

# Micklefield C.E. (VC) Primary School

Great North Road, Micklefield, Leeds LS25 4A

**Headteacher: Karen Wood**

**Assistant Headteacher: Caroline Loring**

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23.10.20

Dear Parents and Carers

We have reached our first half term holiday and we haven't had to collapse any of our class bubbles or close the school which is a huge achievement in these current circumstances. I would like to thank you and especially our children for following our procedures to help keep everyone safe and well.

Following some parental feedback from the letter sent out by the governors recently, I wanted to reassure you all that the school will not be closing, as I know this has been a concern for some of you. The governors and I received a letter from the LA this week which confirmed this:

The Local Authority are committed to the community in Micklefield having a good local primary school that parents choose to send their children to. Parents make a choice of school based on many factors and as additional new housing is built and occupied in the area we want those new families to be able to secure a place in their local school.

The LA have consulted on, and agreed, that Micklefield CE Primary school will expand to be able to take up to 30 children a year. That decision has not changed. However, there are currently 89 children on roll out of a PAN of 140. The number of reception admissions in 2021 is 6 out of the possible 15 eligible reception children in the school catchment area. Expanding the school to 30 per year would not be appropriate at this time –when demand for places increases, however, the expansion would indeed take place.

We would like to reassure Governors that the Local Authority remain committed to the expansion programme that should eventually become necessary to accommodate additional children once the school begins to grow. That growth has not yet started, and therefore, rather than add a further complication of a building project on site, taking the time and attention of senior staff, the decision has been taken to wait until the time is right to begin the expansion work.

For now, the school can accommodate all of the children who want to come to the school, and the focus can be fully on the improvement journey of the school.

The governors and I are passionate about enabling this school to be the best it can and I will continue to lead the school on its improvement journey with the support of the governors, LA and Diocese and build on the improvements we have already made to ensure that Micklefield C of E Primary school delivers the best education it can for the children of Micklefield.

[www.micklefieldceprimary.co.uk](http://www.micklefieldceprimary.co.uk)

**Learning and Growing Together, With Faith, Hope and Love**



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Update on our improvement journey so far:

Last autumn term the staff had training on phonics, early reading, writing, handwriting, maths mastery, supporting children with SEND and positive behaviour management.

Following this training we have:

- Introduced a new system for teaching phonics and children in the Family Unit and Class 1 have a daily 30 minute phonic session, reading books for these children are now matched to their phonic ability and guided reading sessions for groups of children take place on a daily basis. The school received ongoing support for phonics and early reading from a National English Hub and this will continue this year.
- With additional support of a Local Authority English Adviser whole class guided reading has been introduced in KS2.
- Daily handwriting sessions for all children
- Talk for Writing - which develops children's language skills, vocabulary and an interest in writing
- All maths lessons follow the maths mastery approach and we have introduced a daily arithmetic session in addition to the maths lesson. The school received support from a LA Maths Adviser and ongoing support for maths mastery from a National Maths Hub which will also continue this year.
- Improved systems are now in place for identifying children with additional needs and appropriate support and intervention is put in place.
- Teachers are using daily assessments to plan and sequence learning for their pupils

By spring term last year all of the above were beginning to be embedded into daily classroom practice. Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic has had an effect on this and some things have had to be tweaked to meet the risk assessment requirements. But now that all the children are back in school we have continued to embed our new practice in to the daily routines.

We have also been working with identified families to improve pupil attendance this is now part of Mrs Fairburn's role in school.

This year we will be focusing on developing our school curriculum with a strong focus on reading and the school environment, as well as continuing to further develop the work we started last year.

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If you would like to discuss anything in more detail or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me either by email or telephone, or call the school office to arrange a face to face meeting.

I have included with this letter a copy of our annual calendar of events, under the current circumstances we are not able to hold all the events that we would like to but hopefully as the year goes on we will be able to start things up again. In the meantime we will be using our new website and class Facebook pages to share with you all the great things that are going on in school.

We will be holding parent/teacher meetings after half term, they will have to be either via telephone or zoom. More details will sent out the first week back.

Thank you once again for supporting the school and I hope that you all have a safe and enjoyable half term holiday.

Kind regards

Miss Karen Wood

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