

Millhouse News

18th December 2023



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Dates & Reminders

Wednesday 20th December – Last Day of Term

Thursday 4th January – Children return to School

Thursday 4th & Friday 5th January – Re-launch of the 'Millhouse Milestones'

Monday 8th January – Viking Ian to visit Year 4

Friday 12th January – Online Safety Training for Year 6 pupils

w/b 15th January – Schools Team Ministry Assemblies

Wednesday 15th January, 5pm – Governor Personnel Committee meeting

Friday 19th January – KS2 Choir Singing at the O2 Arena for Young Voices

Parent Information

Farewell to John

As you may be aware, John, our Lollypop man, retired this term. We said a big thank you and gave him a Christmas gift when he and his wife attended one of the Reception Nativity performances.

Christmas Poetry

Some of our Year 5 children have been writing Christmas poetry. You can read some of them attached with this newsletter.

Christmas Sing-along

Just a reminder that parents are welcome to join us on the playground for a bit of festive singing. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes will be singing on Tuesday and Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 on Wednesday. Both days start at 9am and parents are welcome to wait on the playground after dropping off their children in class.

Attendance

Thank you to all the parents who have helped improve pupil attendance this term. Whilst we are still not where we would like or need it to be, the overall figures are much better than last year.

A letter was sent out last week reminding parents of our expectations and procedures and we will continue to work with parents to ensure the children come to school every day and that they arrive in their classes on time.

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

What have we been doing this half term?

- We made our own astronaut space helmet and pretended to walk on the moon.
- We performed our first ever Nativity play and made everyone proud.
- We made our own sparklers using tissue paper and straws and used them over a pretend fire.

What are we looking forward to next half term?

- Reading the Rainbow Fish story and creating our own Rainbow Fish.
- Reading Elmer and making our own milk carton Elmer's. Any donations of milk cartons would be great please!
- Exploring and learning about Chinese New Year and trying some Chinese food during snack time.

Reception

What has the year group being doing this half term?

- We have learnt all about how different faiths use candles in important festivals and celebrations.
- We have been learning new sounds and beginning to be more confident in our reading and writing.
- We have performed in our first school Nativity.

What are you looking forward to next half term?

- Learning all about how we can travel around the world.
- Being scientists and doing experiments.
- Learning about Chinese New Year.

Year 1

What has the year group been doing this half term?

- Practising our nativity
- Learning about the Victorian's and a Victorian school
- Working really hard in maths and literacy.

What are we looking forward to next half term?

- Learning about the North and South Pole – Can polar bear ever meet a penguin?
- Learning about art by Wassily Kandinsky.
- Experimenting with ice

Year 2

What have our year group been doing this half term?

- Guy Fawkes/bonfire night
- The great fire of London
- Word processing skills in computing
- How to look after money and why it is important.
- Multiplication
- Live performance
- Using rhythm and tempo to show emotions in dance.

What are we looking forward to next term?

- Learning about Florence Nightingale & Mary Seacole
- Studying Andy Warhol, the artist
- Learning about keeping healthy

Year 3

What has the year group been doing this half term?

- Sewing quilt squares
- Writing instructions on how to feed dragons
- Learning to sign to 'We wish you a Merry Christmas!'

What are we looking forward to next half term?

- Reading the Iron Man
- Learning about magnets
- Drawings inspired by the Iron Man illustrations

Year 4

What has the year group been doing this half term?

- We have been learning to swim.
- We have been learning all about natural disasters such as earthquakes and Tsunamis.

What are we looking forward to next half term?

- Getting visited by a real-life Viking!
- Making music online using a website
- Reading 'Odd and the Frost Giants' by Neil Gaiman.

Year 5

What have the year group been doing this half term?

- In English, we have written non-chronological reports about beetles. We have also written our own mystery stories.
- In Science, we have learned about forces and have carried out several investigations into topics such as gravity, air resistance and water resistance.
- In DT, we have designed and sewn our own Christmas gift bags.

What are we looking forward to next half term?

- We are really looking forward to our space topic and learning about the space race in History.
- We are looking forward to painting our own versions of Starry Night by Van Gogh.
- We are looking forward to writing persuasive texts and stories in English.

Year 6

What have the year group been doing this half term?

- Visiting Wat Tyler Park to learn more about World War 2
- Christmas productions
- SATS practices
- Welcomed Mrs Sibley to our team.

What are we looking forward to next half term?

- Introduction of new topic – Tales of the Unexpected
- Creating our own optical illusions in Art
- Classifying living things in Science
- Online Safety talks

Windmill

What have we been doing this half term?

In Windmill 1...

- This term we have been learning about Dinosaurs and have focused on Triceratops, T-Rex and Stegosaurus. The children have completed some amazing art work. This really worked on their individual targets of listening and attention.
- In English the children have been really working on developing their fine motor skills and some children have even been working on letter and name formation. We have seen some amazing progress! They continue to engage in daily reading and phonics sessions too.
- In maths the children have been developing their skills in subitising, counting, number recognition, creating and continuing repeating patterns and developing language to describe the weight, length and size of objects.

In Windmill 2...

- This term we have been learning about Celebrations Around the World. We enjoyed learning about Diwali, Ramadan and Christmas! We looked at the traditions, made crafts and wrote about what we had learnt.
- In English the children have been writing some lovely non-fiction texts about the celebrations. We also wrote the story of the Nativity and used some lovely adjectives too! They have continued to engage in daily reading and phonics sessions too.
- In maths the children have been developing their skills in addition, subtraction, shapes, direction and number bonds!

What are we looking forward to next half term?

Windmill 1

- Next term we will be learning about Arctic Animals and Winter.
- In English the children will continue to work on their fine motor skills through a variety of activities. Some children will be learning how to write more of the letter sounds too. In phonics we will be recapping all the letters the children have learnt this far and will be really focusing on applying this knowledge in basic reading and writing activities.
- In maths the children will continue to be developing skills in subitising but now with slightly larger amounts. We will also be developing the children's understanding of the concepts of more and fewer.

Windmill 2

- Next term we will be learning about Natural Disasters, after some of our pupils took an interest in volcanoes and earthquakes.
- In English the children will be writing all about earthquakes and volcanoes. We will be focusing on applying this knowledge in basic reading and writing activities.
- In Maths the children will continue to be developing their addition and subtraction skills, will be learning about time and will further enhance their Place Value skills.