



Millbrook Connect

Believe Achieve Succeed

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the third edition of Millbrook Connect, our new-look newsletter! Term 2 is now well underway, and the children have been working hard across the curriculum. Do read on for a curriculum update and a chance to see some of the incredible work that has been going on in the classroom and beyond!

Last week there were a variety of activities in school linked to Remembrance Day, including a special assembly conducted in the children's bubbles. On Wednesday 11th, the school observed a minute's silence. At 11am, silence descended upon Millbrook whilst the staff and children took a moment to remember those people who have fought and died in wars. Please read on to find a stunning poem written by a member of Year 6 in aid of Remembrance Day – just beautiful!

As you will also have hopefully seen (via ePraise) we will be holding our Parents Evening meetings remotely this year on **Tuesday 1st December** and **Thursday 3rd December (except for classes detailed in the letter)**. Please see the recent ePraise for information about how to book your slot and how to access your meeting. We are very much looking forward to seeing you 'virtually' then!

Christmas is also fast approaching and some **important Christmas dates and reminders** are included in this newsletter, along with details of some of the wonderful fundraising ideas that FROM are working on.

Finally, after some parent feedback we have added staff photos to our website! Please do have a look: <https://www.millbrookschool.org.uk/our-staff/>.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Faye Charlton Mrs Laura Youngman

Head(s) of School

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Millbrook Manners

Here at Millbrook we are extremely proud of our children who regularly use their 'Millbrook Manners'. Children are keen to show their 'Millbrook Manners' through thoughtful and courteous behaviour.



What do Millbrook Manners look like?

- * Being considerate of others and respecting their feelings
- * Greeting people with a smile and asking how they are
- * Being kind: *helping someone carry something; offering to help clean up; letting others go ahead of you; opening and holding the door for others.*
- * *Please! I'm sorry! Excuse me! May I? You're welcome! Thank you! Can I help?*

Any member of staff in school, including kitchen and office staff, and playtime supervisors, can award Millbrook Manners stickers, however, we would like to extend this further! We would love it if our children could earn Millbrook Manners stickers beyond the school gates! So, we are asking you, parents and carers, to be on the look out!



If you see any Millbrook pupil showing our Millbrook Manners before or after school, and in the wider community, please can you let us know?

Any child that gets nominated for a sticker by a parent or carer will not only receive a sticker but will also get their name printed in the Millbrook Connect newsletter!



Spotlight On...



This week the spotlight is on... **TA Sports Stars Lunchtime Clubs!**

With another lockdown upon us, this term, Millbrook School felt it important to ensure our children are still provided with plenty of opportunities to stay active! With this in mind, we are now delighted to announce that we are offering the children a regular lunchtime sports club (on Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes). Children attend the club in their year group bubbles, and we have begun with Year 5 and 6, and will work our way through the year groups so that all children get an opportunity to attend. The club has proven very popular so far and children who attend can enjoy games such as: catch the flag, diamond cricket, tennis, football, and kickball rounders! There is no need to sign up for this club, it is run on an opt-in basis. The children have loved getting involved so far as you can see in the photos below!



Curriculum

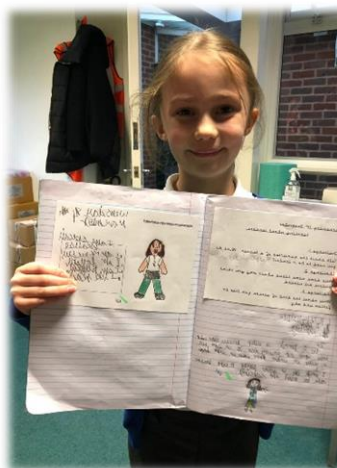
Update!

It has continued to be a pleasure seeing our children enjoy their learning so far this term! In order to support deeper and more meaningful learning, we have decided to focus on only three key 'topics' in each year group throughout the year. We can already see that this is having a positive impact on children's knowledge, understanding and enjoyment!

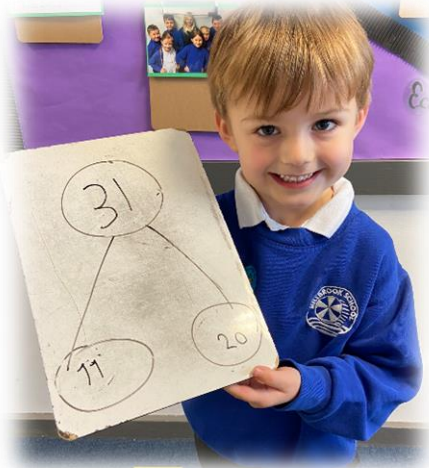


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This term, we have seen some amazing work produced and have been incredibly proud of the care and pride that our children have taken - Mrs Charlton's and Mrs Youngman's Headteacher Award stickers are already running low! Examples have included some brilliant constructions and models; engaging writing; careful mathematical calculations and some fabulous work and discussion about what makes a 'good leader' - ideas included kindness, respect and responsibility, which we absolutely loved! We can't wait to see even more wonderful learning!



This term, we are continuing to develop our curriculum and are focusing on the following areas:



- **Reviewing and developing our approach to the teaching of Science across the school**
- **Starting to embed our new content for the teaching of RE, Art and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education)**
- **Launching our updated Computing lessons, with a specific focus on E Safety as we prepare our children to start using TEAMS and email.**

We hope you enjoy the photos which capture a few of the wonderful things that have been happening and that you like our new vibrant curriculum logo! ☺

School Development Priorities Update

November 2020-21

Lots of work has already been completed towards our school development priorities this year and we wanted to give you a short update about the great things that 'Team Millbrook' have achieved so far!

- **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.**
 - Staff have been working closely in their year groups to identify any areas that children have needed further support with post lockdown – this has included small group work; 1:1 support; additional activities to practise at home and nurture sessions. We have been **so** proud of all of our children!
 - We have also continued to work on our exciting wider curriculum (for more information see our curriculum update section!)
- **Fully implement a digital learning platform to improve remote learning; provide better connections between home and school and support school operations.**



- Work continues to enhance our remote learning offer and develop our use of 'TEAMS' across the school. This has included a wide variety of staff training sessions; familiarising our older children with the program; E Safety lessons and developing clear plans and guidance for how the software will be used.
 - We now have a dedicated 'Online Platform' section on our website where we will continue to upload communication and videos in the near future. We are very excited about sharing your child's log-ins and 'how to guides' with parents and carers soon – watch this space!
- **Re-launch 'Building Learning Powers' across the school to continue to grow positive learning habits and attitudes.**



- Children have enjoyed using their learning powers in class and we have continued to embed '**collaboration**' alongside launching our new focus this term; '**managing distractions**.'
 - We now have a fabulous BLP display in our school hall and our Year 4 corridor to celebrate our BLP 'super powers' and to raise the profile further across the school!



Junior Leadership Team

This term, we have been focusing on behaviour at break and lunchtimes. Mr Jacques is currently writing a new behaviour policy and has asked for our help to complete the break and lunchtime section. We are working together to create 5 rules for break time and lunchtimes. Also, the JLT have had a great idea to reward well behaved children! Together, we are hoping to launch this in January. Our tasks include: researching, writing letters and talking to different members of the Millbrook community.



Bessie – *"Knowing that my work will be in the behaviour policy makes me feel proud because I have never thought my*

work is very good but the JLT has helped me realise that it is better than I think."

Emily C – *"It makes me feel good that I am helping to improve the behaviour at break and lunchtimes. And that I am rewarding good behaviour in the school!"*



Remembrance Day Poem

By Livia Jablczynska, Y6 Pondskaters Class

**Remember the day
When the world was one
But now we have all got to run
No place to hide; no place to stay
Oh normal life come back I pray**

**Remember the day
When our feet were drenched
It was so hard being in the trench
There was no time for love or fun
The only thing we could hold close was a gun**

**Remember the day
When the poppies blew
How we could see the true point of view
Propaganda led us here
Now we are shivering with fear**

**Remember the day
When the world was one
Peace amongst us; we had so much fun
We must remember the people who died
And remember the day with hope and pride.**

A collage of ten book covers from various genres, including fantasy, science fiction, and contemporary fiction. The covers are arranged in a grid-like fashion. Top row: 'Soyuz Vostok' by Kate Di Camillo, 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson, 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets' by J.K. Rowling, 'Raid Dahi' by Roshani Dalvi, and 'The Daylight Marriage' by David Shields. Middle row: 'Philip Reeve's Mortal Engines' by Philip Reeve, 'The Wolf of Mistaken' by Michael Chabon, 'Michael Ondaatje's The English Patient', 'Roofstoppers' by Katherine Rundell, and 'Mr Gum!' by David Almond. Bottom row: 'The Doll vs. Varjak Paw' by Kat Cressida, 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Ondaatje, 'Roofstoppers' by Katherine Rundell, and 'Mr Gum!' by David Almond.

The Wonky Donkey

NEARLY AN INTERNET VIRAL HIT
BESTSELLER

By
Craig Smith

Illustrations by
Katie Crowley

I love the Wonky Donkey book by Craig Smith, and Illustrated by Katz Cowley, and so do the children. It's funny and silly which the children think is great! They love to join in with the repetition and rhyming words. They try very hard to think of different rhyming words to add to the story. It's about a poor donkey with three legs and he is called the 'Wonky Donkey', as you read the story you find out what he gets he only has one eye so he is a 'Winky wonky donkey'! The story gets will have you laughing along! To listen to the story on youtube this is [w.youtube.com/watch?v=qjdVg8YDWwY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjdVg8YDWwY)

For our older readers, Mrs Joyce recommends...

Have you read a good book recently? If you have let your teacher know and hopefully we can include it in our next edition of Millbrook Connect!

Aims

- Make Christmas Jumper Day affordable for all
- Reduce, reuse and recycle!
- Raise funds for FROM



What can you do to help?

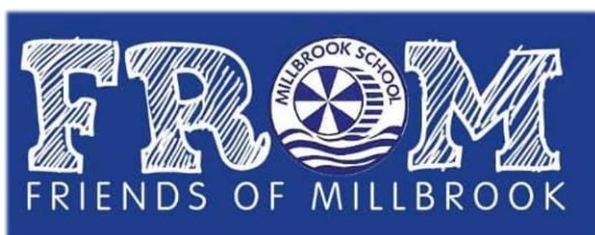
- Donate any clean outgrown Christmas jumpers by sending them into school next week (w/b 23/11/20). Please send them in with one jumper per bag marked for the attention of Sue Joyce.
- Jumpers will be given a number and then photographed with an age label and placed back into their numbered bags before quarantining for a minimum of 72 hours.
- Photos will be uploaded throughout the week beginning 30/11/20. You can purchase a jumper by commenting on the appropriate photo and making a donation to FROM.
- Jumpers will be sent out to children's classes as soon as possible. Collection from the school office or from my home can be arranged if necessary.



Christmas Dates and Plans!

- **FROM Christmas events** – Raffle Draw Taking place on Friday 11th December. 1st prize: £100 2nd prize: Kindle 3rd prize: Family Hamper. This will lead into our '**Walking In A Millbrook Wonderland**' fundraiser on 11th – 18th Dec. So, get your thinking caps on for a winter/Christmas window or garden display! After our very popular safari in lockdown, we have decided to extend so more locals can walkabout and see the beautiful unique displays: no display is too small and a prize will be handed out to the most creative! There will be Santa's Letters to find on the trail to work out his secret message! Entry Free! Information will be sent out via ePraise very soon.
- **Christmas jumpers** – Christmas jumper day is **Friday 11th December**. Children can wear their Christmas jumper with their school uniform. In addition, children can wear their Christmas jumpers (instead of their school jumper) **all week** during the last week of term (**week beginning Monday 14th December**). If your child doesn't have a Christmas jumper, children are welcome to wear a Christmas item (piece of tinsel; Christmas hat; reindeer antlers or a Christmas t-shirt) ☺
- **Christmas cards** – in light of our current Covid control measures, we are asking that children bring in any Christmas cards they wish to post (*with the child's name and class on the envelope*) from **Tuesday 1st December** until **Friday 11th December**. The cards can then be quarantined for 72hours over the weekend, ready to be sorted and delivered in the last week of term.
- **Christmas lunch** – our Christmas lunch for all children from Nursery to Year 6 will be held on **Wednesday 16th December**.
- **Nursery** – Nursery will be doing a Christmas sing song, which we will record for parents ☺
- **Foundation Stage** – In place of the FS Nativity this year, Mrs Catungal and Miss Sanderson are going to film an individual Christmas message from your child and send direct to you on Tapestry ☺
- **Year 1** – Dragonflies and Ducklings class will also be recording Christmas songs for parents ☺
- **Last day** – Last day of term is **Friday 18th December**, early finish at **12pm**

Fundraising at Millbrook!



This term, Millbrook has been busy raising money! On the first Friday back to school, the children had a non-uniform day where in exchange for not wearing their uniform for the day they brought in a £1 for our FROM towards school



improvement!

Then last Friday, yellow fever hit Millbrook as the children supported



Children in Need by wearing something yellow and bringing in a donation for this amazing charity. As you can see from

the photos, the children (and staff!) had a wonderful time!



Year 1 Pirate Party



On Thursday, Year 1 had their much anticipated and long awaited Pirate Party! The children and staff all dressed up for the occasion and looked Arrrrrrr-mazing! The children shared their pirate topic work with one another and enjoyed dancing and playing pirate games including 'parrrrrrss the parrrrrrcel'!

Later on in the afternoon, the children treated Mrs Charlton to a performance of their pirate dance which was just brilliant!

The afternoon was rounded off with an impressive pirate banquet which was thoroughly enjoyed by all!



Stars of the Week!



Congratulations to the following children for being this week's Stars of the Week 😊

Beavers: Dylan Sellwood

Otters: Lilly McAllister

Dragonflies: Brodie Douch

Ducklings: Myla Newsham

Badgers: Kiyra Mundy

Butterflies: Jack Purbrick

Grebe: Michalis Aresti

Swallowtail: Mikey Mildenhall

Frogs: Charlie Dix

Swans: Leo Nightingale

Kingfishers: Luther Bachrach

Hérons: Mikayla Hack

Weasels: Bence Horvath

Pondskaters: Bailey Zavala

I wonder who our stars will be next week?

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/>

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

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)

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).

