



Mousehold Infant and Nursery School Mousehold Avenue Norwich NR3 4RS
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30th April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a good week and the children continue to enjoy their learning. I watched a Maths lesson in Year 2 and the children were partitioning 2 digit numbers. I was very impressed with their knowledge as well as their positive attitude to learning. I have also seen a giant Gruffalo piece of art work in Reception. I think it's the biggest Gruffalo I have ever seen! The Reception children have such great imaginations. Year 1 have been learning about the environment and their 'wonderful world.' This has prompted really good discussions on how we can help look after our world. The children always have such respectful and mature ideas. Nursery have really enjoyed the outdoors and I often see them identifying birds on the feeders and exploring the secret garden. They have also been planting vegetables. I have written several **High Five** letters the last few weeks. Children love to receive them and they stand up in a Friday zoom assembly and are clapped by the whole school.

Positive cases of Covid - w/b 26th April - We have had no positive cases this week.

Friends of School – Fundraising

We have arranged a zoom meeting for parents interested in supporting our Friends of School fundraising. Mrs Rayner from the school office will attend the first meeting to support with any questions regarding this. **This will be Wednesday 5th May 9.30am**

Topic: Friends of Mousehold Infant & Nursery School
Time: May 5, 2021 09:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86006512443?pwd=QUhBaFg4eUZycyR4d1g2bU0vSEk3QT09>

Meeting ID: 860 0651 2443

Passcode: Xz9s19

Safeguarding - Parent Support Advisor

Mrs Derer, our Parent Support Advisor, works at Mousehold on a Monday and Tuesday and works at George White Junior School on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs Derer works with families as well as children.

Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Westall Deputy Headteacher: Mr Ian Tolson
Designated safeguarding leads: Mrs Westall, Mr Tolson, Miss Wood



She also supports staff in aspects of their role. If you are struggling at home with any aspect of parenting then Mrs Derer or one of the designated safeguarding leads can help you. Please call the school office or see Mrs Westall on the playground and we will arrange a time for an initial chat and then can work with you to provide the right support for your family.

<https://www.mouseholdinfants.com/safeguarding/>

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs Westall, Mr Tolson, Miss Wood

These members of staff monitor and manage all safeguarding practices and ensure staff are supported and have the training they need. Please ask to see one of these adults if you are worried about the safety of a child at school.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child out of school hours then the number to ring is:

CADS – Children’s Advice and Duty Service - 0344 800 8020.

Annual Parent/Carer Survey - THANK YOU!

Thank you for your responses. As with all surveys, the responses are varied but we are pleased that the majority of parents feel that their children enjoy school and that most parents are overall happy with what the school provides. It has been a very difficult year and very frustratingly at times we have not been able to do everything that we usually take for granted. We have missed having parents in school and will of course start Reading Cafes, Sports Days, Class Assemblies and fundraising events when we are able to. We have had government guidance to follow and this has not allowed for large gatherings, as you can understand. However some aspects of school we feel are better since we’ve had to do things differently.

I will focus on **communication and parental involvement/open classrooms** in this newsletter, and in future newsletters will focus on other aspects of the parent survey. As promised – your comments and responses will be taken into account and will help to drive school improvement. Please see attached responses.

Communication

93% of families feel the communication between home and school is always or mostly good. 7% of families feel there is too much communication or not enough. At the start of the school closure a year ago, in March 2020 I decided to increase the frequency of newsletters from fortnightly to weekly. This was a considered decision because I felt that the school community would appreciate feeling connected and kept up to date with recent developments, government guidance as well as information on our remote learning offer. Some families tell us that the weekly newsletter is a lifeline as there are often helpful links to support with food, clothing and finances. The increase in newsletters last year coincided with the launch of our school Facebook page and launch of our new website, which of course is another way we communicate with the school community. I have decided to keep the letters to weekly for now but will review this at the end of the school year.

I also understand that there are occasions when other messages and e mails are sent out through the school office via text or Parentmail, in addition to the newsletter. We will try and limit this form of communication so it isn’t quite as frequent. We have made a start on this by not sending home daily bubble updates from this week. We must however still ensure you have all of the information you need, so please bear with us whilst we work this out and ensure the balance is right. If you have been dissatisfied with communication and you begin to see improvements then please do tell us. The office staff work very hard and are often dealing with many jobs at once.

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Rayner and Mrs Seaman for their hard work and professionalism when they have had to keep up with many sudden changes to systems and communicate these the best they can.

Parental involvement and open classrooms

Some parents have said that they would like to have more opportunities to talk to the teacher, look at their child's work and see their classroom. Before Covid 19 restrictions we invited all families into school every Friday after school to do just that. We called it 'Open Classrooms.' We have missed that as much as you have and would love to gradually invite you back into school when restrictions lift from **17th May** hopefully. Safety is our priority and we continue to follow the guidance set out by Government. There will be an opportunity for you to come in and see your child's work, classroom and teacher at a time convenient for you. A booking system will be used via Parentmail as we have to ensure we limit numbers and keep within the rules and guidance. The booking system will be like a parents evening appointment system, but this is not a 1:1 meeting with the teacher, it is a chance for you look at your child's book, their classroom and talk to the teacher if you would like to.

- This will be straight after school when you collect your child on the day you have signed up for.
- Only 2 families will be invited on a day as we can't have more than 6 in a classroom or shared area at once.
- Social distancing must happen and masks must be worn in school.
- Only 1 parent from each family and their school aged child and a younger sibling if necessary.
- 1 member of staff in class. This will be the teacher.
- Family only touch their own child's book and stay in their own child's learning environment.
- Classroom entrance used, not main entrance.

Arrangements for Nursery will be slightly different as we have morning and afternoon sessions and more families. Miss Wood will organize that separately and will communicate the arrangements to Nursery parents.

Term Dates

May Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May – school closed to all pupils.

May Half-term – Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June

Last day of Summer Term – Friday 16th July.

Other dates

Individual School reports will be sent home on Friday 8th July.

Please remember that school is closed to all pupils on Monday, due to it being a bank holiday.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation,

Yours faithfully

Rebecca Westall

Headteacher

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Annual Parent Survey April 2021

Total number of responses: 153. 60% of the school.
Nursery – 25 Reception – 47 Year 1 – 30 Year 2 – 51

	Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	No
My child enjoys school.	80%	16%	2%	2%
The school informs me about my child's progress	46%	27%	17%	10%
My child is making good progress at this school	70%	22%	7%	1%
My child feels safe at school	88%	10%	2%	
Safeguarding children is a priority of the school and this is communicated well to parents and carers on newsletters.	90%	8%	2%	
The school helps me to support my child's learning at home	68%	20%	8%	4%
The school helps my child have a healthy lifestyle	85%	10%	3%	2%
The school is a welcoming place for children and parents and carers.	92%	5%	3%	
The school meets my child's particular needs.	77%	18%	1%	4%
The school staff are easy to approach and take account of my suggestions, concerns and worries.	85%	12%	3%	
My child has good opportunities and positive experiences at this school to make learning exciting and fun.	92%	5%	3%	
The school is led and managed effectively.	90%	7%	3%	
Communication between school and families is good.	78%	15%	5%	2%
Overall I'm happy with my child's experience at this school.	90%	8%	2%	

Survey for Parents/Carers to complete if child did not attend school during school closure.

	Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	No	These parents did not answer as their children were in school during lockdown or they left the question blank.
During school closure the school provided an appropriate amount of learning online or in paper form.	70%	16%	1%	2%	11%
During school closure the remote learning was easy to access	64%	15%	3%	2%	16%
During school closure my child's class teacher or another member of staff was available to talk to.	73%	7%	5%	1%	14%
Our family felt supported by school during school closure	71%	8%	5%	2%	14%

What do you feel are the main strengths of the school? A sample of responses.

Communication and the well-being and progress of the children.

Imaginative and engaging ways to teach the core curriculum, mixed with fun activities both indoors and out to reinforce what they are learning. I love that there is music offered each year and that the pupils are given a certain degree of freedom to learn in a way that works for each of them as individuals.

Mousehold is a warm, relaxed, nurturing school - a place that inspires confidence. The staff are dedicated, professional and welcoming, and the school is led and managed extremely smoothly. The children are treated with respect and as individuals, and the High Five! letters

are motivational and happily received. I value the fact that diversity and equality are celebrated at the school. Samba drumming, ukelele lessons, dance, capoeira etc. are great additions to the curriculum. adding to the 'whole child' positive learning experience, and the more academic subjects are seemingly taught in fun and creative ways. The phonics teaching is very effective (my son is an avid and quite fluent reader now), and overall I am delighted that my son has spent his infant years here.

Happy safe place with strong leadership

It is a lovely environment. The communication during 2020 between the school and parents was really good and has always been.

The communication and leadership of the school is fantastic. Children and parents are made to feel very welcome and genuinely cared for.

My child loves going to school.

We have a genuine impression that the school cares.

The school has dealt with the pandemic brilliantly

What areas do you think we can improve upon as a school? A sample of responses.

I realise that the reason that the classrooms are currently not open to parents one day a week is because of the pandemic. However I just wanted to say that I have really missed this opportunity and found it so helpful in understanding how my child was doing and sharing any concerns and achievements. It may be way off in distant future but I would strongly urge this to be something that is not forgotten and started again as soon as possible.

I would probably want some activities in which us parents to be able to take part with the kids, but that is something to wait and see how this pandemic will let us.

Increase ability to be part of child's learning journey even in time of crisis, for example:

- outdoor and/or remote Friday open classrooms
- ability to view child's learning book at least every half-term.

I hope one day to maybe be able to come into class but it's a sign of the times.

Will be good to be able to talk with teachers more but understand it's difficult due to covid.

Please could I support the school in educating parents that these 'pre covid' interactions on the playground are no longer acceptable- so please collect your child and move away from the social mixing.