

MONTGOMERY INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERY



Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

What a lovely week we have had, the children have been amazing once again, as have you! Thank you for adhering to our staggered entry times, face coverings and social distancing rules. You may have heard our morning music as you came into school this week; Incognito's 'Don't Worry Bout A Thing'. It does seem that the worries we may have had before coming back to school have dispersed, which is great. Next week listen out for a new tune to bring you in to school.

We have also been sharing daily assemblies with the children and have introduced the school's 'Monty Way' and our first 'Learning Friend' story; Focused Frog. Today we saw our first Monty Achievers assembly. Children who received this award in the past have been able to come for an afternoon tea in my office. Due to COVID restrictions we will be adapting this to small class bubbles meeting, socially distanced, in the hall within their year group bubble. I will need to get some more cake stands! The first of these are scheduled for the week beginning 5th October.

Coughs, Colds and Winter illness

It is that time of year when colds, coughs and stomach bugs are normally rife. Hopefully, due to stricter hygiene routines both at school and at home, we'll see a reduction in these ailments. I have been very impressed with our attendance levels this week, which are projected to be above last year's! However we do now have the added concern of "is my child showing Coronavirus symptoms and what should I do?" Fortunately, in Colchester the number of recorded, positive cases are still very low, so therefore the risk of contracting the virus is also low. However, we need to stay alert and follow government guidance. Coronavirus symptoms in children are:

- **a high temperature**, (be mindful that children can have a temperature for a number of other reasons)
- **a new continuous cough** – (dry) this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- **a loss or change to sense of smell or taste** – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

I have added a few links below with advice from the NHS and Essex, please contact the school if you believe your child is displaying Coronavirus symptoms or you have any additional concerns.

<https://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/covid-19-pandemic-resource-hub/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/fever-in-children/>

Please note, in the event of sickness and diarrhea, our usual 48 hour sickness free policy still stands.

Montgomery Infant School and Nursery fully complies with information legislation. For the full details on how we use your personal information please visit our website: www.montgomery-inf.essex.sch.uk and click on Privacy. If you are unable to access the internet please request a hard copy from the school office.

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MDA Vacancies

We have a couple of vacancies on our amazing MDA team. Our Mid-day assistants play a vital role in our school ensuring that children have an enjoyable break between learning and receive a nutritional meal, which they enjoy eating. If you are interested in joining 'The Monty Team' please contact the school office by phone or email to receive an application form. We look forward to hearing from you.

Nursery Children

Our Nursery classes this year have focused on a very slow and staggered start for our youngest children in the school . This is to ensure that they are familiar with the new routines that we have in place under COVID-19 restrictions and, most importantly, to make sure that their emotional needs are met. All Nursery children will be in Monday–Friday from Monday 28th September, unless your child's teacher has spoken to you regarding the appropriateness of them being in full-time.

We are here to meet the needs of all children. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Latest Government Advice

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other



Wash hands

keep washing your hands regularly



Cover face

wear a face covering in enclosed spaces



Make space

stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions



Find out what you need to do

The Prime Minister also announced that from Monday 14th September that you must not meet with people from other households socially in groups of more than 6 please see the link below for further information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-what-has-changed-9-september>

Please see our website for our latest COVID-19 Risk Assessment

Thank you for your continued support.

*Sue Bridgeman,
Headteacher*

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