



Millbrook Connect



Believe Achieve Succeed

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of term 5, it feels like the perfect time to reflect on all that has gone by and celebrate all that we have achieved at school – from our 'Pyjamarama' belated World Book Day celebrations, to the much anticipated (but perfectly timed – *thanks Boris!*) Year 6 residential – it's been busy to say the least! The children have also enjoyed having extra PE sessions each week this term from TA Sports Stars, as well as visiting the travelling book fayre, and Millbrook also seeing the start of our 'Reading Buddies' project.

We must take a moment to thank Donna Zavala, our current Chair of FROM, as well as Pauline Levett (Treasurer) and Emma Medlock (Secretary) who are all stepping down from their roles next academic year. These ladies and the rest of their team have worked tirelessly to support school through driving forward fundraisers and ensuring that we are able to finance important and far-reaching whole school projects and resources. Thank you so much ladies! Moving forward, if you feel like FROM is something you would love to be part of either as a solo or joint venture with another parent, or even grandparent, please do contact Donna on: fromcommittee@gmail.com.... Millbrook School and our amazing committee need you!

All that is left to say now is, thank you for all your support this term. Now, settle down with a nice cuppa and enjoy this term's Connect ☺

Mrs Faye Charlton Mrs Laura Youngman

Head(s) of School

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Millbrook Manners in the Community



In our last edition, we said we would love to see our Millbrook Manners used 'beyond the school gates' and in our community, and to get in touch if you had any nominations. Well, we are pleased to announce that we have our second recipient! We were extremely touched to learn last time that Charlie in Swans Class decided to buy a book of Christmas stories to read 'virtually' to his grandparents on each day of Advent! Well this edition, we bring you another member of our Millbrook Community that has gone above and beyond. A couple of weeks ago the lovely Diana Steptoe came to see me to nominate **Luke from Herons** for heroism! Diana's daughter's two pet Chihuahua dogs accidentally escaped from her house and ran



out onto the road. Both Diana and her daughter were distraught and frantically chased after them. Some adults nearby didn't stop to help them but then along came Luke (and his brother) who immediately tried to help capture the escaped doggies! Luckily the dogs were caught and returned safely to their home. Diana and her

daughter Libby couldn't have been more grateful to the boys and were so proud that it was a Millbrook pupil who came to their rescue! Well done Luke! ☺

If you have any nominations for any of our Millbrook children to receive a 'Millbrook Manners in the Community' award, then please let us know! #TeamMillbrook

Spotlight On...



This week the spotlight is on...



For the whole of this term, Millbrook has seen TA Sport Stars come into school every afternoon to provide the children with additional PE lessons!

The main sport developed this term has been cricket, however more recently, due to the bad weather, the children have been indoors playing different variations of dodgeball. They have taken a particular



liking to the game 'Doctor Dodgeball' which involves one person on each team taking on the role as 'Doctor' who has the ability to 'revive' their teammates!

The aim of these sessions is to promote a sense of physical, social and emotional well-being for the children. When speaking to Coach Josh he commented, "TA Sport Stars want to make children fall in love with sport from an early age so that when they reach adulthood and have children of their own, they can then play sports with them and pass the legacy on!"



When speaking to him about how the children have received the additional sport sessions he commented that, *"The children at Millbrook have been very excited to join in our sessions and always arrive with a smile on their face. This is brilliant for us, as our main goal is to promote a love of PE!"*

Next term, TA Sport Stars will continue to be in school every afternoon and will be offering our children athletics and ultimate frisbee – we can't wait already!



TA Sport Stars are running half term holiday camps at Millbrook and other local schools from Tuesday 1st June to Friday 4th June. To book your child a space click the link:

<https://www.tasportstars.co.uk/holiday-camps/>



Curriculum Update!

It has been an incredibly busy term with huge amounts of work continuing to develop our curriculum at Millbrook.



As you may have seen from our social media pages on Facebook and Twitter, our children have been engaging in a huge number of exciting activities across all subjects – it has been wonderful to see them talk so excitedly and proudly about the new knowledge and skills they have learnt



As a school we have continued to work extremely hard to develop a clear progression across the school in all subjects, from Early Years through to Year 6. Our focus this term has been on enhancing our curriculum in History and Geography, ensuring that children understand the 'bigger picture context' and key, technical vocabulary as part of their learning – for example, Year 5 started their learning about the Amazon rainforest by finding out about biomes and the different climates around the world. We have also started to introduce historical timelines into every classroom, to help our children to understand and recall the links between the aspects of History they have learnt whilst at Millbrook. Our staff will be spending some dedicated time this term to further develop our classroom learning; we can't wait to share some pictures!



As part of our curriculum development, we have been grateful for the support that we have received from the Vale Academy Trust. Our staff have enjoyed some training from Mr. Campbell linked to our new Music Scheme; support from Mrs. Boaz in planning Computing and we have loved putting some of the 'top tips' from Mr. Holloway in place for Science this term – Year 6 for example, loved their practical investigations to discover which beak shape was best for picking up a variety of objects!



Finally, due to the impact of Covid-19, we have been committed to ensuring that all children are given a wide range of opportunities to be active. Alongside our fabulous Forest

School provision, we have been delighted to welcome TA Sports, who have been providing some fantastic PE lessons, which we know both staff and children have absolutely loved!



New Millbrook Uniform and Logo!



We have some very exciting news to share – from September 2021, Millbrook will be launching a **new uniform** and **sports kit** for all children from Reception to Year 6!

Please note: children can still wear their current Millbrook uniform from September, until a replacement is needed. Nursery children will also have the option to purchase a new 'Millbrook Nursery' jumper should you



wish to. The new uniform is now available to view and purchase ready for the new school year (not next term!) from PMG Schoolwear (our current providers).

The aim will be that **by September 2022**, all children will have moved to wearing the new uniform.

How is the uniform changing?



Our new uniform will reflect the key aims of our new identity; it will characterise the high standards of education we aim to deliver, and the excellence we aim to achieve in educating children at Millbrook. As shown in the photo opposite, the uniform looks smart, distinctive and also practical; by wearing it, children show that they are part of the school, take pride in representing the school, and the uniform provides children with a collective identity.



What will stay the same?

Summer dresses will remain the same, as will expectations for grey trousers, skirts or shorts with school uniform and plain black leggings, joggers or shorts for PE uniform.

PE Kits

We have also decided that from September, we will continue with the practice of children wearing their Sports kit into school on their two days of PE. For this reason, we have also refreshed and updated our PE kit. This means that in a week, children from Year 1-6 will have:

- 3 days where they will need to wear their school uniform
- 2 days where they wear their sports kit into school.



This should help to keep costs down as you shouldn't need as many school jumpers!

From September 2021, we would like all children from Year 1 to Year 6 to wear a **navy blue t-shirt** and **black sweater** for their 2 days of PE. The new sports kit has our new '**MBK**

Sport' logo on it (see photos below. These can also be purchased from PMG Schoolwear. This means children will no longer need to wear house colour t-shirts.

Please can we remind you that on their PE days, children should also be wearing **plain black leggings, shorts or jogging bottoms**.

NB: If your child is starting in Reception, they will only have PE on 1 day per week and so will only need the navy PE t-shirt (as PE is also indoors).



Where can I see the new uniform?

A number of items in the school uniform will carry the new logo. Each element of the new school uniform for boys and girls will be summarised for you on our website, as well as on the PMG uniform supplier page where each item of class uniform, sportswear and accessories are listed: <https://www.pmgschoolwear.co.uk>

By our supplier (PMG) remaining the same, this helps us to keep the costs as low as possible. This will be a steady introduction of uniform as families replace outgrown or worn out items.

Some key points to note:

- **The new sports/PE kit is compulsory from September**
- **If you have a child going into Year 6, you do not need to purchase the new uniform unless you would like to.**
- **Please NAME ALL UNIFORM to help return any misplaced or lost items to their owner**

Please remember that we are not expecting you to have full new uniform ready for September 2021 – this is a gradual school uniform migration over the course of the year. However, your child/ren can wear the new style school uniform from September 2021 if you choose to. On the first day of term in September, we will ensure all jumpers are named to help ensure lost property is returned quickly.

New Logo

We have also updated our school logo, which (as shown opposite) includes an updated graphic and colour, as well as including our school motto, 'Believe, Achieve, Succeed'. Over time, you will begin to see the new updated logo more and more.



The brief to our designers was for something new that appeared crisp, approachable, smart and fresh. We love it and believe the refresh better matches what we've become and creates a platform for further changes we are making over the next few months.

Looking ahead

Behind the scenes, we are busy making plans for 2021-2022! This includes the allocation of staff to classes and the transition process for the children. Once dates have been agreed and confirmed across the trust for transition day, we will share further plans with you.

We hope that you are as excited as us with this new look and feel for Millbrook! We believe that this is another really positive step in our journey towards becoming an exceptional school.

Look out for more updates and changes - like our brand new website (coming soon), school environment improvements (inside and out), and playground developments - as we continue to shape a new exciting future for our children.

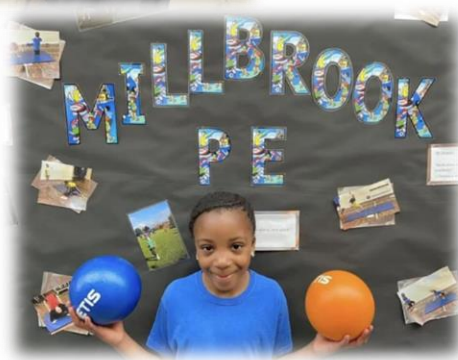
School Development Priorities



For the rest of this academic year, we are working together on the following priorities as a school; we look forward to updating you in the final MBK Connect of the year– we can't believe how quickly that has come around!

- To ensure that, where needed, children are provided with high-quality, support and teaching to help them 'catch up' on missed learning from the lockdown periods, in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- To provide more wide-ranging and engaging opportunities for children to be active during the school day.
- To continue work to develop our curriculum, so that there is a clear progression in knowledge and skills and that this is being implemented well in the classroom.

Photo Gallery of Learning



Great work
Team Millbrook!

Year 6 Residential

From start to finish, Year 6 were a credit to themselves and the school. Starting with the excitement of the drop off,



where many of the pupils were so excited that they forgot to say goodbye to parents! Some packed light, some packed as if they were going on a two-week trek of the Himalayas (Mrs Packard) but what a wonderful sight to see them streaming through the doors with smiles and a slight nervousness about them.



The coach journey was a sign of things to come with the ups and downs of the back roads enabling the pupils to begin to conquer their fears and not succumb to travel

sickness. When we arrived it was a beautiful sunny day... then the black clouds rolled into a downpour but nothing could dampen the spirits of the wonderful children who bounded towards their first activity full of enthusiasm.



The rain turned to hail, and thunder was heard in the distance, but that didn't stop the bravest children from going to the

top of the big swing. Tummies were turned as they were pulled higher in the swing by their friends whilst the other groups were battling to save Queen Lizzie on the

adventure course. A quiz followed on the first night where the pupils were tasked with completing The Million Pound Drop and attempting to beat The Cube. It was amazing to see the pupils working together and no matter which team they were on, the pupils encouraged each other. Room inspections were completed

after the quiz night and I am sure some parents will be shocked to hear that not one room didn't pass the

test; feel free to remind them of this next time you need a tidy bedroom!



The second day saw Mr Jacques rule the lakes! Canoeing turned into chaos and pupils were wet not just from falling in! Watching pupils conquer their fear jumping off the trapeze at 30ft was inspirational. The zip wire was a particular favourite for the group but not for Mr Law. Channelling their inner Robin Hood



saw the pupils take aim during archery. During lunch, as the heavens opened, a surprise birthday party was held for Harmony. Mrs Donnellan and Mrs Walker led the musical chairs, whilst sleeping lions was a particular highlight for the firing teachers! As evening approached, a campfire with "alternative" s'mores

being factory produced by Mrs Packard and Mrs Smith and songs, was a highlight for many pupils; ask your children to sing the pirate song.

On our last day, we attempted to solve problems and climb walls. The bravery of the pupils to conquer their fears and climb as high as possible was as impressive as the support from their friends. As a thunderstorm rolled in, the trip was at an end but the memories the children have will last forever.



Well done Year 6!



Reading Buddies!

This term, we have launched our 'Buddy Readers' program at Millbrook. At school, we are committed to developing a rich reading culture, as well as ensuring that all our children leave us as competent readers. Part of this involves fostering a love of reading amongst our Millbrook Family. For this reason,



we decided that as well as teachers and teaching assistants hearing the children read each week, we would also invite other members of 'Team Millbrook' to hear children read – our buddy readers are



made up of members of our Office team, Senior Leadership Team, Kitchen staff, Inclusion Team, Site Services team, Forest School staff, cleaners and sports coaches, to name but a few! The children and staff have loved this so far and look forward to rolling it out to more children next term. Go Team Millbrook! ☺



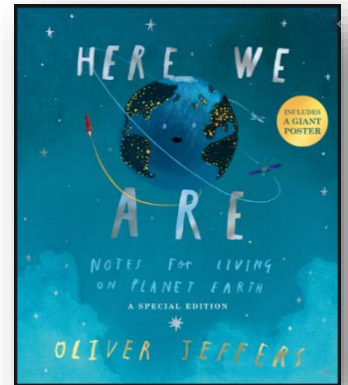


Book Corner! Looking for a good book? In this section, we have asked two of our teachers to recommend a book they've enjoyed recently!

For our younger readers, Miss Hornsey recommends...

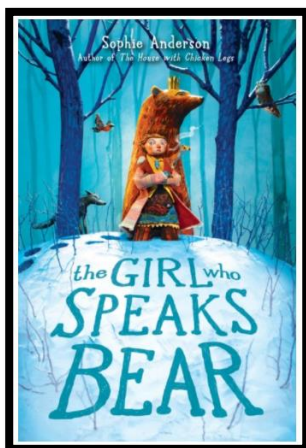
Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth by Oliver Jeffers

This book is a fantastic way to introduce children to non-fiction texts in a way that is still very engaging and story-like in its appearance. Written as a manual to life on Earth from a new dad to his baby son, this picture book is an overview of Earth and a guide to living well. The things I love most about this book are the beautiful illustrations and messages of kindness, tolerance and environmental responsibility. It provokes a lot of discussion and is fantastic for helping children explore and understand their place in the world and to know that they are never alone. It is very re-readable and I honestly cannot recommend it enough!



For our older readers, Mrs Trinder recommends...

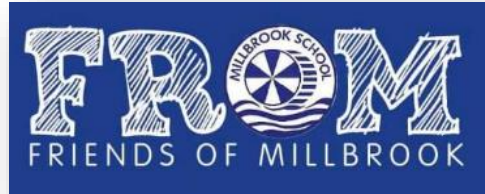
The Girl Who Speaks Bear by Sophie Anderson



This book tells the story of twelve-year-old Yanka, who was found in a bear cave as a two-year-old. She is adopted by Mamochka, a village herbalist. As she grows, she has always felt that she doesn't belong and wondered about where she comes from. The other children call her 'Yanka the Bear' as she is so much bigger and stronger than them. One day, she wakes up find that her legs have become bear legs, and she can talk to animals. Leaving the village behind, she sets off into the forest on a quest to find who she is.

The story is beautifully written, and woven into the main story of Yanka's journey are magical tales about dragons, princesses and bears. My favourite character is the weasel, 'Mousetrap', who battles a pack of wolves and rides a fish owl to help Yanka. As the quest unfolds, however, Yanka is joined by an ever-growing group of fascinating characters. These include the House with Chicken Legs (from the previous book) and the Yaga, who guide spirits of the dead.

Yanka faces dangers and perilous challenges on her quest of discovery. Along the way, she learns about the importance of family, identity, friendship and loyalty. This book is set in a fantastical world of magic with intriguing characters and adventure. It is utterly gripping - a great, enjoyable read. Highly recommended!



Upcoming FROM events:

Wednesday 9th June: Bags 2 School bags to be brought to the front of school (by the main reception) no later than 9am.



Friday 11th June: Non-Uniform day – on the first Friday back after half term, please wear non-uniform in exchange for hamper donations, (e.g. chocolate, 'smellies' or a bottle).

Look out for raffle tickets which will be coming home with your child/ren today!



Saturday 19th June (11am-4pm): 'Millbrook's Dream Destinations' Trail. We need final entries by Monday 7th June. To register your household, please email: FROMCommittee@gmail.com Please visit our Facebook page 'FROM – Friends of Millbrook for full information and details.



Krispy Kreme doughnuts will also be available to purchase on the day, or pre-orders if popular!

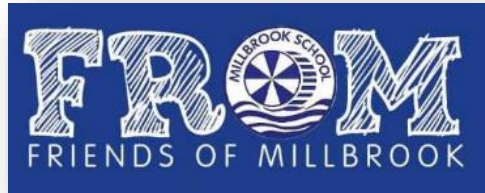


At the end of the walkabout, we will draw the raffle (which will be streamed live at the end of the event on Facebook!)

We will also have an online cashless fund-raising page on JustGiving if you would like to donate to the school fundraiser that way.

Although we aren't able to have the Summer Fete this year, we hope to still be able to fundraise and support the school with all of these events, so please do get behind us and show us your support! Thank you so much,

Donna and the FROM team ☺



Would you like to be part of our FROM team? Do you have any ideas for future fundraising events? We are seeking a new Chair, Treasurer and Secretary for the academic year 21/22 !

Please get in touch with us on: fromcommittee@gmail.com

Important dates for your diary

Monday 7th June: Term 6 begins

Friday 11th June: FROM non-uniform day

Friday 23rd July: End of term (12pm finish)



Change of office email address

Please note that from Monday 31st May, the current office email address will no longer work. Please use the new office email address:

officemb@millbrook.vale-academy.org

Year 4 visit Letcombe Brook

Responsible litter collection and gorgeous art trip with Year 4 this week! Swans and frogs class are very passionate about litter

picking after writing their persuasive leaflets titled, "Litter destroys our planet!" Their art is inspired by their geography unit on rivers/our local Letcombe Brook!



Stars of the Term!



Congratulations to the following children for being this term's Stars of the Term! ☺

Beavers: Lucas

Otters: Ava

Dragonflies: Faith

Ducklings: Oscar-Lee

Badgers: Theo

Butterflies: Casey

Grebe: Lilly

Swallowtail: Jessica

Frogs: Jodie

Swans: Lewis

Kingfishers: Luther

Hérons: Carley

Weasels: Bence

Pondskaters: Isaac

I wonder who our stars will be next term?

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 details



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:

officemb@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).

