

December 2017_D



Dear Parents / Carers

I am delighted to say that Miss Fitzpatrick is now back in school on a phased return. She will be popping in and out of school so you might see her around. She is very excited to be back in school and looking forward to getting fully involved once more. I am sure you will join me in wishing her a warm welcome back and to say that we are all very pleased to see her back at the helm of Milton Park once more. On a separate note I would like to share with you all that I have been given a wonderful opportunity within one of our other MAT schools. I shall be leaving Milton Park at the end of this term to take up the role of Headteacher at Walliscote Primary until the end of this academic year. After 25 years teaching at Milton Park, it has not been an easy decision but I am excited about the challenges that lie ahead. I would like to thank all the wonderful staff, pupils and parents who have helped to create so many special memories that I take with me on the next chapter of my adventure.

It has been another very busy term with lots of amazing learning taking place in all the classes. Years 1, 2 and 3 visited the Odeon cinema to watch Cars 3 the movie. The children came back buzzing with excitement and a wonderful time was had by all. Year 5 visited Cadbury World as part of their Mayan topic. A highlight of the day was the Mayan workshop where the children learnt about how the Mayan's discovered the cocoa beans and of course got to taste some of the yummy chocolate! Year 4 took part in a workshop by The Dog's Trust where they learnt about responsible dog ownership and how to stay safe around dogs. Year 3 and year 4 also took part in Raise The Roof, a singing festival with several other local primary schools, where they celebrated songs from around the world.

I am very much looking forward to all the Christmas productions. Rehearsals are well under way and there are some wonderful sounds to be heard as I walk around the school. Some staffing news, we would like to share with you all that Linda O'Coy left Milton Park Primary School on 31st October 2017 after a much appreciated 5 years of service at the school. We wish Linda well for the future.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy spending some quality time with your children/family and friends. **The last day of school is Tuesday 19th December and we all return on Thursday 4th January 2018.**

Gail Matter

Acting Headteacher



Uniform: We believe that the wearing of school uniform encourages children to take pride in their appearance and gives them a sense of belonging to Milton Park Primary School. We feel that the children's appearance will help encourage high standards of behaviour and personal achievement. Also, every child must have a PE kit in school.

Please note that all jewellery is not permitted during PE or Swimming. Children will need to have earrings and any other jewellery removed before these classes.

Parking: We ask that you do not park on the yellow zig zags outside school. Please park sensibly and responsibly, particularly around the areas of Milton Park Road, Fairfield Close and Clarkson Avenue. We will report offenders to the Police for inappropriate and dangerous parking. Residents are becoming increasingly frustrated as they cannot access their driveways when parents are parking inconsiderately across their drives. We have advised them to take registration numbers and pass to the Police.

PE Days:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y4 Swimming			Year 1 (am)	EYFS
Year 5 PE (pm)	Year 2 PE	Year 4 PE	Year 3 (pm)	Year 6 (pm)

Please ensure that your child has the correct PE Kit in school for the relevant day.

Anti-bullying Week During November Clevedon Pier held an exhibition called 'Taking a Big Breath of Fresh Air' as part of the National Anti-Bullying Week 2017. Local pupil Nik Nikiforou created the exhibition and asked school children to make origami cranes as symbols of peace and kindness. Years 4, 5 and 6 made cranes which were then displayed in the exhibition.



Nativityfest: Years 2 and 3 have made angels as part of a display being created by St Peters Church, Milton. This will be displayed as part of the Heavenly Host display at the church's Nativityfest

Children in Need: We raised a massive **£444.81** for children in need. Children dressed in spots and Pudsey costumes, we had cake sales and a variety of activities.

Dogs Trust: We had a visitor from Dogs Trust who held an assembly where she talked about safety around dogs and also completed workshops with Years 2 and 4. We learnt about how to care for dogs and being a responsible owner.



Explorers Escape: Ben and Charlie came to visit us before they leave on an expedition to the Blue Nile where they will Stand Up Paddleboard the length of the Blue Nile before the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam construction is completed. The children were told that the expedition will last approximately 35 days and that Ben and Charlie will live off what they can carry on their paddleboards. We will be keeping up to date with the expedition and finding out about environmental impacts caused by the Dam. Click on the link below to find out more information on their amazing adventure.

<http://www.explorersescape.com/education.html>

Breakfast Club: £3.00 per session 7.45-8.30am Monday to Friday. Advance booking with payments prior to attending only. Please note that if your child is booked in and does not attend without contacting us you will still be charged.

Tel: 07517 859876

Afterschool Club: £10.00 per session 3.15-6.00pm Monday to Friday. Advance Bookings with payments prior to attending only.

Please note that if your child is booked in and does not attend without contacting us you will still be charged. **Tel: 07516 555149**

Attendance and Term-Time Holidays: Milton Park is a good school (OFSTED 2017) and we recognise the importance of regular attendance as a key factor in our pupils' achievement. It is therefore essential that parents work in partnership with the school and understand that term time holidays have a detrimental effect on their children's education.

A child with 90% attendance at the end of the school year will have missed ½ a day per week and that is equivalent to 4 weeks absence.

Greater attention is now paid to overall absence by the Department for Education and by OFSTED. Therefore **we do not authorise any term time absences for holidays** and will only authorise an absence in exceptional circumstances. All such unauthorised absences will be referred to the Local Authority Education Welfare Department for issue of a Fixed Penalty fine.

A reminder of the school times;

Reception – 9.00am - 3.10pm (Doors open at 08.40am)

Rest of School - 8.45am - 3.15pm (Doors open at 08.30am)

It is parents responsibility to notify the school in the event of a child's absence. This needs to be done each day either in person, by telephone or via email. Recently many parents have failed to do this. If we do not receive notification as to the reason for absence your child will be recorded as having an unauthorised absence.

Payments: A big thank you to all of the parents/carers that have been paying in advance for their school meals. We will continue to monitor the lunch payments each week and will be unable to provide a school lunch where payment has not been received in advance. We have had lots of parents activate their Parentpay account this term which is the quickest and most secure way to make your payments for meals, clubs and trips. If you need any support in setting up your Parentpay account please see Mrs Talbot in the Finance Office.

Christmas: The PTA are pleased to announce that we raised a wonderful £1200 at the Christmas Fayre. We all really enjoyed the Turkey rolls, the snow globe, the stalls and of course the visit from Santa and his elves. We are looking forward to our next event which will be a Spring Fayre. Look out for information after Christmas.





Dates for the Diary

11th December	Aladdin Pantomime visits Milton Park
11th December	Year 1 Christmas Concert
12th December	Year 3 Christmas Concert (9.30am)
12th December	Year 2 Christmas Concert (10.45am)
12th December	Year 4 Christmas Concert (1.30pm)
12th December	Year 5 Christmas Concert (2.30pm)
13th December	Christmas Dinner
13th December	Year 6 Christmas Concert (2.30pm)
14th December	Year 1, 2 & 3 Trip to Bristol Zoo
14th December	Year 4 visiting Worle Community School
15th December	Christmas Jumper Day
15th December	Year 4 visiting St Peters Church
15th December	Milton Choir visit Weston Museum (5.30pm)
18th December	Milton Park Choir singing at Heathwood Nursing Home
18th December	EYFS Play (2.00pm)
19th December	EYFS Play (9.30am)
19th December	Last Day of Term (Finish normal time)
4th January 2018	Back to school
9th January	Year 5 Trip to We the Curious (@ Bristol)
10th January	Year 6 Trip to Life Skills
29th January	National Story Telling Week

CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2018

If you have a child due to start in Reception in September 2018 you need to apply for your child's school place by **15th January 2018**. If you have access to the internet you can apply online at <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/Education>