



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

17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We come to the end of another busy week at Mousehold. It is remarkable how quickly the children have settled in. We have had a mix of weather this week and children have enjoyed the outdoors whatever the weather! Our Capoeira lessons have started for Year 1 and our Samba drumming lessons for Year 2. Next week Year 1 start their ukulele lessons.

### Safeguarding

#### Parking and traffic outside school:

**This is a recurring issue and one that is difficult to resolve. It relies upon everyone showing respect and tolerance for others outside the school gates. We have had a few residents contact school to say their drives have been blocked and they couldn't get out and this was a worry for them. We have also had incidents where cars are half parked on the verge, blocking the road and getting very close to pedestrians. This is particularly bad on wet days when more families drive to school. Please be very mindful of young children walking, cycling and in pushchairs and be tolerant of other drivers. We really do care about the safety of our children in school as well as out of school. If we all play our part in this we can ensure everyone stays safe and well. Thank you to the majority who are tolerant and respectful.**

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/>

#### **Designated Safeguarding Leads**

**Mrs Westall, Mr Tolson, Miss Wood, Miss Balachandre**

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.**

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



## Leading through the Pandemic

Over the Summer I wrote a paper to document an important part of Mousehold history for future generations to look back on. I will add a small section to each newsletter over the next few weeks.

### Leading Through the Pandemic Rebecca Westall – Headteacher of Mousehold Infant and Nursery School August 2021

*I write this sitting on a remote beach off the west coast of Scotland. The last time I was here was two years ago- pre-coronavirus. The beach hasn't changed and the rocks the children play on are still there. The sea and the tides are still flowing and rhythmical. Reminds me of how some things have stayed the same since the start of the pandemic; even though we might feel like everything is different. Schools included.*

*Leading through the pandemic has been a privilege. To be given no choice but to just get the job done has meant that from the moment we heard schools were closing in March 2020 leading a large team of staff and families in a sensitive, decisive and kind manner has been my priority. However, it came with no experience of crisis leadership on such a large scale. This was very different to dealing with a burst water pipe, a leaky boiler, an Ofsted call or a snow closure. But all school leaders were in it together and that really helped.*

*At that point, when everything seemed new and fast paced, I remembered this quote from the book, 'The Making of a Leader' by Tom Young,*

*A constant and genuine focus on helping others to develop and shift out of their comfort zone is the essence of leadership.*

*Very quickly it became clear that the stronger a school community was before the pandemic, the more equipped they were to deal with the important task of getting through each day, each week and each month together. Immediately everyone pulled together and stepped up to help. Staff were keen to play their part in supporting the children in school who were vulnerable or from key worker families. The rotas were drawn up and staff were flexible and pushed themselves out of their comfort zone. As a leader I knew that the staff coming into school were almost all dealing with pandemic related worries at home. This could have been homeschooling their own children, living with vulnerable family members, finance related worries and almost all were concerned, to varying degrees, about their own physical and mental health and well-being. The passion, commitment and drive from staff, not just at Mousehold, but across the country, to all play their part was overwhelming. Being in school through the first Lockdown meant that our work colleagues were the only people we were seeing, beyond the people we lived with. That meant we really valued the time when we were in school and had people to talk to. We had human connection, albeit from a distance. The importance of human connection really came to the forefront.*

*To be continued next week...*

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## **Diary Dates on Website:**

In addition to the dates below you will find more dates and reminders of PE days etc. on our school website. We will keep it updated. Please follow this link:

<https://www.mouseholdinfants.com/diary-dates/>

### Diary Dates

14<sup>th</sup> October – Individual school photos in school hall

21<sup>st</sup> October- Phonics presentation for parents (zoom).

HALF TERM – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October

Week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> November – Parents Evenings – meetings with class teachers.

12<sup>th</sup> November – Children in Need – fundraising day.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 - Last day of term -

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 - First day back to school in Spring Term:

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Rebecca Westall  
Headteacher

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NCBC Toddler groups for children aged 4 and under

# 'Stay and Play' at the Hub

**Tuesdays** in term time

10am – 12noon

£2 per family

Mousehold Hub, Mousehold Ave, NR3 4RS



# CAFE TOTS

**Wednesdays** in term time

10am – 12noon

£2 per family

NCBC, St Mary's Plain, NR3 3AP

For more information:

[www.norwichcentral.org](http://www.norwichcentral.org)

Email: [nicki@norwichcentral.org](mailto:nicki@norwichcentral.org)

