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Head Teacher: Mrs K Barkley



## VIEWLEY HILL NEWSLETTER

As we reach the end of this half term, and my first half term in post as your new head teacher, I would like to thank you all for the support and engagement you have shown Viewley Hill since the school fully re-opened in September. Whilst Covid-19 has presented many challenges, we have had a very positive start to the year and one we should all be proud of.

The children have settled incredibly well. They have taken the new routines in their stride and have already made some wonderful progress since we returned. They are determined to be their very best and have shown themselves to be great Viewley Hill learners and citizens, demonstrating our Viewley values, which are at the heart of what we do.

Your children's teachers, learning support and sports staff, office and welfare staff have all worked so very hard to ensure the children feel safe, happy and motivated to learn, and so I would like to take this opportunity to thank them too for their dedication and hard work.

Well done everyone!

### HOME LEARNING

From 22nd October, all schools have to ensure that they are prepared for home learning in the event that a class bubble, or the school is required to close.

If home learning is required we will use Seesaw, Marvellous Me and the website to share learning with you. You will also continue to receive information through text messages and email.

Please ensure that we have your correct details in the office, and that you are signed up to Marvellous Me and Seesaw for schools. If you are not sure, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher as they will be happy to help you.

### COVID RESPONSE OVER HALF TERM

Please be reassured that should any cases of Covid-19 be reported over the half term that impact on our children, I will contact you directly. This will be as a message and via email.

**Should you have a confirmed case and your child needs to isolate, or a child tests positive themselves, please email the school email address as below:**

[office@viewleyhill.org.uk](mailto:office@viewleyhill.org.uk)

Whilst general emails will not be responded to, the account will be checked daily for Covid-19 related communication.

### EYFS & KEY STAGE 1 ENTRANCE

Over the half term we are improving our approach to children arriving and being collected by creating a one-way system which will allow a continuous flow.

We are grateful for your patience, and we hope the work will make it even easier for you, especially as it gets colder.

When we return you will see that the entrance and exits will be the other way round, and the gate will have been widened.

We will be there to help and any feedback will be greatly received.

### MRS C RICHARDS

It is with great sadness I share with you that a former staff member, Mrs Cathy Richards, sadly passed away earlier this month. Mrs Richards had worked in our Early Years team since 1991, and retired in 2015. She continued to volunteer with us until March this year, and was such a huge part of our school community.

Our sincere condolences and thoughts are with her family at the difficult time.

## VIEWLEY JOINS FACEBOOK!

Our new facebook page will launch on Monday 2nd November....more detail will be shared with you as we return!

## BREAKFAST CLUB

We have had an overwhelming response to breakfast club and so have had to offer places by priority.

You will have received a letter if your child has been offered a place.

We will keep reviewing places and offer more children the opportunity to attend as soon as possible.

## TIER 2 and WHAT IT MEANS

Currently Middlesbrough and the wider Tees Valley are part of Tier 2 Covid restrictions. Here is a reminder of what that means for us all.

- You are not allowed to have people into your house that do not live with you.
- You are no longer allowed to visit anyone else's home.
- You can only go to a pub, restaurant, or any indoor setting with people you live with. You cannot socialise with anyone from another house at any indoor setting.
- Social distancing is still very important and must be in place.
- The 10pm curfew is still in place.
- You can meet up to 6 people outside e.g a private garden or public place such as a park.

We understand that children would normally like to play together outside school, particularly over the holiday, but these rules do mean that they should not do so. They should also not have sleepovers or parties in the coming weeks.

**Please ensure that you keep to these rules for the safety of yourselves and the school community.**

## NEXT HALF TERM

Early next half term we will share with you dates and plans for the coming weeks, including Christmas celebrations.

Due to current restrictions we are looking at different ways to share events with you as families, and so we will keep you updated when we return next half term.

## HARVEST DONATIONS

I would like to thank those of you who kindly donated food for our Harvest Festival. The reception children put together a lovely virtual assembly which children and parents will enjoy tomorrow.

The food bank are very grateful for our donations and so thank you to you for your support.

Well done too to the Reception team for all their harvest hard work!

## PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Today your child has brought home a questionnaire. Your views are very important to me and so please complete one per family and return to school tomorrow.

The questionnaire will also be emailed out if you would prefer to return it electronically.

Thank you for your support.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank you for your continued support and wish you a safe half term holiday. We look forward to seeing you back at school on **Monday 2nd November**.

Take care and stay safe,

Best Wishes,

*Mrs K Barkley*

Head Teacher