

# Millhouse News

28<sup>th</sup> January 2022



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## Dates & Reminders

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 10:30am – Governor Premises Committee meeting

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Children's Mental Health Week (see more information below)

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February – last day of half term

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Non-Pupil Day

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Children return to school

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Parents Evening (virtual)

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Parents Evening (virtual)

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 5pm – Governor Personnel Committee meeting

## Parent Information

### **Breakfast Bagels**

We are now part of the National Schools Breakfast Programme which means we will receive an allocation of bagels to give to the children when they arrive at school. This will not be a whole bagel but will be a half or quarter, depending on the children's ages. The children do not have to eat this but it will be there if they would like it. We will be trialling this for half a term to see how it goes.

### **Dogs on site**

If you have to bring your dog to school when dropping off or collecting your child, we kindly ask that, if possible, the dog remains outside the gates with a responsible person or is carried / stays just inside the gate when on the school site. Thank you.

## COVID-19 Updates

We have had 18 positive cases reported to us this week; this is a decrease from last week (27 cases). We continue to follow our risk assessment for reducing transmission and managing cases.

Although the government Plan B rules have now changed, we have decided to continue with our current rules until at least half term. This means we still ask parents and visitors to wear a face covering when in the school building and staff will be asked to wear one when moving around the school and in communal areas outside of the classroom.

### **Attendance Guidance**

Unless your child tests positive and is isolating, we expect children to be in school (unless they are genuinely unwell). On most days this week we have had around 100 children absent, yet only a maximum of 24 of these were a positive COVID case. Please make sure your child attends school if they are well enough to do so. If they have a cold, have a headache or feeling a bit under the weather, please do a lateral flow test. If they are negative and are able to be up and about, send them school – we will always call you if we feel they are too unwell and need to go home.

**To ensure all members of our school community have access to support with, and learn how to manage, their mental and physical wellbeing.**

### Wellbeing & Support

#### **CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 7-11 FEBRUARY**

This year we are promoting and joining in with Children's Mental Health Week which is organised by Place2Be. The theme this year is 'Growing Together' and is about how we grow, not only physical but emotionally.

Throughout the week the children will be taking part in activities that teach them about positive mental health and identifying how they can support their own and others' mental health. They will learn about resilience and how to overcome difficult situations with the support of others.

At the end of the week, we will have a non-uniform day where the children can 'Dress to Express' and come to school wearing clothes they feel comfortable in, that show who they are or who they would like to be (more information to come).

To support parents during this week, we will be holding two informal drop-in sessions on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2-3pm. Mrs Haken, Ms Slade & Mrs Duggins will be around to speak to parents over a cuppa, who may be concerned about their own or their child's mental health or emotional wellbeing as well be on hand to answer questions and give information about any aspect of mental health and emotional wellbeing. If parents would like a private conversation, this can be arranged too.

More details about the above events will be sent out next week. In the meantime, please do reach out to us if you are concerned about a child or family member.

### **Big Garden Birdwatch**

This weekend is The Big Garden Birdwatch and we would love the children to take part and let us know next week what they saw.

All you have to do, is for 1 hour between Friday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January, count how many birds you see (only count those that land). Then go on the RSPB website and report what you see. Information and guides to identification can be found on their website <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/> and there is a short video you can watch to show you more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJdmXdw65IE>.

We look forward to hearing about it from the children next week!