



Millbrook Connect

Believe Achieve Succeed

Dear Parents and Carers

As this school year draws to a close and we approach the last day of school for our children, we want to thank each and every one of you. Despite everything that this year has brought, our Millbrook school community has gone from strength to strength.

Anyone with a jaded view of humanity should spend a day amongst the children here. You would see strength, resilience and kindness, not to mention smiles and laughter in abundance! It is a wonderful thing that we get to see every day. We want our children here at Millbrook to leave us understanding how to be responsible citizens who can make a positive contribution to our world. So, please, let's celebrate all the wonderful children of Millbrook!

Parents, you have also been incredible. Your ongoing support and care, not to mention the recent messages of thanks that so many of you sent in to our staff as part of #NationalThankaTeacherDay, have meant the world. Without us working together we couldn't have achieved so much. We must also mention the amazingly positive parent survey comments we received during our last Ofsted visit in June. One of our favourites just has to be: 'Millbrook have always been the underdogs of Wantage, but they have more grit than all of them!" To whoever wrote that – thank you; we loved it! ©

Finally, we would like to thank our amazing staff team at Millbrook – our teachers, TAs, volunteers and wider staff group - who have supported our children this year. You make sure that they have the best possible chance for future success and happiness.

We hope you enjoy the final issue of Connect for this academic year – we'll see you all in September! Have a great holiday,

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 in our community and to get in touch if you had any nominations. Well, we are pleased to announce that we have our third nominee! The Secretary of Wantage Flower Club got

in touch with us as they wanted to nominate **Savannah** from **Herons Class** for showing her 'Millbrook Manners' in the community!



All the members of the Wantage Flower Club think Savannah has

an eye for colour and that she is very creative, and they are hoping she will produce some more arrangements in the future. The photograph of her arrangement is above. Well done Savannah! ©

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 our... Thank a Teacher Day!

Earlier this term, we decided to surprise all the staff here at Millbrook HQ with a special assembly to honour National 'Thank a Teacher Day'. Thank you again to everyone who surprised our teachers on #NationalThankATeacherDay with



your kind words (and even gifts!). A special mention must be given to Mrs Rudzinska, who received an anonymous recommendation for the 2021 Lockdown Hero award! She is so deserving of it! You can see her with her certificate below!







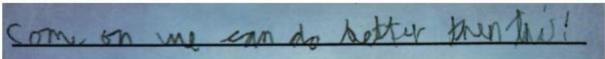


Sustainable Wantage

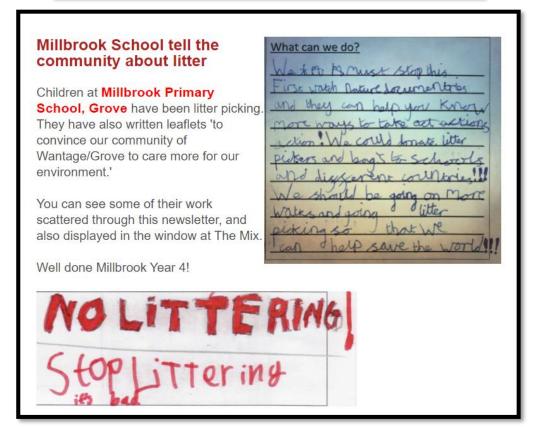
When the July edition of the 'Sustainable Wantage' newsletter came out this month, we were delighted to see some of Year 4's littering picking leaflets included! This newsletter was distributed to 709 people who have signed



up to find out about Sustainable Wantage's activities. Maybe a few people will be out litter picking this weekend as a result? Great work Millbrook and the Year 4 team!







Curriculum Update!

What a fabulous term it has been for our curriculum development work – time has flown by! Please do keep an eye on our social media pages for the latest updates!



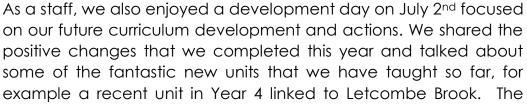
We have had such a busy few weeks at Millbrook, and despite the continuing Covid



restrictions, our children have still been able to showcase some of their high quality work and achievements. We were all treated to a fantastic Year 6 Craft Fayre last week, where the

children sold and shared their '£10 challenge' crafts. They were so popular that they were sold out by the end of the day! There are definitely

some future 'Dragons' Den' candidates in the making!





remainder of the day was spent planning our curriculum for next year in our new year group teams. There was a real 'buzz' in the air – we are very excited about getting started!



We also took time to map out and plan Design and Technology units for next year, and we've got some very exciting projects lined up! Pop-up toys, moving cranes, ball runs, ocean grabbers... we're all very much looking forward to teaching it next year!

As we implement our new curriculum in September, we will also be continuing to develop 'how' our new units are taught in order that our children receive the very best teaching – we are looking forward to another exciting year ahead!

Finally, we were delighted to receive some amazing feedback and recognition of all of our hard work on the curriculum in the recent Ofsted monitoring visit. We feel super proud of the team!

"You and your team are united in wanting to make Millbrook the best it can be.



Together you are bringing about changes that are making a difference to pupils. Crucially, you have secured improvements to subject leadership and the curriculum. You have not let the pandemic slow down your actions to improve the school. You and your team have planned an ambitious curriculum. Subjects such

as art, music, geography and computing are well sequenced with the knowledge and skills that pupils need to have."

School Development Priorities

As the year draws to an end, we wanted to share and celebrate with parents and carers, some of the great work that has happened this term to improve our school:

- 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.
- A range of one to one small group and whole class 'catch up' sessions have taken place to support children who have needed this. These have been led by teachers and support staff across the school.
- 2. To provide more wide-ranging and engaging opportunities for children to be active during the school day.
- TA Sports have been providing fantastic lessons and lunchtime clubs across the school each week.
- Our recent 'Fun Run' and 'Big Toddle' events were fabulous; it was great to see all children from Nursery to Year 6 (and the staff!) staying active for a great cause!
- Sports Days have taken place in their bubbles this term; activities included traditional events as well as some more unusual ones – 'welly-wanging' was a hit!
- We were super proud of our Year 6 girls who took part in a recent football tournament!
- Year 6 cycling proficiency has taken place this term to teach our children important elements of road and cycle safety.





- 3. 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.
 - Staff training this term has focused on our Design and Technology curriculum led by Miss Wood; new and exciting units have been developed that we are looking forward to implementing next term!
 - Miss Meyer and Mr Baish have been working on developing our History curriculum and staff have been finding out about new periods of history in class
 - Curriculum unit overviews (praised by Ofsted during their recent visit) continue to be developed for all subjects, including 'The Sticky 6 Knowledge' to support our children to 'know and remember' well.
 - Our new EYFS curriculum ('explore, experience, create') is being developed to ensure that this links cohesively, and is in line with the vision for our curriculum in Years 1-6





Sunflower Competition

Thank you to everyone who sent in photos of their sunflowers. The response was brilliant and were amazed how green-fingered our Millbrook Family are! The judging process was very tense! Mr Jacques and Miss Courtney worked their way through all of the photos. Here are a sample of our favourites:









However, the competition wasn't for the best photo but for the tallest sunflower that could be grown in the time! And the results are in...

In 3rd place was Beth from Ducklings with an amazing 193cm! ©

In 2nd place was Edward from Dragonflies with a whopping 195cm! ©

And......In 1st place was..... Jodie from Frogs with an incredible 213cm!

As a prize, all the children received some new gardening tools to enable them to continue their gardening genius this Summer and beyond!









Well done Beth, Edward and Jodie!

Head Boy and Girl for 2021/22

Introducing our new head boy and girl for 2021/22...

We'd like to say a huge congratulations to **Harry** and **Emily**, who went through a rigorous and intense selection process, including an interview with the three heads of school! Ar Rose, Mrs Charlton and



Mrs Youngman were so impressed with their ideas for how we can make Millbrook even more special.

Congratulations as well to <u>everyone</u> who applied, and everyone else who was interviewed. You should all be so proud of yourselves! There are plenty more leadership opportunities for everyone coming up soon as you enter Year 6!







Pupil Parliament

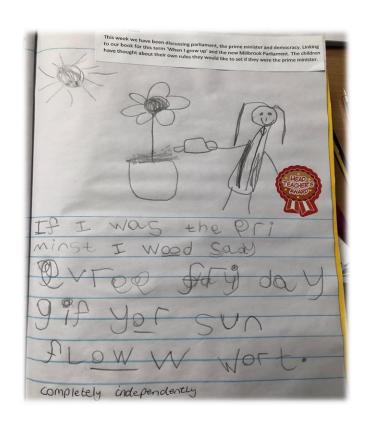
We are very excited to be launching our very own Millbrook Parliament in September. The Parliament will be made up of children

from years 1 to 6, who were democratically elected this term by their classes. We were so impressed by the quality of their 'election' speeches – we definitely have some leaders of the future in our midst! Our new Head Boy and Girl, Emily and Harry will also become part of the Millbrook Parliament.

The new parliament will be focused on supporting significant school improvement projects and will provide our children with a much greater 'voice' in the school's work. It will also, importantly, teach our children the importance of core British values and develop their leadership, speaking, listening and collaboration skills. The Parliament will meet termly with Mrs Youngman and Mr Jacques, as well as with other senior leaders and will be led by our Head Boy and Girl. We can't wait to hear their fabulous ideas; our lovely school is in great hands!

We keep you regularly updated about their projects in future 'MBK Connects' and will share a photograph, and the names, of the full Parliament, and its members in September!

If Mabel in Foundation Stage
was Prime Minister, she would
make sure that all of the plants
were well looked after!



Y6 Fun Run Fundraiser!

Firstly, we would just like to thank the Year 6 team for running this incredible event. The Junior Leadership Team and Sports Leaders planned it, but the whole of the year group supported them. It was amazing to see the older children inspire, encourage and cheer on the rest of the school.



It was a superb day with all of the children joining in and having lots of fun. There were some excellent fancy dress runners including: a decapitated surgeon, an astronaut, a princess, various dinosaurs and some Power Rangers, who all made everyone smile





as they challenged themselves through the obstacles! It was just the tonic we have needed after such a turbulent year and it was a real highlight of the year for many of us here at Millbrook!



The total amount raised is still increasing but it currently stands at approximately £2900 (!) - which is nothing short of phenomenal. We can't put into words how thankful we are for the generosity of everybody. Thank you.



There were some pupils who went above and beyond in their

fundraising attempts by raising over £100 and this shows how committed people are to Millbrook Primary School and the togetherness these events



bring to our community. We will be donating £500 to the charity Unique and using the rest of the money for play equipment and a shed for the lower school. Successfully, the Year 6's will have left a legacy for years to come and future pupils will benefit from their kindness, perseverance and collaboration.



You can see some more photos on the next page....









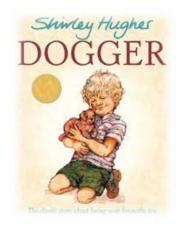


Book Corner!

Looking for a good book to read over the Summer holiday? In this section, we have asked two of our teachers to recommend a book they've enjoyed recently!



For our younger readers, Mrs Jackman recommends...



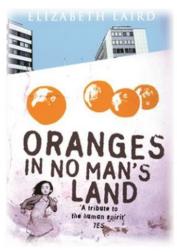
Dogger by Shirley Hughes

Dogger is my favourite book for younger readers! I remember it as a child, I've read it to my own children and love reading it to the children here at Millbrook.

Dogger is a story about a boy called Dave and his beloved toy dog, Dogger. Dave loves Dogger and takes him everywhere until one day he gets lost! Don't worry, you won't be disappointed at the end!

This is a sensitive story about feelings, losing something precious and thinking about others. The detailed illustrations are engaging for children to look at and talk about. This book really is a classic, I hope you and your children enjoy it as much as I do ©

For our older readers, Miss Wood recommends...



Oranges in No Mans Land by Elizabeth Laird

The story starts with 10-year-old Ayesha living in the war-torn and bomb-ravaged city of Beirut, which after a civil war was split in half with only a desolate and dangerous area between them. This area was known as no man's land. After her mother died and her father left to find work in Lebanon, Ayesha was left to care for her remaining family, her granny and two younger brothers. When her granny suddenly becomes ill, it is left to Ayesha to find a way to help her. The problem is the only way to help her family is for her to travel though

no man's land. Follow the journey of Ayesha as she courageously battles on to save the life if another.

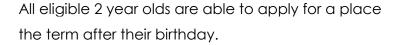
Have you read a good book recently? If you have let your teacher know and hopefully we can include it in our next edition of Millbrook Connect!

Our Millbrook school nursery is expanding to take a limited number of funded 2 year olds!

We are invited those who may be eligible for funded (15 hrs a week) early education and childcare for their two year old to register their interest.

What is funded early education and childcare?

For those eligible, the government funds free childcare for 2 year olds. This works out as 15 hours a week, either 5 mornings or 5 afternoons.







Child's 2nd birthday is between:	When you can claim:
1 January to 31 March	the beginning of Summer term on or after 1 April
1 April to 31 August	the beginning of Autumn term on or after 1 September
1 September to 31 December	the beginning of Spring term on or after 1 January

Is my child eligible?

If your child is aged 2, you are eligible if you are claiming any one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit with earnings from employment below £16,190
- Working Tax Credit with earnings from employment are below £16,190
- Universal Credit if you and your partner are on a low income from work (this usually means a combined income of less than £15,400 a year after tax)

Why would I want my child to go to nursery?

- Research shows that good quality childcare from an early age makes a real difference to how well a child does in the future.
- It will give your child the chance to make new friends, begin to get ready for school with new activities and improve their language skills.
- It will also free up your time for training, hobbies, a break, a part-time job, more hours at work or reduce your childcare bill.

To register your interests in a place for September (exact opening date to be confirmed) please contact the school office on officemb@millbrook.vale-academy.org

Registering your interest is not seen as a commitment or guarantee at this stage by either party. Once we have reviewed the levels of interest, we will contact families individually.



The Big Toddle

This term, our Nursery children took park in a sponsored safari

walk, walking around the school field twice, to raise money for Barnardo's. The

children dressed up either as animals or in safari clothes. They made binoculars before they went so they could find any wild animals on their walk! Apparently they did hear some roars (although that could have been the children..!) and they thought they saw a giraffe hiding behind the tall trees.



The children had lots of fun and did an amazing job by raising a whopping £545.00!!! Well done Tadpole Class!







We just wanted to say a massive thank you to Donna Zavala our Chair of FROM who is

stepping down at the end of this academic year. From all of us here at Millbrook, we want to say we appreciate your time, efforts, ideas and dedication to this role so much! Under Donna's leadership, the FROM team have organised a range of incredible fundraising events including the Christmas Fayre; Summer Fete; Safari Walkabout; Winter Wonderland Window Walk, Virtual Bake-Off and the most recent virtual balloon race – to name but a few! Such events have meant that FROM have been able to fund whole



school projects such as the 'Mosaic Madness' project – which saw every member of the school contributing to three of our fabulous mosaics!

Thank you also to Pauline and Emma who are still remaining within the committee but are stepping down from their current roles. FROM team – thank you!













Reading for Pleasure over the holiday



We wanted to share with you some of the useful resources that help to promote reading for pleasure whilst at home and over the holiday. We know that reading skills play a central role in a child's learning at school. Many research studies have shown that the ability to read and understand complicated information is important for success in education, in the workplace, and in everyday life. The OECD report 'Reading for Change' found that the difference in reading ability between a child who reads for pleasure for 30 minutes a day and one who never reads was more than one year! Some ways you can access quality texts over the holidays include:

Accelerated Reader- Children in Year 3, 4, 5 and

Year 6 have access to Accelerated Reader (AR). AR is a computer-based programme that helps teachers to track



children's independent reading practice. Children are provided with a bespoke reading range, which means that they are able to select books within this reading range that are challenging to them but not too hard to read. This concept is called a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) and we refer to books within children's range as books within their ZPD. On finishing a book, children log into AR and complete a short quiz on the book. The programme will tell them how well they have understood the text based on their results to the quiz. AR recommends that children spend 30 minutes per day reading independently. You can support your child at home by encouraging them to spend 30 minutes a day reading a book from within their ZPD. If your child is unsure of their ZPD, please ask them to contact their teacher via 'Ask the Teacher' on Teams. You can find out the book level of any book using this weblink: https://www.arbookfind.co.uk

Millbrook's Storytelling Team- Children in Years 1-6, who are accessing Teams



also have access to our Storytelling Team! Here, you will find videos of teachers reading stories, chapters and poems of some of their favourite texts, as well as quizzes, reading resources and a 'just for parents' section.

The Literacy Trust - The Literacy Trust are offering free access to 'The Book of Hopes'. This collection of short stories, poems, essays and pictures has contributions from more than 110 children's writers and illustrators, including Lauren Child, Anthony Horowitz, Greg James and Chris Smith, Michael Morpurgo, Liz Pichon, Axel Scheffler, Francesca Simon and Jacqueline Wilson. It can be found here https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes



Virtual School Library- Every week a popular children's author or illustrator will provide you with free books, exclusive videos and their top three recommended reads. You can access here: https://library.thenational.academy



Oxford Owl- If you create an 'Oxford Owl for Home' account, you will be able to access advice and support, educational activities and games and a free ebook library for 3- to 11-year-olds.



Overdrive- If you are a member of a local library and have a library card, you can borrow and read free e-books, audiobooks, and magazines using your computer, phone or tablet.



Stars of the Term!



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

Beavers: Sofia

Otters: Elliott W

Dragonflies: Joshua

Ducklings: Ruby-Mae

Badgers: Jack N

Butterflies: Jack P

Grebe: Michalis

Swallowtail: George

Frogs: Emily S

Swans: Tia

Kingfishers: Mimi

Herons: Savannah

Weasels: Lexie

Pondskaters: Livia



Millbrook Primary School



Millbrook Primary School

2021 - 2022 School Calendar

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School Closed/ Holidays

INSET Day – September 1st & 2nd / October 18th 2021

- November 1st 2021/ January 4th 2021
- June 6th & 24th 2022





Award-winning classes for children as young as 6 months old to 7 years! We are the only dance programme in the U.K that is fully integrated with the Early Years Foundation Stages Curriculum!

toes ballet. It learning through dance



- Tip Toes (6m-18m) \$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$}}}\$} ☆ Twinkle Toes (18m-2.5 Yrs) ☆ 🕸 Talent Toes (2.5-4 Yrs) 🌣 ☆ Tap 1 (2.5-4 Yrs) ☆ ☐ Twirlers & Spinners (4-7 Yrs) ☆ ☆ Tap 2 (4-7 Yrs) ☆
- Visit our website for more information and to book www.tinytoesballet.co.uk/cornwall

Follow us attballetCornwall

Classes in

Liskeard (East Taphouse) Redruth (Lanner) Bodmin (Lanivet) Callington Tavistock 😭 Launceston 😭 Wadebridge St Austell Truro (Devoran)

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, 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 #

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).

