



Mousehold Infant and Nursery School Mousehold Avenue Norwich NR3 4RS
01603 427012 officemousehold@istnorfk.co.uk www.mouseholdinfants.com

7th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had an enjoyable long weekend. We enjoyed the glimmers of sunshine this week, following the bank holiday weekend and with all of the rain and wind on Tuesday it was very welcome.

Year 2 enjoyed a virtual trip to Norwich Castle this week as part of their Castles & Dragons topic. The children met characters from the castle; Lady Isabella, Jack the rat catcher and Maud the cook. The children came up with such wonderful questions to help deepen their understanding of what life was like in the medieval times. On Tuesday we were able to live stream, via zoom, Lady Isabella and friends, where the children could ask their questions in person. It was a great enhancement to our curriculum.

Positive cases of Covid - w/b 3rd May - We have had no positive cases this week.

Friends of School – Fundraising

The virtual meeting took place on Wednesday this week and it was exciting to think of ways to promote our Friends of School group and to consider how we can fundraise moving forward. A letter was sent to you yesterday giving you some information about Friends.

Attendance

Our attendance has been low this week with children not in school due to colds. If your child has a cold they are able to come to school. I think there are inevitably going to be more colds around as children are now back at school in full. Of course if we feel your child can't manage at school then we will contact you to collect your child. If you report a child's absence please be specific about the nature of the illness as terms such as 'unwell' or 'feeling poorly' may mean we have to contact you for more details. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Safeguarding

Please remember to look at our website to remind you of how safeguarding is always the main priority at Mousehold.

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

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



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

This week I will focus on communicating what we have learnt about provision for remote learning and support in the event of a school closure. We are hoping that we won't have to close again but it is important to document our journey.

We have had some really positive feedback about the remote learning and support provided during school closure.

‘For myself and my child the zoom meetings were fantastic. They were engaging and enjoyable while being structured and educational.’

‘Mousehold always put the children and their well-being first. They have not only nurtured my child's love for learning and academic subjects but also taught him many life skills. I am impressed at how children's mental health is not only taught so appropriately but given such priority. This is most evident in the work set and support given during the months of multiple lock downs!’

The remote learning and support evolved and improved as time went on, as initially this was very new to teachers and it had to be planned very quickly. We ensured that all subject areas were covered in the offer as well as some enhancement opportunities virtually.

The weekly zoom calls from teachers for small groups, further on into school closure, proved popular and we will do more of these if we have to close again.

Teachers contacted all families whose children didn't attend school throughout the school closure. These wellbeing calls prompted us to support families with food, clothing and other essentials. We would do this again.

It was not possible to deliver learning packs to each family home safely, as much as we wanted to. This was due to staffing and risk assessments. That is why we had the system where parents could collect a learning pack if they wanted to. The online learning was more popular.

If we were to close again we would try to do more zoom assemblies and we would consider more 1:1, small group learning opportunities with the teacher via zoom.

We are in a different place to where we were a year ago where everything was new. We feel confident that the teachers have been upskilled and can continue to provide excellent remote learning if the situation occurs again.

A big thank you goes out to the teachers and support staff at Mousehold who have learnt more in the last 12 months than at any point in their career. The learning curve has been steep, with needing to learn systems of remote learning very quickly. Staff have had to consider the wellbeing and health of their own families as well as the families of Mousehold and they have coped brilliantly.

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Term Dates

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 9th July.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation,

Yours faithfully

Rebecca Westall

Headteacher

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