



Oxfordshire County Council
Mill Lane Community Primary School
The Windmill Community Nursery
Mill Lane Chinnor Oxfordshire OX39 4RF

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Newsletter

Number 1

Thursday 6th September 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new year at Mill Lane. I would like to welcome all the new families to the school as children start in the Reception Class. I am sure the Reception children will soon settle in to life at Mill Lane and we look forward to watching them grow as they move up through the school. We are also welcoming 2 new teachers to our school: Mrs Emma Dowley will be teaching Class 5 and Miss Louisa Roach will be teaching Class 6. I am sure they will enjoy the challenge of their new class.

Over the summer we have been busy decorating areas in the school and changing things around a bit. The Year 3 and 4 children are now in a shared classroom area with their own classroom space and a large shared area. Their old classrooms in the huts have been converted to an art room and the old Year 4 class is now a music room. The paint in the hall has been freshened up as well as the staffroom and class 2. We have also created an exhibition area opposite the library to celebrate the children's work. The school is looking very welcoming and we are proud of the environment we have created for the children. I am sure you will see a difference when you visit the school.

School Day

Here is a quick reminder of the times throughout the school day. The children in Reception start at 9am and parents wait on the Early Years playground with their children until the doors open. The Reception Class finishes at 3.05pm and parents can wait on the same playground until their children are let out of class. The adults working in the Reception Class will only let the children leave when they see an adult the child can go home with. Please inform the class teacher if someone different is collecting your child. This can be done at drop off or you can ring the office at any time during the day. We will have to call parents to check if someone different is collecting a child and we haven't been informed as this is part of our safeguarding procedures.

Children in KS1 start at 8.50am and finish at 3.05pm. The Year 1 children wait on the Early Years playground until an adult opens the door to let them in. At the end of the day, Year 1 parents can wait on the Early Years playground as their children will be picked up from outside their classroom. Their teacher will ensure they go to the adult who is picking them up.

In the morning, the Year 2 children come through the gate on their own and wait on the KS1 playground until an adult opens the class doors. For the first week and a half (until 14th September) children can come through on to the playground with their parents just to help them settle. At the end of the day, Year 2 parents can wait for their children on the KS1 playground and the children will leave via the door that leads on to the playground from their class.

Children in KS2 start at 8.50am and finish at 3.15pm. In the morning children walk round to the KS2 playground. Children should not arrive at school before 8.40am. At the end of the day parents of children in KS2 should walk round to the KS2 playground. We ask that no parents come through the side gate to wait on the playgrounds to collect their children before 3pm as PE lessons may still be going on. If your child

will be walking home on their own, it would help us to have it confirmed in writing that they are allowed to leave on their own.

School drop off and collection

Please take care when dropping off your children and please do not to drop off your child or stop in front of the school gates. White's Field car park is always busy at the start and end of the day so could I remind you to take care when using the car park.

Children arriving after 9.00am need to enter the school via the main entrance and reception. Children arriving after 9.30am will be marked as absent for that session. If your child is unwell, please ring the school as soon as possible (preferably before 9.30am) and inform us of the reason for the absence so we can maintain accurate records.

Scooters and Bikes

We are more than happy for the children to ride their bikes or scooters to school. However, if your child brings a scooter or bike they should not ride it at any time on school grounds; this includes the pathway which runs alongside White's Field as this is generally very busy with adults and children and is not very wide. The children should also not ride their scooters or bicycles on the path at the front of the school or through the main gates. When children ride a bike to school they must wear a cycle helmet. Children can park their bikes and scooters in the racks outside of the hall.

Breakfast club / After school club

Mrs Hipwell, Mrs Worley and Mrs Walker continue to run our breakfast club. Children can arrive at the breakfast club any time after 8am and they need to go around to the small hall via the front entrance. You do not need to book to use the club; it is just a case of turning up when you would like to. We have taken the decision to increase the charge we make for children using the breakfast club. From Monday 10th September 2018, the charge will increase from 50p to £1. This is to cover the cost of supervising the children and offering a range of resources and activities for the children.

The school continues to run an after-school club every day from 3.05pm – 5.30pm. The club takes place in the small hall. The children do a range of activities including sports, cooking, arts and crafts. Please contact the office if you would like more information on the after-school club. Mrs Caroline Hiley and I will be managing the administration side of the after school club.

The school is closed on Friday 5th October for an INSET day. We will be offering a holiday club for this day if there is a big enough demand. We will shortly send out more information.

Early Morning Sports Club

The multi sports club will continue to be running every Monday and Wednesday morning from 11th September. The club starts at 8am and finishes at 8.40am in time for the start of school. There is no need to book and you don't even have to turn up every morning. Just turn up when you feel ready to tackle some early morning exercise.

Mother and toddler group

The school will continue to run a weekly mother and toddler group on a Friday in the small hall. The sessions run from 9.15am – 11.15am and costs £1.50. There is tea and coffee available and lots of activities are available for the children to experience. It is a great opportunity for children to experience a school environment and for parents and carers to meet and have a chat; there is no need to book. Mrs Emma Rockall will continue to supervise the sessions. The toddler group has access to the library, the KS2 playground and Gruffland as well as having musical sessions with Mrs Thompson. Please feel free to drop in at any time in the morning.

Choir

The junior choir (Year 4 – 6) will be starting on Thursday 13th September. The children should not arrive earlier than 8.15am for an 8.20am start. It will take place as usual in the big hall and the children will be learning the songs for the Young Voices concert which is a fantastic event in February for the children to participate in. Children attending choir should enter school via the front entrance.

The small choir (Year 1 – 3) will start on Friday 14th September at 8.45am in the big hall. Children who are attending the small choir should enter school via the side gate as usual and they will be able to get in to the big hall via the doors by the pathway. The children will be given regular reminders when they come in on a Friday to help them remember.

School Photographs

This year the school photographer will be in Friday 12th October. On this day the photographer will be taking individual children's photos as well as sibling groups. Due to very few people buying class photographs over the last few years, the photographer will only be taking class photos for F1 and Year 6.

Open Morning

We will be holding an open morning for parents on Wednesday 17th October at 9.30am – 11.30am. Unfortunately, we had to cancel this last year, but we are keen to show off the school. As part of this morning, the school staff will be baking some lovely (I hope) cakes to sell in aid of MacMillan Cancer so drop in to the small hall for some refreshments and buy one of our delicious cakes to help us raise money for such a good cause. It will also be an opportunity for parents to look around the school during the morning to view all the classrooms and to see the range of activities that go on in each of the classrooms.

Foundation Stage Open Day

We will be holding 3 open days for parents of nursery and reception age children who will be looking for a place for their child. The dates and times are as follows:

Monday 24th September 9.30 – 11.30 and 1.30 – 2.45

Wednesday 17th October 9.30 – 11.30 and 1.30 – 2.45

Monday 5th November 9.30 – 11.30 and 1.30 – 2.45

Come along and see how the nursery and reception class are set up and meet the adults who work in both classes.

Joyful Music Tuition

There are currently spaces for new students to start piano, guitar, ukulele and drum lessons at school. Spaces for individual tuition are offered on a first come, first served basis. To book lessons on any of these instruments, or just to register your interest, please fill out the Joyful Music Tuition form (available from the school office) and return it to the Joyful Music office address on the form. All instruments are offered to children in Year 1 and above, depending on the size of your child.

Guitar Club will run again this term after school on a Monday (3.20 to 3.50pm). It is led by the school guitar tutor, Mr Jeff Menday, with the primary objective of having **fun!** Guitar Club is offered to children in Years 2-6, providing an opportunity to try out playing the guitar for six or twelve weeks in a group setting without having to commit for the longer term. No experience is necessary – complete beginners are welcome – and guitars will be available for children who don't own their own. Guitar Club costs £30 for six weeks, after which there is no obligation to continue. If your child would like to attend Guitar Club in Term 1, please contact the Joyful Music office on 01844 351193 as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Tineke van der Ploeg

Term Dates:

Please find below a list of term dates for this year:

Term 1: Thursday 6th Sept – Friday 19th Oct

Term 2: Monday 29th Oct – Friday 21st Dec

Term 3: Monday 7th Jan – Friday 15th Feb

Term 4: Monday 25th Feb – Friday 5th April

Term 5: Wednesday 24th April – Friday 24th May

Term 6: Tuesday 4th June – Wednesday 24th July

Tuesday 4th & Wednesday 5th September INSET

Friday 5th October INSET

Tuesday 23rd April INSET

Monday 3rd June INSET

Diary Dates

Term 1

Thursday 6th September: Children return to school

Thursday 13th September: 8.15am Upper KS2 choir starts

Friday 14th September: 8.45am Little choir starts

Monday 17th September: 7pm Year 6 Kilvrough Parent meeting

Monday 17th September: 8pm MLSA AGM

Friday 21st September: Jungle Book show

Monday 24th September: Foundation Stage Open Day 9.30 – 11.30 & 1.30 – 2.45

Wednesday 26th September: 9am FS coffee morning

Tuesday 2nd October: 6pm Year 5 school journey meeting

Wednesday 3rd October: 9.15am Harvest festival

Wednesday 3rd October: LWS Year 6 parent evening (5.30pm tour / 7pm talk)

Friday 5th October: School closed INSET day (Holiday Club open)

Tuesday 9th October: 8.40am – 10am Year 6 children visit LWS

Thursday 11th October: Year 6 visit I.M.Ps

Thursday 11th October: 9am – 10am Year 1 & 2 coffee morning

Friday 12th October: School Photographer

Saturday 13th October: 5.30pm MLSA family bingo

Wednesday 17th October: Foundation Stage Open Day 9.30 – 11.30 & 1.30 – 2.45

Wednesday 17th October: Whole school open morning

Wednesday 17th October: 7.00pm Year 6 LWS information evening at Mill Lane School

Friday 19th October: Last day of term

Term 2

Monday 29th October – Friday 2nd November: Year 6 school journey

Monday 29th October: Children return to school

Friday 2nd November: 6pm MLSA fireworks night

Monday 5th November: FS Open Day 9.30 – 11.30 & 1.30 – 2.45

Tuesday 6th November: Year 1 – 5 Flu vaccinations

Monday 12th November: Anti bullying week

Monday 26th November: 3.30pm – 6.30pm Parent consultations

Wednesday 28th November: 5.30pm – 8.30pm Parent consultations

Friday 30th November: 6pm Christmas Bazaar

Monday 10th December: 10am Reception Class Christmas dress rehearsal

Tuesday 11th December: 2pm Reception Class Christmas performance

Tuesday 11th December: 10am KS2 Christmas dress rehearsal

Wednesday 12th December: 2pm & 7pm KS2 Christmas performance

Thursday 13th December: Panto

Friday 14th December: MLSA disco

Monday 17th December: 2pm KS1 Christmas dress rehearsal

Tuesday 18th December: 2pm KS1 Christmas performance

Wednesday 19th December: Christmas dinner

Friday 21st December: Last day of term. 1.15pm Family Assembly. 2.00pm Early closing

Monday 7th January: Children return to school