



# Millbrook Connect

*Believe      Achieve      Succeed*

Welcome back to the new school year! For some children as they returned this term, it has been the first time they have been in school since March, and whilst this hasn't been easy, we have been so impressed with the children's efforts and behaviours in adapting back to school life. We have worked hard over the summer to make school as safe as possible in these uncertain times, whilst also retaining familiarity for the children. It has been wonderful to receive positive feedback from both children and parents alike. Parent comments such as, *"I wholeheartedly appreciate the efforts the school are putting in to keep our children safe and educated: you're all heroes!"*; *"The systems in place are well organised"* and *"My child's teacher is amazing!"* have really made our day.

We would like to take this opportunity to properly welcome Miss Isabelle Sanderson (FS teacher), Miss Rebekah Hornsey (Y1 teacher), Mrs Su Trinder (Y4 teacher) and Mr Ian Law (Y6 teacher) to the Millbrook teaching team. They have all settled in brilliantly. Do read on to the 'Spotlight on...' section of this newsletter to find out a little bit more about our new teachers!

Usually at this time of year, we would be bombarding you with dates for future events in school. Obviously we are having to approach things differently this year, and we will do what we can to keep familiar events, but the format may look different!

All classes should have received a 'Welcome Back' PowerPoint meeting from their class teacher/s which are all available on the class pages on the school website: <https://www.millbrookschool.org.uk/class-pages-home-learning/>. Please do visit the website and view these presentations as they will help to explain key routines, procedures and events from your child's class.

We hope you enjoy reading Millbrook Connect (our new style newsletter!) – the next edition will be released at the end of this term. Thank you once more for your ongoing patience and support as we navigate our way through these uncertain times.

*Mrs Faye Charlton      Mrs Laura Youngman*

Head(s) of School

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## **Spotlight On.....**



**This week the spotlight is on... Our New Teachers!**

**Miss Sanderson, Miss Hornsey, Mrs Trinder and Mr Law!** For a bit of fun and to allow us to learn a bit more about them, we have asked them some quick fire questions!

### **1. Favourite chocolate bar? (important things first!)**

**Miss S:** Dairy Milk

**Miss H:** Twirl

**Mrs T:** Double Decker

**Mr L:** Kit Kat Chunky

### **2. Place of birth?**

**Miss S:** Swindon

**Miss H:** Hartlepool

**Mrs T:** Wiltshire

**Mr L:** Oxford

### **3. Favourite place in all the world?**

**Miss S:** Africa or Australia

**Miss H:** New York City

**Mrs T:** Australia, where I met my husband!

**Mr L:** Philippines

### **4. Favourite book?**

**Miss S:** 'Me before you' by Jojo Moyes

**Miss H:** The Harry Potter series

**Mrs T:** The Eight by Katherine Neville

**Mr L:** 'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens

**5. Favourite film or show?**

**Miss S:** The Longest Ride

**Miss H:** Beaches

**Mrs T:** The Matrix

**Mr L:** Scrubs

**6. Favourite song?**

**Miss S:** 'Electric Love' by Borns

**Miss H:** 'Don't let the sun go down on me' by Elton John & George Michael

**Mrs T:** 'Black' by Pearl Jam

**Mr L:** 'Champagne Supernova' by Oasis

**7. Last meal on earth is likely to be?**

**Miss S:** Spaghetti Carbonara

**Miss H:** Pizza!

**Mrs T:** Steak and chips with peppercorn sauce followed by banoffee pie (or anything with salted caramel, yum!)

**Mr L:** A breakfast buffet! Fried followed by continental!

**8. If I hadn't become a teacher, I would have been a ...**

**Miss S:** Horse Riding instructor

**Miss H:** Photographer

**Mrs T:** Cake maker or baker

**Mr L:** A football analyst

**10. Unlikely interesting fact about you?**

**Miss S:** I have my electric blanket on every night even during the summer months!

**Miss H:** From the ages of 15 to 18, I was a young firefighter

**Mrs T:** I had a publican's licence and used to manage pub restaurants in my 20s.

**Mr L:** I was on a kids TV show reviewing music when I was 15

**11. In a world of 'no limits', how would you spend a fantasy 24 hours?!**

**Miss S:** Firstly, someone would bring me a cup of tea in bed and eggs benedict for breakfast. Then go riding around the countryside before stopping at a country pub for lunch. After that, take a private plane to Africa (with the flight only being an hour!), go on safari and watch the sunset, before taking the speedy flight home ready for paella cooked by my Dad!

**Miss H:** In space looking at the stars and the planets ☺

**Mrs T:** I love travelling and there are so many places I would like to see. However, a beautiful beach, snorkelling and belly boarding with my family sounds perfect!

**Mr L:** On a yacht, travelling the world!

## Forest School Sessions Begin!

This term saw the return of Forest School sessions to Millbrook Primary School. Year 6 have enjoyed being outside in the Forest School site sipping hot chocolate and seeing what's changed in the area. Some great collaboration was shown in den building and the 'tent



challenge' - where the children were given tents with no instructions / pictures(!) and asked to try and put them up as a team - both teams got their tents up quickly and made them steady with guy ropes. There were some wonderful dens built - all looking very different with some fun names - one looked like it would be a great shelter if it had rained and would fit everyone underneath!





## Handwashing advice



It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside). The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found



at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

***Washing our hands with soap and water!*** Here at Millbrook, we have been used to getting into lots of new routines, one of the most important being more frequent hand-washing. We have been particularly impressed by our Foundation Stage children in Otters and Beavers Class who have an impeccable handwashing routine!



## Curriculum Update!

It has been an exciting start to the term at Millbrook and our children have been enjoying finding out about, and becoming fully immersed, in their new topics!

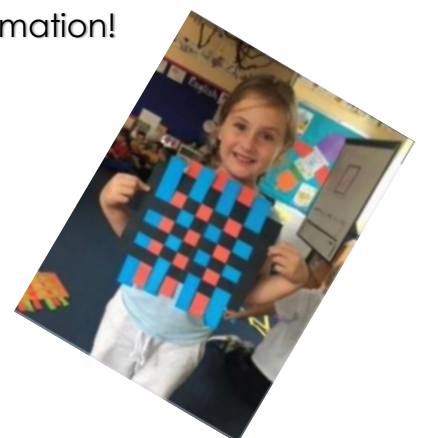


Please take a look at the pictures below to give you a flavour of some of the exciting things that have been happening!

It has been a real pleasure to spend time in classes over the past few weeks and see children's learning in action – we were delighted to be told first-hand by a very enthusiastic (and committed) member of Year 1, that a naughty pirate had stolen their special gold coins and they were tasked with making sure they got them back! We have also been incredibly impressed with children's engagement in lessons; how they have actively modelled our 'Learning Powers' across the curriculum and how they have adapted to new routines in class. We have loved hearing children talking excitedly about being 'historians', 'scientists' (and many others), and considering how their new topics link to what they have learnt previously.

Alongside this, teachers are currently spending time carefully identifying what areas children need further guidance with in light of the recent lockdown and working hard to ensure that all of our pupils are supported to help them 'catch up' where needed.

Finally, on our INSET day we re-launched our 'curriculum vision' (see above); we are currently embarking on an exciting new phase of our work in this area with the aim of making our curriculum provision even better for our wonderful children – watch this space for more information!





As detailed in last year's first 'School Development Update' newsletter, we want to continue to work closely with you to make our school even better, and importantly, make sure that we provide regular updates about the hard work taking place. As such, for the coming term we wanted to share the areas that we are focussing on; we look forward to updating you on our progress as the year progresses!

- Implement a **'recovery' curriculum** that provides children with a broad and balanced curriculum and which supports pupils to learn the most important content that was missed over lockdown.
- Fully implement a **digital learning platform** to improve remote learning; provide better connections between home and school and support school operations.
- Re-launch **'Building Learning Powers'** across the school to continue to grow positive learning habits and attitudes.

Lost and Found is a book about a boy and a penguin and their growing friendship. One day a penguin turns up at the boy's house and the boy presumes he is lost so takes him to the lost and found office. However, he discovers no one is missing a penguin! The boy sets out on a journey to find out where the penguin has come from and eventually penguin is returned home to the south pole. As the boy floats away, he

realises the penguin looks sadder than ever and they both set out on a further adventure to find each other again. The boy and the penguin are finally reunited and talk all the way home. This book is one of my all-time favourites with beautiful illustrations with a very meaningful story. It is portrayed in a really easy way for the younger reader to understand. Use the links below to watch a video read along of this super book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNgh3Q58Qol>

## ***For older readers, Miss Langley recommends...***



I, Cosmo' is a completely unique tale as it is told from the perspective of one family's golden retriever (Cosmo.) The tale begins at Halloween when Cosmo is out trick or treating with his beloved owner (ten-year-old Max.) When they return home, Cosmo can sense something is wrong between his mum and dad... Cosmo and Max's world is falling apart- can this dog save his family? In equal parts warm, funny, mesmerising and heart-breaking, I finished this gorgeous novel in just two days (and promptly texted Mr. Baish to ask him to read it immediately so I could discuss it with him!)

***Have you read a good book recently ? If you have please let Mrs Charlton or Miss Langley know and we can add it to next edition of Millbrook Connect!***

## **Times Tables Rockstars & Hit the Button**



We have access to the Times Tables Rockstars online resource. This is popular amongst pupils as they can challenge themselves to improve their times tables as well as trying to improve the time it takes them to answer questions. Similarly, our younger pupils in Year 2 should endeavour to practise their skills on Hit the Button online resource, which aids their multiplication speed and fluency. Both links can be accessed from our school website using the links for children under the Home Learning Extra tab:

<https://www.millbrookschool.org.uk/home-learning-extra/>

***Read on to find out who won last week's Stars of the Week...!***





## Stars of the Week!



Congratulations to the following children for being our first set of 'Stars of the Week' this academic year!

**Beavers: Demi Duffill**

**Otters: Elliott Wilson**

**Dragonflies: Noah Qejvani**

**Ducklings: Dexter Prout**

**Badgers: Theo Barker**

**Butterflies: Mason Lockhart**

**Grebe: Kieran Hamilton**

**Swallowtail: Lottie Mallinson**

**Frogs: Sophia Mundy**

**Swans: Dylan Webber**

**Kingfishers: Grace Mildenhall**

**Herons: Luke Ratcliffe**

**Weasels: Elenoa Lavaki**

**Pondskaters: Jack Lawrence**

I wonder who our stars will be this week?

## Contacting you



Please make sure that we have the most up to date contact details for you. If your details have changed over the summer, please let the school office know:

[office@millbrook.vale-academy.org](mailto:office@millbrook.vale-academy.org)

## Safeguarding – What you can do



Parents and carers play a vital role in safeguarding children in their community. If you have any worries or concerns about a family or child, no matter how small, you can raise it with the school safeguarding team, contact the office or get advice from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). This safeguarding hub seeks to enable the sharing of information so that risks to children can be identified at an early stage. It is a link between universal services, such as schools and GPs, and statutory services, such as police and social care. **If you have a concern about a child, please call MASH on 0345 050 7666.**

This website is a useful place to find out about lots of support and information about a range of issues that may be worrying you:

[#https://fisd.oxfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/oxfordshire/directory/practitioner\\_toolkit.page](https://fisd.oxfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/oxfordshire/directory/practitioner_toolkit.page)