

Mugginton Church of England Primary School



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April 2021 Update for Parents—thank you everybody for the successful return to the classroom



I would like to use this space to thank our amazing staff. I asked a huge amount of them during the lockdown and a huge amount of them since our return to school. As they always do, they have delivered. They are a fantastic team who care sincerely about your children and about our school. I am lucky to work with such supportive and talented people and continue to believe that your children could not be in a better school environment than ours. Our attendance since March 8th is 98.52% across the school which is wonderful. Thank you everybody for your support.

The last year, and the most recent lockdown, have been extremely tough for everybody. Emotionally demanding and stressful, I think the Easter break has arrived at the right time—we perhaps all need some time to rest and reset before a more 'normal' return to school on Monday 19th April. Next term, it will be important to rebuild exactly what it is which makes Mugginton such a wonderful school—trusting, open relationships between staff, children and parents; a fun-packed and exciting curriculum and the opportunity for all to succeed and be celebrated. In some ways, a small school like ours is more affected by prolonged periods of school closure than are larger schools because we are so 'open'. I can't wait for the Summer Term to begin!

Living, Laughing, Learning Together

Summer Term 2021

I am very excited for the summer term. We will be returning to school after a (hopefully!) restorative two-week break rather than from a lockdown. I think this is an important difference and it is my ambition that school runs as it did in Summer 2019 because this is what is in the best interests of the children. With this in mind, key points are listed below:

- The 'Big Idea' for the new term is 'What Makes a Hero?'. We will learn about figures such as Nelson Mandela but also more local people such as intensive care nurses and super-market workers. The juniors will read Brightstorm by Vashti Hardy and learn about the Tudors (which was the unanimous choice of the children!).
- As always, school will run focussed maths and English lessons from 9.15am until lunchtime. Whilst the summer term allows for more outdoor learning and sports, due to the loss of school time from the lockdown it is important that we maintain our high quality maths and English teaching until at least the penultimate week of July. We remain committed to a broad and balanced curriculum and are excited to begin our new Big Idea.
- Intervention work with Mrs Dennis (Wednesday to Friday) and Mr Dawson (three mornings per week) will continue as we invest money received from the government's 'Catch-Up Premium' to support children to make accelerated academic progress.
- It remains my ambition for the juniors to have a summer production in half-term 2 and for a whole school sports day at the cricket pitch to be held. I have contacted the cricket club to ask for their permission to use the field after Easter.
- I am keen to re-establish our morning system where parents can come into school with their child to greet their teacher and put things away ready. I have missed this over the last year. It goes without saying that safety is paramount so I would like to trial a system where parents with a child in the infants are able to come into school to drop off first. Hopefully we can return to this system for all parents soon. If you are uncomfortable doing this then, of course, feel free to continue dropping your child off outside.



Mugginton Church of England Primary School Timetable 2021

(School Day 9am – 3.15pm)



	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			Friday		
9am	REGISTRATION / Reading / Early Morning Work														
	R/Y1	Middle	Junior	R/Y1	Middle	Junior	R/Y1	Middle	Junior	R/Y1	Middle	Junior	R/Y1	Middle	Junior
9.30 - 10.30	English Phonics CP	English/ Big Idea	English/ Big Idea	English Phonics CP	English/ Big Idea	English/ Big Idea	English Phonics CP	English/ Big Idea	English/ Big Idea	English Phonics CP	English/ Big Idea	English/ Big Idea	English Phonics CP	English Spelling	English Spelling
PLAYTIME	DW			JG			PW			HS			EJ		
10.50 - 11.50	Maths CP	Maths No. Club	Maths No. Club	Maths CP	Maths	Maths	Maths CP	Maths	Maths	Maths CP	Maths	Maths	Maths CP	Maths	Maths
	Reading / Intervention			Mugginton Mile			Reading / Intervention			Mugginton Mile			11.45 – Celebration Worship		
LUNCHTIME															
1.00 - 3.00	Infants Reading	Juniors Reading		Infants Reading	Juniors Reading		Infants Reading	Juniors Reading		Infants Reading	Juniors Reading		Infants Reading	Juniors Reading	
	CP P.E.	Computing		CP PSHCE /Japanese	Music		CP Science	Science		CP RE	Humanities		Forest Friday		
	Computing	PE		Music	PSHCE /Japanese		Art/DT	Art/DT		Humanities	RE				
Collective Worship	JG			(Collective Worship Crew)			DW / AH			EJ (singing)					
AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – 3.15pm – 4.30pm															
	Premier Sports			Football			Games club			Games to Music			ICT club		

CP – Continuous Provision / Independent Learning

Living, Laughing, Learning Together

Parents Evening

Thank you for finding the time to meet with me and with staff to discuss your child's progress. I do not know of another primary school which has offered this feedback to parents so quickly after lockdown—thank you again to my staff.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my appointments and had some useful, constructive feedback which has helped to inform planning for the next half-term and the detail in this newsletter. I would like to re-emphasise that I am available almost every morning and after school to speak with you and try my best to reply to all emails I receive as quickly as possible—you do not need to wait for the next parents evening if you have feedback, positive or otherwise. Please remember, though, that my staff are like everybody else in deserving the courtesy of being spoken to politely and with respect at all times.

A brief reminder about the role of parent governors too, please. They can be placed in quite an awkward situation if a parent consults them privately without first bringing the matter to the school's attention:

'The role of a parent governor is not as a spokesperson for the views of parents. They are the same as any other governor on the board, providing a 'parental viewpoint' i.e. representative parents rather than representatives of parents.' (Maintained School Governance – Structures and Role Descriptors Page 14)

In short, a parent governor cannot offer confidentiality and cannot be a 'sounding board'. A parent governor can offer you guidance on where to find further information about school matters and can help guide you in how best to address a query.

Please remember, though, that the people one or two of you might be discussing are human beings who have found the last year as challenging and exhausting as everybody else. One of the few frustrations of my job is that I cannot share with you fully how hard my staff work and how much they care about the welfare and development of your children.

Staffing for the Summer Term

Our excellent staff-pupil ratios remain, despite Mrs Flynn and her lovely family emigrating to New Zealand. In the Junior Class, I will continue to teach every morning alongside Mr Wraith (currently HLTA) and Mrs Sweeney (HLTA) with Mr Dawson (QTS) teaching science every Wednesday afternoon. Tuesdays will continue to be Corrina's music lesson followed by PSHCE and Monday is PE, including the return of tennis for the juniors!

In the Infants, Mrs Wallen will continue to work full-time, whilst Mrs Hardwick works on Wednesdays and Thursdays for this term before hopefully increasing her hours again. Mr Dawson will work with the children in the Middle Group for three days each week and Miss Sutton (TA) and Miss Beresford (trainee teacher) will continue to work in the class every morning.

Mrs Dennis will continue to run individual and small-group interventions every Wednesday to Friday. In short, our 57 children have access to 5 qualified teachers/early years teachers, two full time Higher Level Teaching Assistants, one teaching assistant each morning, a trainee teacher every day and Corrina for music lessons as well as our colleagues from Premier Sports on Mondays and at after-school club.

The Village Hall Car Park

I have been contacted by the Chair of the Village Hall Committee who is very happy to see parents use the Village Hall Car Park for drop off and collection. However, some parents do not leave promptly allowing their children to run around the outside of the hall, up and down the car park and onto the Village Hall field. The Chair is a former headteacher and is understandably concerned that a child could be injured. In addition, community groups will begin to return to the Village Hall after Easter and could be disturbed. In short, the Chair and I ask that you use the Village Hall car park to pick up and drop off only. Thank you for your understanding.

Fitbits

They are coming, just nowhere near as quickly as I would like them to! Amazon are not keen on our invoice payment system which has led to the delay. Watch this space!

Junior Classroom Decoration

During the Easter break, the junior classroom will be re-painted before new blinds are put up and new tables ordered. Building-maintenance is high on our list of priorities and we are excited to see the children's faces when they see their refreshed classroom. I apologise to parents who have seen enormous stacks of books and resources in the infant classroom, the decorators have requested an entirely empty classroom before they can begin.....

Proposed Building Works

I am delighted to report that the planning application for the playground refurbishment was approved and we are entering negotiations with a builder to do the work as soon as possible, which is very exciting. A decision on the planning application for the re-build and extension of the entrance area is expected on April 5th. My fingers and toes are crossed!

Selected Key Dates

Mon 19th April	Return to school
Mon 3rd May	Bank Holiday
Fri 28th May	End of Term Service
Mon 7th June	Back to school
Thurs 10th June	New Reception Parents Meeting 5pm
Thurs 17th June	Reception Starter Taster Morning
Weds 23rd June	Reception Starter Taster Morning
Thurs 24th June	Junior Play 2pm and 6pm
Fri 25th & Mon 28th June	INSET Days
Thurs 1st July	Reception Starter Taster Morning
Fri 2nd July	Sports Day
6th—8th July	QEGS Y6 Transition Days
Mon 12th July	Reports Sent Out
Weds 21st July	Leavers' Service