



**MIDHURST C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**Headteacher: Mrs S Clarke**

April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, it is my sincere hope above anything else that this letter finds you and your families safe and well at this difficult time.

Under normal circumstances the aim of this communication is to bring a certain degree of happiness to families with further confirmation that your child has a place at the school of your choice, some relief that you have survived the admissions process and maybe slight apprehension and excitement as you look ahead to your child starting 'big school'. However, right now, everything is very different. Midhurst Primary School remains closed to all but a few children and many families are managing lockdown as best they can. At the time of writing this I have no guidance on when schools will start to reopen and what this will look like. I sincerely hope that by September some degree of normality will return to school life with the safety and wellbeing of all children and staff being paramount but as I am sure you will appreciate; I really cannot promise anything.

However, trying hard to put that to one side for now, I would very much like to welcome you to Midhurst C of E Primary School. We are so pleased you will be joining our school community - an excellent place for your children to make friends, grow and learn. We are proud to have been recognised by Ofsted as a good school with plans in place to continually strive to do the very best for our families.

We believe in offering a wide range of learning, fun and sporting activities to all our children. As well as achieving well in their studies the children also excel in art, music and sports; all of which has been enhanced by our studies in the woods as part of our Forest School! Our ethos is very much about getting to know the children in our care, understanding their needs, supporting and challenging them to grow and develop into the very best they can be in everything they do. When children leave this school, they are confident, independent and caring youngsters, well prepared for the next phase of their education.

Your children will spend each day in a stimulating and exciting environment which offers well-resourced spaces, both inside and out, for play and learning. Our excellent team will support and guide children through the Early Years Foundation Stage until they are ready to move into the National Curriculum. Every child will be given every chance to learn and progress at just the right pace. They will have the security of their own space and 'teachers' but will also quickly feel part of the whole school – playing and eating with other children, attending assembly and being involved in other cross key stage activities.

Ordinarily we would invite you to a New Parents Evening held in mid-June, however even if school is open I think we can safely assume that a mass gathering of parents in a small hall will be neither wise nor permissible. We are busy thinking how best to share further information with you and will be in touch when this has been decided. Suggestions so far include providing a page on the school website specifically for new parents, where we can post the slide show we would have shared at the New Parents Evening with notes to provide further detail. Sharing a virtual tour of the school, in particular the Early Years classroom, possibly even made by some of our younger keyworker children. And finally providing a secure online link to Miss Channon, our EYFS teacher, reading some favourite stories for your children to listen to. These are just ideas at the moment and we will of course be in touch when these have been finalised.

We are well aware that a positive transition to school is important for every child and their family and we will do our level best, even given the current situation, to ensure your child's start is a positive and happy one. You are all uppermost in our thoughts and we absolutely understand that you may have questions you would like answered and

concerns to raise. Please be assured that we will answer these as soon as we have a greater understanding of how school will be operating come September.

Included with this letter is a 'School Place Acceptance form for September 2020'. As a first step this form needs to be completed and returned to us, **with a copy of your 2020/21 Council Tax statement**, as proof of your address **by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May**. We have included an SAE for this return to make life easier for you, however you are equally welcome to push this through the school letterbox if you prefer. We are able to help with the copying of Council Tax statements if this is required, the school office is manned from 9am to 3.25pm, we just ask you to respect social distancing rules. On receipt of this form we will then send out a weightier pack of information with further forms to complete and information to read.

I know that we are all really looking forward to meeting you and your child when it is safe to do so. Until then take good care, look after each other and stay well.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Clarke  
Headteacher.