

Millhouse News

3rd November 2023



Email: admin@millhouse.essex.sch.uk

Tel: 01268 543584

Dates & Reminders

Monday 6th November

- Class 17 visit to Wat Tyler Park
- 2:30pm Year 1 Parents Phonic Workshop

Tuesday 7th November – Gardening Club visiting
Woodbury Court

Wednesday 8th November – Classes 18 & 19 visit to
Wat Tyler Park

Thursday 9th November, 1:45pm – Parent Anxiety
Workshop

Friday 10th November

- Remembrance Assemblies
- 3:15pm Christmas Jumper Swap on KS2
playground

Monday 13th November – Year 5 Online Safety
Roadshow (virtual)

Friday 17th November – Children in Need Fundraising
Day

Wednesday 20th December – Last Day of Term

Parent Information

Parent Communication

If a child's parents do not live together and both parents would like to receive communications from school, then please make sure we have both parents listed as a contact for your child. This includes name and email address. We are unable to send any communications to parents who are not listed on our system.

Parent Workshops

An email was sent earlier today about workshops that are running for parents this term. Please click on the links provided in this email to book a place.

Mobile Phones

Whilst we appreciate some of our children bring a mobile phone to school, please remind them that they must not be used in school or on school grounds and must be placed in their class phone box for storage during the day. Phones will be confiscated if these rules are not followed.

Attendance

Our overall attendance last half term was 94.8%. This is a big improvement from this time last year – thank you. We still have a lot of work to do to improve this further, so we appreciate all parents working with us to get this figure higher.

For your information, last half term...

3 days absent = 90% attendance

5 days absent = 86%

7 days absent = 80%

The national expectation is that all children have at least 95% attendance.



The school council members would like to raise money for the Children in Need appeal.

They have asked Mr Shadbolt to add "Bear Pees" to PE sessions that week.

They have also decided that we will have Non-Uniform day (wear spots if you have something in your wardrobe with spots on) and ask for donations to the charity to be made to the attached link.

Not only that but between them they will lead assemblies on November 17th to tell everyone in school about the work done by the Children in Need charity.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=12639>



Relationship & Sex Education

Last year we started to review our relationships & sex education provision, in line with the new statutory requirements for relationship education and updated PSHE curriculum. This is in its final draft and will be completed later this term. There is no teaching of sex education before this is completed.

As you may be aware, the Education Secretary has asked schools to ensure that prior to teaching Sex Education, that information is freely shared with parents. When we have finalised our curriculum, we will share what is being taught in each year group with parents and will offer a chance for parents to come in to discuss this should they wish to do so.

YEAR GROUP UPDATES

Each half term we would like to let you know what each year group had been doing and what their plans are for the coming half term.

Nursery

In Nursery this half term we have:

1. All settled into Nursery and are able to come away from our parents much happier.
2. Enjoyed singing our number nursery rhymes each day.
3. Enjoyed learning all about ourselves and can name the different parts of our bodies, the children loved the Funnybones stories.

Next half term we are going to practice handwashing and sneezing into our elbows! As well as learning all about space and practicing for our first ever Nativity show.

Reception

We have been learning about objects people used in their homes in the past.

We talked about who is in our family.

We talked about where we lived and looked at simple maps.

Next half term:

We will be learning about how people around the world celebrate special times.

We will be looking at how the natural world changes in the Autumn and Winter.

We will be learning songs to perform to our parents.

Year 1

We have enjoyed:

- A teddy bears' picnic
- The Thorndon Country Park Gruffalo trail linked to our literacy and topic

We have improved and made progress in:

- Phonics and using the new scheme
- Our handwriting and sentence structure.

We are looking forward to:

- Learning about children from the past
- A Victorian school (at Millhouse)
- Being in the nativity

We are working on:

- Continuing our writing progress
- Fluency in reading
- Taking the next steps in maths working towards 20

Year 2

Year 2 have enjoyed learning about animals this half term. We have recapped the animals' classes and what herbivores, omnivores and carnivores eat.

We have been fantastic mathematicians and shown amazing knowledge of place value, addition and subtraction.

We've also loved writing postcards to our Meerkat friend Sonny telling him all about Basildon.

Next half term we're looking forward to learning about London and some historical events like the Great Fire and The Gunpowder Plot, finding out how to make moving pictures with levers and performing our Christmas concert to the parents on the 12th, 13th and 14th of December!

Year 3

Year 3 have enjoyed learning to play the recorder. We have been using the notes b a g and f and can now play hot cross buns!

We have been inspired by John Bricks and created clay sculptures of robots, buildings and vehicles. We've also caught the timetable rockstar bug and have loved using this in class and at home!

Next half term we're looking forward to learning to sew, finding out if the Wild West was really wild and performing our Christmas concert to the parents in December!

Year 4

Year 4 children have worked on the following:

- We have had a big focus on handwriting and our times tables.
- We had a big TT Rockstars battle across the year to help us practise our times tables. The top 3 children in each class got a certificate and class 11 were the overall winners!
- We have learnt place value and addition and subtraction in Maths.
- We learnt about circuits, built our own and even incorporated them into our designs for Anglo-Saxon warning signals.
- We learnt and performed Harvest poems to year 3 in our special Harvest assembly.
- Class 12 have been learning to swim. Class 10 and 11 are going to be learning to swim this half term.

Year 5

In year 5:

- We have been learning about the history of Ancient Egypt.
- We mummified a banana and made a sarcophagus out of clay.

This half term we will be focusing on the geography of Egypt, including the River Nile, and designing and sewing a bag.

Year 6

The children in Year 6...

- Have settled in classes & sets
- Worked hard with high expectations
- Applied for Student Leader jobs
- Using more practice pens & pen licences
- Using pencils with grips if needed
- Completed first sats practice papers
- Completed first writing assessment
- Created some WW2 artwork for display
- Took part in Poetry workshops online attended & completed a class poem for Remembrance Day
- Enjoyed attending after school clubs

This half term we...

- Are looking forward to doing our new leadership roles and being Mental Health Champions
- Going to Wat Tyler Park to enrich our World War 2 topic.

Windmill

In **Windmill One** we have had a busy half term focusing on the topic "All About Me". We have:

- been working hard to develop our counting and subitising skills in maths.
- worked on our pencil grip and control by engaging in fine motor activities and pattern making. Some of us have even been writing about our families and ourselves!
- painted fantastic self portraits.

Next term our topic will be "Dinosaurs". We will be learning about the different types of dinosaurs and engaging in shared writing of facts about these dinosaurs. We will be continuing to develop our maths skills by counting, subitising and making comparisons of amounts.

In **Windmill Two** we have been focusing on the topic "Transport". We have:

- been working on place value, addition and subtraction in maths.
- worked on punctuation and application of phonics for spelling within our writing in English.
- been learning facts about trains and have also made some art work relating to trains.

Next term our topic will be "Celebrations around the World". We will be learning about how other people celebrate and sharing how we celebrate. We will be learning about 2D and 3D shapes, multiplication and division in maths. In English we will be doing fiction and non-fiction writing based around our topic.

Remembrance Day

Unfortunately, we are unable to hold our usual Remembrance Parade. However, the children will have special assemblies with Mrs Haken and Mrs McGarry and some of the Year pupils will be reading special poems they have written. The children will be learning about different aspects of this day in their classes.

Children who attend a uniformed organisation may come to school wearing their uniforms.

Poppies will continue to be sold next week – these will come round to the classes each day.

The school will hold a minute's silence at 11am on Friday and this will be followed by the laying of a special Millhouse wreath at the Laindon War Memorial by members of the school council.