



Mill Water School

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11th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

It doesn't come as a surprise to say the children have been amazing and settled beautifully into their new classes. I had lots of comments from staff about how happy they were to see the children back looking calm and ready for action. We welcome eleven new pupils this year across the school, the largest number being in EYFS. I will be looking at ways to involve parents in school life, particularly our new joiners, so look out for invitations to virtual coffee mornings and information sessions.

Class 2 teacher Zoe and husband Brendon have good news to share: they welcomed a bouncing baby boy on 1st September (after being told to hang on until September by every teacher at Mill Water) whom they named Colby Scott. Huge congratulations to them.

I have given out a few head teacher certificates already for positive attitude, improved handwriting, kindness to others and following the new school rules. It has been a very successful week.

The pupils have been encouraged to wash their hands regularly, wear masks on the bus where appropriate, have lunch in their classrooms and follow our new one way systems. They have accepted the bubbles, restricted use of shared spaces and staggered lunch times really well. Thank you for supporting us in this matter. Lots of pupils were able to tell us that "things will be different, but ok".

The number of vehicles arriving at school has increased yet again to 43 and to put that into perspective we had 19 when we opened in 2015. The logistics of beginning and end of day are very challenging, particularly around Covid safety, so please bear with us. We are working with Bicton and the DCC transport team to ensure we are meeting all H&S requirements in terms of Covid and road safety.

We have restricted non-essential visits to the school, but we were able to hold a successful orthotics clinic this week and intend to work in this way moving forward so please be assured essential clinics will happen.

Lots of classes have been making the most of our beautiful grounds and we intend to carry on in this way as long as the weather permits (or add another jumper). This is the safest place to be in regards to Covid so we are using play parks, Woodbury Common, beaches and as many open spaces as we can find for fitness, stamina, mental health and rural skills.

Please continue to send in photos of your home activities: we particularly enjoyed seeing these when you were in lock down but it is still a treat to share your successes even though we're back.

Have a good weekend, thank you for all your well wishes to the staff and I look forward to seeing everybody for Week 2.

Yours sincerely

S A Pickering
Head Teacher