



Kidmore End CE Primary School

www.kidmore-end.co.uk/
office@kidmore-end.co.uk
[@kidmoreendsch](https://www.instagram.com/kidmoreendsch)

4th September 2020

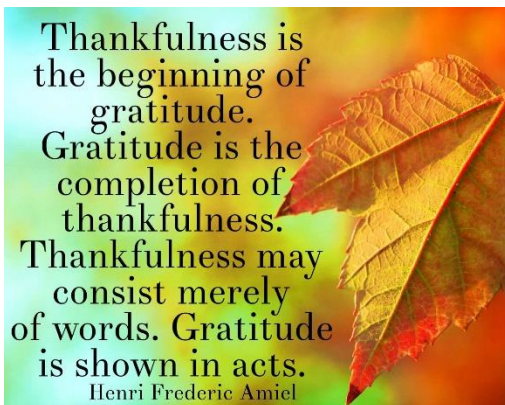


Dear Parents and Carers

It is such a pleasure to welcome your children back to school for a new school year. Despite the challenges that we will continue to face over the coming months, September is always a time for optimism and looking forward hopefully, and the smiling faces of pupils in every classroom is a very good way to start. A particularly warm welcome to our Foundation children, and to the children in other year groups who have joined us from other schools.

Values for Life

Our value this term is Thankfulness, and we will be encouraging the children to reflect on the things in their lives for which they are grateful and how they might express that. We will also be thinking about showing compassion to others, including in considering what cause to support in our Harvest Festival later in the term. Daily collective worship will be taking place in the classroom, until we are able to meet as a school again.



Morning and Afternoon Routines

In the spirit of thankfulness, I would like to say a big thank you to all who are supporting our arrangements for arriving and leaving school. We understand it will take a few days to fall into a routine, but would ask everyone to continue to be **safe and respectful**, particularly of our neighbours in the village. Please take care when parking at the New Inn and ensure you don't block in any staff or customers, and keep well clear of road junctions.

The procedures are in place to minimise adult contact, so please ensure you maintain distance from other families and when you have said goodbye to your child please leave the school site promptly. Children in KS2 can be dropped at the gate if you are happy to do so and can see a member of staff on duty. We are planning to install another bike rack by the large gates to support families wishing to cycle to school.

Meet the Teacher

It is not possible to hold our usual Meet the Teacher events under current circumstances. Teachers have written their usual termly letters outlining the curriculum and with details of arrangements for PE and home learning, and have also written short presentations introducing themselves and their year group which will be sent out on Monday. Teachers will be on the playground at the end of the day next week to say hello, and will ensure contact details are shared for any specific questions you may have.

Communications

At the end of this newsletter you will find our Communications Policy, which I would ask you to review. Over the past few months email has been an invaluable communication tool, and it is likely to remain so whilst adults maintain distance as part of our system of controls. However, please bear in mind that all our school staff are fully focused on supporting the children through the day, and so may take time to respond. You may find the answer to queries more quickly on the school website or on information sent out on PMX. If you have questions of concerns about your child's learning or wellbeing, the class teacher should be your first point of contact.

Upcoming dates

Our 'Really Useful Card' is also attached to this letter, with an outline of dates. I am sure you will appreciate there is a degree of uncertainty in forward planning, but we are determined as a team that the 'usual' events will take place although they may look rather different and be shared virtually with parents rather than in person. We will keep you up to date.

Google Classroom and home learning

KS2 staff will be setting up home learning on Google Classroom over the coming weeks and over the term we will further develop our use of the platform which is already being used in school for assemblies. We will be sending out invitations to classes next week along with instructions for logging in. Please do support your child in getting logged on to Google Classrooms - the password is the same as Mathletics, TT Rockstars and Spelling Shed which we will also continue to use through the year. This will also form a key part of our contingency planning for any periods where home learning is necessary, and as such we will be working with another school who have been using the platform for many years as part of the DfE EdTech Demonstrator Programme.

Parent Governor

Our governing body provide essential challenge and support in the strategic direction of the school, and is made up of representatives of our local church communities, staff and the parent body. We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor, and will shortly send out some further information about the role and a call for nominations. The governing body benefits from a wide range of skills and backgrounds, so please do consider if you might be interested in this role.

I would like to thank all our Governors for their support and attention to detail over the past few months - it has been a huge responsibility for a group of volunteers and as always they have been simply brilliant.

Applying for secondary school

Applications open today for secondary school places in September 2021 and close on 31st October 2020, with National Offer Day on 1st March 2021. Current safety restrictions mean that schools are offering a range of different opportunities for parents, and we recommend keeping an eye on their websites. We will post information from schools as we receive it.

Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge



MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE

BOOKING REQUIRED!
CLICK HERE

MAIDEN ERLEGH CHILTERN EDGE
OPEN EVENT
TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2020
5:30PM UNTIL 7:30PM

Headteacher presentations will take place at 5:30pm and 7:00pm.

This event will be an exciting opportunity for you to visit the school and meet and talk to staff and students. There will be lots to do and see including:

- Subject displays
- Hands-on activities
- Drama and music performances
- Enrichment information
- Presentation by the Headteacher
- Tours of the school led by students

Due to COVID-19 booking is required for this event. If you are interested in attending, please visit our website at www.maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk or click **HERE** to reserve a place.



For regular updates, follow us on [@MEChilternEdge](https://twitter.com/MEChilternEdge)

Highdown School

Please see below for important dates relevant to Year 6 students:

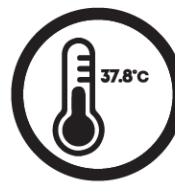
Thursday 1st October 2020 – Open Evening, for prospective new parents and children, 6pm

Monday 5th October 2020 – Open Morning

Wednesday 7th October 2020 – Open Morning

With very best wishes,

Linda Hull
Headteacher



DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY, OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS OR IF THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD TO ISOLATE BY TEST AND TRACE.



GET YOUR CHILD AND HOUSEHOLD TESTED IF THEY DEVELOP SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS.



DROP OFF AND COLLECT AT THE RIGHT TIME USING THE ALLOCATED ENTRANCE AND EXIT GATE.



ONLY ONE PARENT SHOULD COME TO THE SITE AND SHOULD KEEP THEIR DISTANCE FROM OTHER PEOPLE.



OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD TO FOLLOW THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT ADVICE TO AVOID BRINGING THE VIRUS INTO SCHOOL.



PARENTS



Kidmore End CE School Communications policy

It is very important to us that we work closely in partnership with parents and carers, and communication between home and school is key. We recognise that parents and carers have busy lives, as do teachers whose time is, quite rightly, focused on classroom teaching.

Personal Contact

In the morning teachers are preparing for the day ahead, and from 8.45am are welcoming children into class. A senior member of staff will be available on the playground and will pass on any important messages to class teachers. At the end of the day all teachers will, as far as possible, accompany their classes onto the playground and be available for brief conversations.

Contacting the School

Teachers want to respond to parental queries at the earliest opportunity and will do their best to do so, however, the majority of teachers' time is taken up teaching and preparing for lessons. Teachers' responsibilities extend beyond the classroom, and they may be unable to respond to you on the day a query is made. We have also agreed with staff that there is no expectation to respond to queries during their personal/family time.

Telephone

Please use the office number (0118 357 3149) to leave a message for a teacher to contact you:

- Reception staff will relay messages to teachers as soon as possible.
- If a call is urgent, please inform the receptionist who will attempt to find a senior staff member to speak to you.
- We will try to respond to any non-urgent messages within three working days, if not the same day.
- Please note lessons will never be interrupted for teachers to take calls.

Email

Please use staff email addresses if you need to contact staff directly:

- Teachers are not in a position to check emails consistently throughout the day and the school does not expect work email to be checked during a teacher's personal time.
- We aim to respond as soon as possible and within three working days. Part-time staff may take longer to reply.

Meetings

The day-to-day care, welfare and safety of your child is managed by the person placed closest to them.

In the first instance, please approach the members of staff who are responsible for your child in the following order:

- 1) Class Teacher
- 2) Key Stage Leader (Mrs Ferguson for Foundation/KS1, Miss Dove for KS2)
- 3) SENCo (Miss Dove) if your query relates to special educational needs
- 4) Headteacher (Mrs Hull)

- Meetings should always be pre-arranged with members of staff.
- If you urgently need to speak to someone, for instance if there is a serious family emergency or a child protection issue, please phone and office staff will find a senior member of staff to speak to you.
- For non-urgent meetings we will aim to meet with you within five working days. The school will determine the level of urgency at its discretion, to enable it to manage multiple demands.

Contacting You

Our preferred method of contacting you is via PMX Parentmail, which allows us to text or email depending on the urgency of the communication. We also produce a school newsletter approximately fortnightly, which contains essential information, and is available on the school website as well as being sent via PMX

Social Media

We use our Twitter Feed to promote school events, celebrate achievements, suggest ideas for supporting learning at home and sharing highlights from the school day. You can find us @kidmoreendsch

No Response

If you have not received a response from the school within three working days please contact the school by emailing office@kidmore-end.co.uk and we will chase up your enquiry. Staff and governors value communication with parents and carers very much, and we will continue to monitor this policy and our approach to improve the process further.