



Pebble Brook School
Churchill Avenue
Aylesbury
HP21 8LZ
Tel 01296 415761

"Bringing out the Best in Everyone"

Friday 16th October 2020

Dear Everyone

Thank you to everyone for your support, help and encouragement this half term.

Although we are back to "normal" it really is anything but what we are used to. However, because of the efforts of all the staff in the school and our fantastic pupils, teaching and learning is happening in the usual way and we have all enjoyed a great half term despite all the challenges.

Lessons from Lockdown

We have had a couple of informal meetings together to share our experiences from the arrival of Covid earlier this year and they have been interesting and well-received by those of us taking part. We do intend keeping these going and everyone is more than welcome to attend. The next meeting will be 12th November at 1.30pm.

Proposed Changes

Through School Council our pupils have expressed a desire to have a longer lunchtime. Class teachers have also found such a short lunchbreak to be very demanding on their time as they complete the morning, prepare for the afternoon and squeeze in a bite to eat.

We propose to go back to a 1 hour lunchbreak beginning at 12.45pm. This is exactly as it has been for a number of years leading up to the start of this school year. This means that school will now finish at **3.25pm** which is 25 minutes later than it currently finishes.

We created a shorter lunchtime to avoid traffic in the corridors but we now feel confident that we can manage limited contact effectively, given our experiences this term.

I apologise for any inconvenience. I hope you understand the reasons behind what we have done. I blame it all on a worldwide pandemic!

Parents' Evening

Thank you to everyone for taking part in a unique Parents' Evening. I have had nothing but positive feedback about using Zoom or telephone calls and I would be interested to know how you felt about it. Please drop me a line at school if you would like to discuss the use of technology or would like any follow-up from the meeting you had last week.

Parent Questionnaire

We are getting a steady flow of responses to the questionnaire and we are very grateful. Please take time to fill in the questionnaire and the Ofsted Parent View.

Hamper Raffle

Tickets are available for a Co-Op hamper we have been donated. We are going to draw it next Friday (23 October). £2 a ticket, pop in to reception if you would like to buy one.

Test Results

If your child has a COVID test, we would be really grateful for a copy of the result information (letter or text) for our records. Please send a copy to the office.

Letter from Local Authority

Please see below a letter from the Director of Education, Simon James.

Dear Parents,

We would like to thank you all for working with schools across Buckinghamshire to support the return for pupils. We know that all of you are keen to ensure that schools and pupil 'bubbles' remain open and there is a reduced need for pupils to self-isolate. We currently have over a thousand children within the county who are required to stay at home, and like you we are keen to minimise the impact on pupils and families wherever possible.

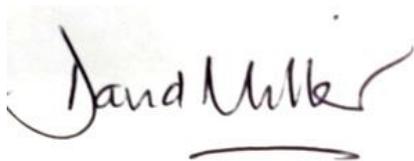
You can help with this through ensuring that government guidance is applied in your own lives, and especially when you are at or near your child's school site. Please make sure that you maintain appropriate social distances (2 metres/three paces apart) whilst collecting and dropping off your children and that you maintain hand hygiene before and after touching playground gates etc.

These simple actions, as well as wearing masks if you need to go inside at any time, will help your child's school to remain open and that children do not have to isolate at home unnecessarily. This message is endorsed by Children's Services and Public Health at Buckinghamshire Council as well as primary, secondary and special school head teachers.

Yours sincerely,

Simon James
Service Director: Education

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

David Miller