



Blanford Mere Nursery and Primary School

Mimosa Walk, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 7EA

Headteacher: Mrs N.J. Miller Tel: 01384 818365 Email: info@blanford.dudley.sch.uk

Friday 5th June 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your family remain well and have been able to enjoy the recent sunshine.

As you are aware, from Wednesday 3rd June, we have welcomed back children from Reception, Year 1 and 6 classes to join our key worker children.

As I am sure you can appreciate, this has been an enormous task, ensuring that all government and Local Authority guidance has been followed to make school as safe as possible for children, staff and parents. Thank you to the parents who have followed 'the plan' so carefully, helping us to make this week a smooth and successful one. It has been lovely to see the children back in school and to see their pleasure at being back with us and their friends, even though they need to remain at a distance from each other.

The weekly home learning projects will continue to be uploaded for those children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5, as well as those in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 who do not return to school. We hope that you and the children have enjoyed using them.

Ever since school closures were announced, our main focus has been providing childcare for children of key workers and ensuring that learning could continue at home. At all times, the priority has been to ensure the safety and well-being of these children and the staff. We have been operating on a skeleton staff to provide the necessary childcare and admin associated with this. Now that we are back to full capacity in the office, we plan to make progress with issuing refunds as necessary for monies paid for Breakfast Club/After School Club etc.

We are also arranging for the collection of school photographs and personal belongings (pump bags, lunchboxes, medication etc.) At the present time we are not emptying children's trays. I am aware that some of you have felt frustrated at being unable to pick up photographs that you have already paid for. However, I am sure that you can appreciate that these have been unprecedented times with unique challenges. Schools have had to operate within tight government guidelines from the very start of the pandemic, being instructed to restrict the movement of both people and items in and out of the building to avoid spreading infection. At the time of closure and until 10th May, government advice was that only essential travel outside the home was permitted. We have adhered to this to keep our staff and children safe in such an uncertain time.



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We felt that allowing parents to come to school when the government advice was to 'Stay Home, Stay Safe, Protect the NHS' was contrary to government guidance.

Now that the government has enabled schools to reopen on a cautious and phased basis, we are in a position to set up timed opportunities to collect photographs and personal items. We are still not allowed to admit anyone except school staff to the premises so, for safety reasons, the following arrangements apply:

- Photographs and pump bags will be sent home on Friday 5th June with any children who are currently attending school. We will send home items for any other brothers and sisters at the same time
- For children who are not currently attending school, there will be specific times and days allocated for each class to collect photographs and personal belongings to prevent overcrowding - please see details below
- If you have more than one child in school, we would ask you to collect the belongings at the time allocated for your youngest child
- Items for collection will be in the main conservatory entrance
- Please remember to socially distance, so that there is only one parent in the entrance at any one time
- To limit the number of people on the premises, we would appreciate if one parent only collected belongings (unless you need to bring your child with you)
- There will not be any staff present to 'handover' items. They will be clearly laid out for your class on the day/time allocated. Please help yourself.
- Any items that you cannot collect at the allocated times will be brought back into school and we will arrange a further collection date later in the term.
- Please adhere to the given times. We have deliberately avoided the start and end of the day when parents are arriving and leaving at staggered times and entrances. This is to keep everyone safe.

Class	Date	Time
Miss Jordan and Miss Cleeton	Monday 8 th June	9.30-11.30am
Miss Barclay and Mrs Cartwright	Monday 8 th June	12.30-2.30pm
No collections on Tuesday		
Miss Postings and Mr Wade	Wednesday 10 th June	9.30-11.30am
Nursery	Wednesday 10 th June	12.30-2.30pm
Miss Dorricott, Mrs Oliver and Mr Raybould	Thursday 11 th June	9.30-11.30am 12.30-2.30pm
Mrs Cameron and Mr Baker	Friday 12 th June	9.30-11.30am



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A musical opportunity!

Dudley performing Arts have contacted us with an offer for anyone who would like to sing.

"Come and join in the fun of the Dudley Performing Arts Virtual Summer Festival by taking part in our vocal montage video. All you need to do is come along to an online rehearsal where our vocal staff will teach you how to sing Rocking All Over the World. You will be accompanied by a full orchestra and backing singers. There will be opportunities to sing solo or if you prefer just be part of the chorus with everyone else. After a few rehearsals we'd like you to film yourself singing your part, and this will be your chance to rock it out and shine. Once all the videos are sent in, the film crew will work their magic and produce a montage film of the song which will be released at our Virtual Festival on the DPA Youtube channel on July 5th.

If you fancy the rock'n roll challenge, all you have to do is contact dpa.cs@dudley.gov.uk telling us that you would like to come to the online rehearsal on Wednesday 10th June at 18:00."

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support over the last 12 weeks and for your patience. Although school is not yet open to all year groups, we are now at last able to move in the right direction.

Best wishes,

Mrs Miller



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