



**WELLINGTON STREET, STOCKTON ON TEES**

**TS18 1QX, TEL: 01642 860055**

**Head Teacher: Mrs S Skillcorn**

9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers

### **A Message from the Government**

The government advise that, where possible, all face to face teaching ends on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Mill Lane will therefore now close on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December** instead of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December will be a non-teaching day and schools will use the day for staff training.

The Department for Education have recommend that all schools ensure staff, parents and carers are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact-tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

### **A Message from our Chair of Governors**

Governors just wanted to say a huge thank you to parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. 2020 has been extremely challenging and we are so proud of the work that has been done in school to continue to provide for our children in the most challenging of circumstances; support from home is invaluable in enabling this to continue. We hope that you enjoy the Christmas break, and we are looking forward to what 2021 may bring. As always, if you would like to get in touch with governors then please email [milllane@sbcschools.org.uk](mailto:milllane@sbcschools.org.uk). We would love to hear from you.

### **Christmas Events**

As we are unable to invite parents and carers into school as we normally do at this time of year for various activities and events, we will be recording Christmas assemblies and hopefully posting them onto Facebook for you to watch. We have so many talented children that I am bursting with pride. Christmas dinner will go ahead as usual on 16<sup>th</sup> December with children eating together in their class bubbles. Children will enjoy either a virtual pantomime or a Christmas movie and a special visit from Santa.

### **Children in Need**

Thank you to everyone who sent their children to school in non-uniform and donated to Children in Need. We raised an incredible £161.41.

**PTO**

Governors and Staff at Mill Lane Primary School are committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in our care

## **Poppy Appeal**

Thank you to everyone who sent money to purchase a poppy item. We raised a superb £230.38 for the Poppy Appeal.

## **School Grounds**

May I remind parents that, for the safety of our children, mobile phones are **NOT** to be used on school premises, including the playground and **proper** face coverings that cover the mouth and nose **must** be worn at all times on the yard. Thank you.

## **Nursery Parents**

If you haven't already done so, please remember to complete your primary admissions application if your child is due to start Reception in September 2020 as places at Mill Lane are limited to 30. Staff can help you with this. Please put your baby/toddler's name down for a Mill Lane nursery place so that they can start as soon as they turn 3 years old. Please let other parents know too.

## **Attendance**

Regular attendance continues to be a priority at Mill Lane as children are still catching-up with the teaching they missed during the first lockdown. There is an expectation that your child has 100% attendance. The National Average is 96%, which means only a couple of days off through illness a year. The LA regularly fines parents so **ONLY** keep your child off school if your doctor has said that they are not fit to attend or, of course, if they are showing any Covid symptoms. If anyone in the family is displaying any Covid symptom they must have a test and the whole family must isolate until the test is negative or for 14 days if the test is positive.

## **Uniform**

Following government guidance, we keep the school well ventilated with windows open. Although the heating is on, children would benefit from an extra layer on underneath their uniforms, such as a vest or a T-shirt. Can I remind parents and carers that jogging bottoms and trainers are **not** permitted and should not be worn in school. Children should wear formal school shoes.

## **Dates for your Diary**

<i>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December</i>	Children break up from school (This has changed from 18 <sup>th</sup> )
<i>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January</i>	Children return to school
<i>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February</i>	Children break up for half term
<i>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</i>	Children return to school

## **Compliments and Complaints**

Staff work exceptionally hard at Mill Lane to ensure children are happy and very well educated. We have wonderful relationships with our parents and carers and work together for the best interests of your children. During the pandemic, staff have exceeded expectations. If you have any compliments or complaints I am always happy to listen, act and explain.

## **Finally**

May I take this opportunity on behalf of staff, governors and children to thank you for your continued support and to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a very peaceful New Year.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs Skillcorn  
Head Teacher