and pick ups have been recommended in the guidance. Hopefully, we will be able to revert to more usual times soon, or lessen the time between groups when we review how the first week has gone.

All of these plans may be subject to change in line with Government guidance and GTAT recommendations.

### **Staffing:**

<b>Reception</b>	Miss Wittman and Mrs Hunt (Tuesdays)
<b>Year 1/2</b>	Mrs Gough (Monday and Tuesday) and Mrs Andrews (Wednesday-Friday)
<b>Year 3/4</b>	Mrs Pratt (Monday and Tuesday) and Mrs Cheeseman (Wednesday-Friday)

I would again really like to acknowledge the support from parents many of whom are continuing with home learning. I am sure you are looking forward to the summer holidays in a way you never did before! This is a good opportunity for you and your children to have a well earned break BUT I would really encourage you to keep reading daily. This is so important and makes a massive difference. Dorset are running their Summer Reading Challenge as usual. Please click on the link below to find out more. Many of you do this every year and the children really enjoy it. They also get a certificate in assembly in September.

We are also very pleased to be welcoming **Mrs Emily Carpenter** to our school team in September to offer extra support and nurture for where it is most needed. This is something we have been thinking about for quite some time and are delighted. We are certain Emily will be a real asset to the school.

### **Summer Reading Challenge**

<https://sway.office.com/6FRRJmmaQzOSBSCn?ref=Link&loc=play>

To keep the clubs at either end of the school day in as tight a bubble as possible, we have made some changes to how childcare clubs are booked. We need to know that we have a consistent 'care bubble'. To this end we ask that the after school club is booked half termly in advance. No emergency bookings will be able to be made. The same precautions and procedures will be in place as in school during the day. Drops off will be as they were but please allow 2 metre distance. If you could phone the school when you are here for pick up we will send your child out to you. **The final pick up time will be 5 o'clock, while the staggered times are in place.**

**DASP Citizen Awards** Well done to Aria, Harry, Erin, Ben, Ethan who all received a plaque and medal in honour of being a good Milborne citizen. Their final challenge this year was standing in the rain in the field to receive them!

**Reports** You should have by now have received your child's school report and returned the paperwork enclosed. Please keep the key dates for your reference. Regarding holiday dates please can I draw your attention to the extended half term dates. These are the same as have been shared with you previously and on the website but I thought with everything going on this may get lost.

We have been considering for a number of years now how we do the Christmas productions and have discussed it at the Parent Forum. We know that these are highly valued by all members of the school community and they are very important to us too. We have, however, also become increasingly aware of the pressure on some children with anxiety levels soaring when the usual school routine changes significantly at a time when routines at home are probably more relaxed too. We find that we have a lot of very tired children in school. Christmas is Christmas and it will always be a busy time but we believe this that the renewed plan will alleviate some of the chaos. The new plan also allows for breadth in the children's exposure to performing .The children have the opportunity to experience plays other than the Christmas story and can perhaps explore musicals and well known shows, extending their cultural capital. The Autumn term is the most significant term in school for new learning. A lot of time is lost to rehearsals at a critical time in your child's education, which has also had a bearing on our decision. Year 4 children will continue to lead the carol service in church.

### **The plan for 2020-21:**

YR and Y1/2 Christmas production

Y3/4 Summer production

**Doodle** We are aware the messaging system within Doodle is open meaning children can send messages to each other (not just from the preprinted bank) This is an opportunity for them to learn about appropriate behaviour while messaging. The settings are filtered to block rude and/or inappropriate vocabulary but it is something you should both be aware of and monitor. We have access to all the messages and will also monitor these. We are hopeful that this is a way that children can easily maintain contact with each other over the holidays as they have had such a long period without seeing their friends. We will review, however, and if it is not being used appropriately then we will have to consider its purpose and may cancel.

Many of you have been asking about Doodle during the holiday: Doodle is available for your child to use over the summer holidays. Your child's hard work will be recognised in class in September.

Through conversations with your class teachers and myself I am aware that many of you have experienced 'blips' with your child during lockdown and seen changes in their behaviour. This is very usual in times of change but difficult to manage in the moment and draining over time. I have included a link to a training programme around anxiety that you may want to complete over the holiday period. It is a 4 hour course, so quite substantial. I hope that those who do it find it beneficial. I would be interested to hear any feedback.

### [Anxiety in Children During COVID-19 - Online Course](#)

The link below takes you to a really useful page covering various aspects of safety including water, fire and road. This is a good focus for discussion as a family and a reminder to everyone about rules and good practice.

Please see the link below for information about keeping safe.

### [Education for children and families](#)

### **'The Sun' books**



Bertie ( on behalf of him and Maisy) proudly displaying some of the books his grandad helped to acquire for the school.

Many thanks to Richard and Jean Pavey and all at M B Wilkes for collecting the tokens to enable this.

**Small amount of Topsoil is needed** for the area near the new play equipment, to form the 'lumpy bumpies' the children requested. If we can get the soil on hopefully grass will grow over the holidays. Please let the office know if you can help.

### **Uniform**

I think now, even more than ever, having a sense of belonging and being proud of your school community is really important. We are reviewing our school logo and letterhead and hope to be able to share these with you in the Autumn term.

We are also changing the PE kit slightly so that we have two PE kits- indoor and outdoor and this covers OE and Fit Friday too, depending on weather. This means that the cost should be reduced for you and we have consistency in school. The **outdoor** PE kit will be available to order in September or if we get it before we will send it out to you.

In the last letter I announced that we would be saying goodbye to Mr Dailey, but with the very recent promise of PE funding (this had ended) we have been able to secure him again for the half term in the first instance, which I am sure is great news for all of you.

### **Prime Minister's address to school leavers**

Please click on the link below to hear a message from our Prime Minister to children in school particularly those leaving school, but I think it applies to all children.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-WsDuO6Gmw&utm\\_source=10%20July%202020%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-WsDuO6Gmw&utm_source=10%20July%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff who worked relentlessly keeping in touch with you and your children both through phone calls, video calls and Tapestry, planning lessons, at home and at school and all the while continuing with staff meeting, planning meetings, Governor meetings, interviews and in many cases homeschooling their own children. They also supported each other. You should be very proud of the staff team at Milborne- I know I am.

I hope you all have a lovely,relaxing, safe summer break,

Yours sincerely,

***Sent by eSchools email***

Sharon Hunt