



Millbrook Connect

Believe Achieve Succeed

Dear Parents and Carers

What a fantastic first term we have had – new uniform launch; new sports kit; new classes; new Nursery set up that includes 2 year-olds; new teachers; new homework approach; new Pupil Parliament; new FROM team; new modes of communication – it's been busy but brilliant! We do hope you have found the introduction of the 'Friday Flyer' useful as a 'one-stop snapshot' of key information for the week ahead, whilst also reducing the number of ePraise messages you receive!

As well as many new things, we have also been delighted to reintroduce some things that we were unable to do last year due to Covid restrictions, namely, the return of whole-school assemblies, as well as children mixing together at break and lunchtimes to play outside! This really has been so lovely to see, as it is this that makes school feel so special – seeing the relationships between pupils develop across the different classes and year groups. We've also seen the reintroduction of our Year 6 Sports Leaders who help lead games at lunchtimes for the other children – heart-warming stuff! 😊

The school has also seen the reintroduction of singing assemblies as the VAT Music Lead, Mr Campbell, has returned to us one day a week, and leads singing assemblies, as well as also delivering music nurture groups. In addition to that, we also have TA Sports in school every day, and Mrs Cat Boaz from the VAT one day a week to support with Computing and Science. Again, do read on to hear lots about our ongoing curriculum developments!

Mrs Faye Charlton Mrs Laura Youngman Head(s) of School

In This Issue:

- ❑ **Millbrook Manners in the Community**
- ❑ **Spotlight on.... Our new teachers!**
- ❑ **Curriculum update**
- ❑ **Year 6 Residential**
- ❑ **Mill-BOOK – an exciting competition!**
- ❑ **Read Write Inc comes to Millbrook**
- ❑ **FROM update**
- ❑ **Accelerated Reader at Millbrook**
- ❑ **Key dates for the diary**



Millbrook Manners in the Community



This term, our determination to spread our Millbrook manners out into the community has a new driving force behind it... Our Millbrook 'School Squad'!

The 'School Squad' is made up of a range of different Year 6 children who regularly show our Millbrook manners and who have volunteered to station themselves at our various entrance and exit gates around school to greet our parents, carers and pupils as they arrive and leave school each day – they even have stickers which I think they have given out to some particularly polite pupils! 😊



We hope you have spotted our school squad out and about – if you do please say hello! They are also on hand if you or your child/ren have any school-related questions or queries – they are more than happy to help!

For our future editions of Connect, 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



Lorelei and her mum being greeted by Ethan and Luke one morning last week!

Spotlight On...



This week the spotlight is on our new Year 2 and 3 teachers... **Mr King** and **Mrs Taylor**! We are delighted to welcome them to our Millbrook family ☺



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!)

Raisin & Biscuit Yorkie

Snickers – it's got 'umph' behind it!



2. Place of birth?

Oxford

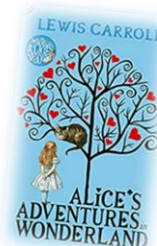
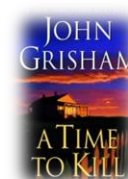
West Midlands



3. Favourite place in all the world?

Craven Cottage or Perth, Australia

Disneyland – so magical I cried!



4. Favourite book? **A Time to Kill** by John Grisham

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

5. Favourite film? **Rain Man**

High School Musical - the kids have heard me sing, I'm amazing! ☺



6. Favourite song? **Don't Speak** by No Doubt

Anything by Taylor Swift!



7. Last meal on earth is likely to be?

Chicken kebab on the BBQ

Lasagne with bread and butter (hold the salad!)

8. If I hadn't become a teacher, I would have become ... **A sports coach** **A nurse**

9. Unlikely interesting fact about you? **I set off the metal detectors at the airports!** **I'm scared of beansprouts!**

10. In a world of 'no limits', how would you spend a fantasy 24 hours?! **With my family watching England beat Australia at the WACA in Perth, followed by Fulham lifting the FA cup (you did say fantasy after all!) and watching the sunset on Warnbro beach. Jet-setting to New Orleans!**

Curriculum – Teaching and Learning update

It has been a fantastic start to the year and a huge amount of work has already taken place to develop our work on the curriculum. September started with a fantastic INSET session, led by Mr Baish, which recapped our new approach to planning the curriculum and how we will measure its impact; conversations with our pupils about their learning and enjoyment being the main indicator!



Training has also taken place for R.E and History, with staff meetings led by Mrs Sanhotra and Miss Meyer – staff thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and we have already seen some great success in the classrooms!



After the positive feedback from Ofsted last term as part of our monitoring visit, we were also delighted to be asked to share some of our work with curriculum leaders across the Vale Academy Trust; we proudly shared the way in which we developed our vision and planned our curriculum to ensure that there is a clear progression in knowledge and skills; lessons that inspire curiosity in learning and ensure that their learning 'sticks!' Our

website has lots of information about our curriculum so please do take a look!
<https://www.millbrookschool.org.uk/curriculum-statement-intent-implementation-and-imp/>

As you may have seen from our letters home, we have also re-launched and reviewed our approaches to both **Homework** and **Feedback and Marking** so that they are in line with the latest research but also so that we can continue to support our children to learn in the best possible way. We hope that you have found the changes to homework helpful, and we will soon be seeking some of your feedback and thoughts to help us review how it is supporting your child's learning at home.

Our focus for the remainder of this year will be to implement our new curriculum planning. We will be supporting our fantastic teachers and support staff to develop how they teach (their 'pedagogy') even further so that we can become the 'exceptional' school that we strive to be every day. This professional development will be through coaching; staff meetings; external input and opportunities to talk together about activities that have been successful in the classroom. We can't wait to share our updates with you! Watch this space!



School Development Priorities



Our school development priorities for the year ahead are detailed below and include some of the key actions that we plan to take in each area; look out for the next edition of 'Millbrook Connect' to find out how we are getting on! We have already achieved lots this year!

Key priority 1: Curriculum implementation

Focus on the implementation of the newly developed curriculum so that it is taught consistently well from Early Years to Year 6.

- *Support for subject leaders*
- *Staff meetings linked to key subject areas, for example 'Writing'*
- *Time for teachers to plan together and share ideas*
- *Expert 'teacher' input, for example Music and Computing specialists*
- *Cross-school collaboration with other VAT schools*

Key priority 2: Early Reading

Implement the newly chosen phonics programme from Nursery to Year 4 (Read, Write, Inc) and ensure that all staff are trained to deliver it effectively.

- *Staff training*
- *Purchasing of new books to carefully match children's decoding ability*
-

Key priority 3: Grow and develop teachers

Grow and support teachers to develop their practice so that teaching across the school is excellent.

- *1:1 Coaching using the latest research and advice linked to high quality teaching and learning*
- *Staff meetings, including time to prioritise planning*
- *Online/face to face courses*
- *Subject specialist teachers and support from senior leaders*
- *Staff 'CPD' libraries*

Year 6 Residential



The excitement was palpable as we started the term knowing that PGL was only a few weeks away! As we crept closer to departure day, the excitement intertwined with nerves for many of the children who were staying away from home for the first time. When pupils begin to arrive with luggage bigger than themselves, teddies in hand and a sense of adventure, it always creates an amazing atmosphere but there seemed to be something special about this bunch; something different.

We arrived at Liddington in record time and before picnicking on the field bathed in sunshine, we dropped our luggage into our new homes for the next couple of nights. The first activities for the afternoon revealed what was so special about this group; not a single person shied away from anything. This was a theme that would continue to run throughout this trip with the bravery of the young people, their enthusiasm towards themselves as well as others, and their compassion for each other when things were difficult. As one pupil genuinely and kindly said: "Well done for trying" as Mr Law couldn't quite complete a small wall. It was inspirational to see how these young people overcame challenges, cheered on by their friends.



During the next couple of days the children were able to test themselves on heights with rock climbing, abseiling, the giant swing, zip-wire and trapeze. They were able to work together on the challenge course whilst testing their skills in archery as well. A favourite was the canoeing which turned into a swim for some! As the evenings rolled in, a scavenger hunt in the dark and a camp fire with s'mores and a sing-song kept us entertained. The children were complimented for their Millbrook manners throughout the trip from so many of the instructors and they were a credit to themselves and the school. We couldn't be more proud of all of the children

who made this trip incredible.

A special mention must go to all of the teachers and adults who helped before, during and after the trip so thank you: Mrs Smith, both Mrs Walkers(!), Mrs Buchanan, Mrs Packard, Mrs Beaumont, Miss Willis, Mr Jacques and Mr Law.

A truly memorable experience for everyone involved.







MILL-BOOK!!!!!!



We LOVE books at Millbrook! Which is why we're very keen to make the entrance to our school as 'booktastic' as possible!

We are building an 'Our staff recommend...' and 'Our children recommend...' display and **now we want to fill an 'Our parents recommend...' display** ➡



We would love for you to tell us your favourite children's book, **with a £10 book token being chosen at random for the winner!**

To enter, you just need to:

- 📖 Tell us the name of your favourite children's book
- 📖 Write a maximum of two sentences explaining why you love it or who else you think might enjoy it
- 📖 Include a photo of you holding the book which you'd be happy to go on display in the entrance hall.

Please send your entries to officemb@millbrook.vale-academy.org with the subject 'MILLBOOK'. We'll select a random winner on the closing date of **Friday 5th November**.

Have a look at the display so far to get some ideas...



Welcome to Mill BOOK!



Thank you – and good luck! ☺



Millbrook Pupil Parliament Update



Our newly formed Pupil Parliament have already been extremely busy this year, collaborating on their very first project!

The Parliament have decided that they would like to work on supporting Mr Rose and the Millbrook staff team with continuing to develop the kind, caring and supportive culture at our school.

When discussing what they think makes Millbrook so caring, they gave the following examples which were lovely to hear:

- **Our nurture base, 'The Nest'**
- **Assemblies that cover topics such as anti-bullying and kindness**
- **Millbrook Manners and celebration of politeness**
- **BLP (Building Learning Powers)**
- ***'It is because in the Foundation Stage, they teach the children about sharing and kindness and that goes through school.'***



The parliament then shared some really lovely suggestions to develop this even further with Mrs Youngman and Mrs Charlton. Having spoken to their classes, they have agreed the following actions for the next term:

- **Launch new 'Kindness Certificates' (designed by our Head Boy, Harry) to celebrate acts of kindness and to be given out in our Friday Celebration Assemblies**
- **Placing a 'compliments box' in every class to make sure that lovely comments can be shared with each other**
- **A new 'Kindness Krew- with a 'K'! -(snazzily named by Hubert!) to support children at playtime and lunchtime who might feel lonely or are finding it hard to join in with games.**

Finally, Emily (our Head Girl) also had the pleasure of joining the first full Vale Academy Trust Parliament to discuss some new and exciting projects across the Trust – we were so incredibly proud of how Emily represented the school and how maturely and confidently she explained her ideas!



The Parliament have already made us incredibly proud and we can't wait to hear about what they do next! To see what we have been up to, please do look our website page: <https://www.millbrookschool.org.uk/millbrook-pupil-parliament/>

Read Write Inc comes to Millbrook!

Reading is the key to success

It is essential that, by the end of their primary education, all pupils are able to read fluently, and with confidence, in any subject in their forthcoming secondary education.

The Reading Framework July 2021



"the more
that you read,
the more things
you will know.
the more
that you learn,
the more places
you'll go."

This term we have launched Read Write Inc: a phonics programme which helps children learn to read fluently and at speed so they can focus on developing their skills in comprehension, vocabulary and spelling.

Read Write Inc is a systematic way of teaching phonics. The children are taught a new sound and they then read a book that matches this as part of the same lesson.

The children are enjoying the programme and we are very pleased that **we can already see good progress.** Children in Reception are confidently writing their sounds daily and learning to segment and blend with Fred the Frog (see photo on the left!), Year 1 are learning about 'special friends' (sounds written with more than one letter, e.g sh, ng, qu) and red (tricky) words, and Year 2 have been consolidating their knowledge before taking the phonics screening check in November.



We are eagerly awaiting **our delivery of new books!**

These will be used as part of the lessons and to send home. The children will also be able to access e-books and quizzes at home and school via Oxford Owl.

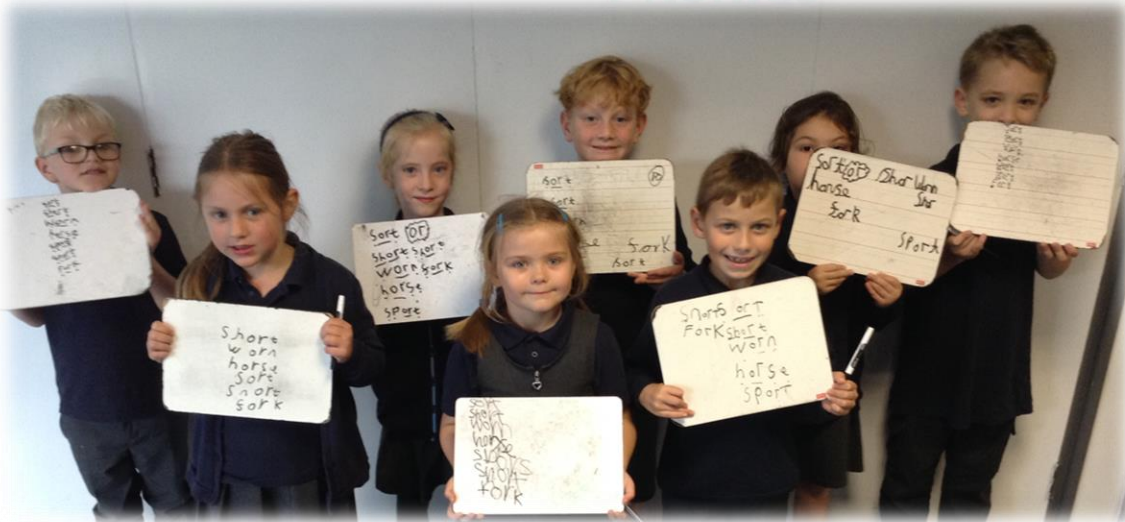
We are looking forward to telling you more about Read Write Inc at our **parents' information meetings next term**, so please make sure you sign up for one of these. During the evening you will have an opportunity to look at the books and see what is available via the e-library. We will be handing out information booklets, sharing links to videos and telling you more about Fred the Frog! Everyone who attends a meeting will be entered into a free raffle with the chance of winning some phonics resources!

Teaching reading is a partnership between school and home. We hope you are ready to join us on our journey to ensure every child at Millbrook becomes a confident and fluent reader! See some photos of RWI in action on the next page!





Read Write Inc. Phonics



For the Read Write Inc Information Meeting for Parents: see our 'dates for your diary' section!

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!



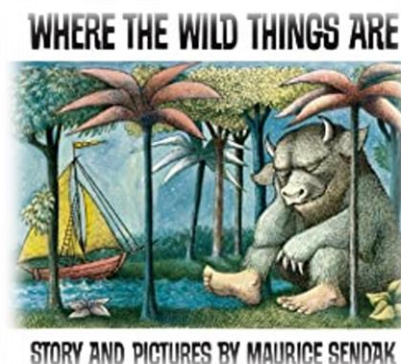
For our younger readers, Mr Rose recommends...

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak



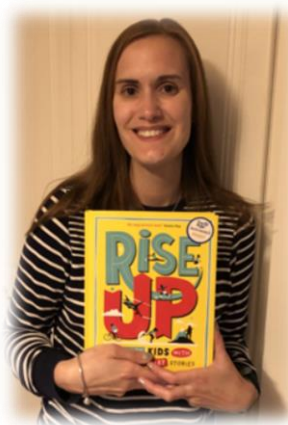
I absolutely loved this book growing up! This story is all about a little boy called Max who goes on a bedtime adventure to an island inhabited by monsters! Here he finds huge, ferocious, multi-coloured creatures with big claws and teeth! I

love Max's spirit and determination to overcome his fears in this exciting adventure story! Perfect for curious young minds!



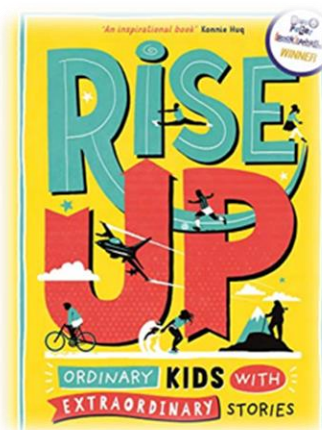
For our older readers, Mrs Youngman recommends...

Rise Up: Ordinary Kids with Extraordinary Stories



My recommendation is a fabulous non-fiction book. In **'Rise Up'**, you will find the stories of some incredible young people who have shown amazing courage and determination when overcoming the challenges they have faced and have also made a huge difference to our world today. There are lots of top tips to

inspire **YOU** to do something amazing too! I hope that you love this brilliant book as much as I do and that it inspires you to be an amazing role model for others. Enjoy!



Accelerated Reader

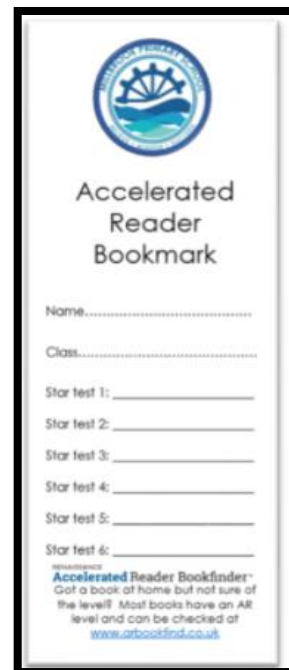


AR bookmarks for Years 3-6

Your children will shortly be bringing home a AR bookmark which will be updated throughout the year to provide you with ongoing information about your child's reading level on the 'Accelerated Reader' (AR) scheme that we use at Millbrook.

Please ensure the bookmarks are kept safely in your child's reading book as they also have a set of helpful questions on the back that you can ask your child when reading with them! Additionally, it is helpful for you to know your child's AR level if you are looking for new books for your child to read. Visit www.arbookfind.co.uk to check the AR level of thousands of book titles!

If your bookmark goes missing or hasn't arrived home, please email the office to ask for a new one: officemb@millbrook.vale-academy.org



For parents who are new to the Accelerated Reader scheme, please do ask your child's teacher; there is also some further information on the AR website here:

<https://www.renaissance.com/2016/09/09/parents-guide-renaissance-accelerated-reader-360/>

Reading success in Term 1!

Listening to/reading with your child every day has been highlighted as the most important activity in our home learning – research suggests that this is the activity that has the greatest impact on children's learning. We value the support you provide through ensuring your child reads daily and we have been really impressed by the number of words our children have already read in Term 1 – a total of 1,866,141 words!



Reading quizzes – in school and at home

The **Accelerated Reader scheme** enables children to **complete quizzes on the books that they have read** which tests the children's comprehension. Children can also complete these quizzes at home by visiting the 'Pupils/Class pages' section of the Millbrook School website and we also monitor/celebrate quiz successes in class!



Reading records

Alongside daily reading teaching in school, we keep close records of 1:1 reading at school in our class reading folders and have some exciting plans for parents to share home reading with us. We will provide more information about this in the coming weeks!



In the meantime, we hope you find the bookmarks useful and please do get in touch if you have any questions regarding Accelerated Reader.

In the meantime, keep reading, keep quizzing!

The Millbrook KS2 team 😊

Key Dates for the Diary

Dates for
your
diary.....

November 2021

Mon 1st November: INSET day

Thurs 4th November (5-6pm): Read Write Inc Parent workshop for **Reception** parents

Mon 8th November (7pm): FROM meeting at school

Tues 9th November: Individual and sibling school photos

Tues 9th – Fri 12th November: School mosaic project

Fri 12th November: Non-uniform day for FROM Christmas Fayre – bring an item for the Christmas tombola

Thurs 18th November (5-6pm): Read Write Inc Parent workshop for **Year 1** parents

Thurs 25th November (5-6pm): Read Write Inc Parent workshop for **Year 2 & 3** parents

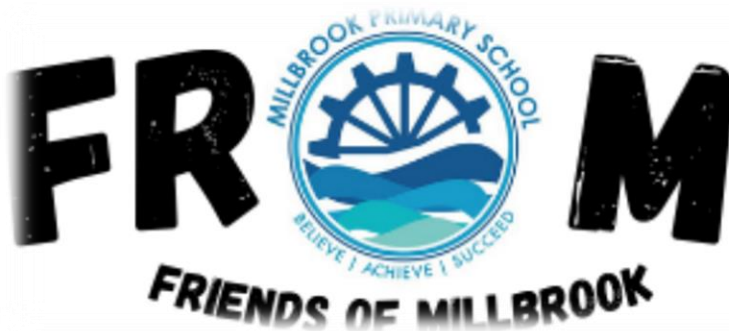
Sat 27th November (4-7pm): FROM Christmas Fayre

December 2021

Wed 15th December: Christmas dinner day (Nursery to Year 6)

Fri 17th December: Last day of term. Finish at **12pm!**





The Friends of Millbrook committee are delighted to finally be able to start fundraising in person again and we can't wait for our first event; we have increased our annual fundraising target to an incredible £10,000!

We are hoping to raise money to fund new playground equipment and outdoor gym equipment for the children to use during break and lunch! We will also be raising money for an exciting, comprehensive phonics/reading scheme!

Of course, we cannot achieve this goal without your support and we have lots of fantastic fundraising events planned for this school year to reach it.

If you would like to help out in any way please do let us know. You can join the committee and attend the meetings or you can volunteer at our events! No help is too small!

ARE YOU READY TO PARTY?



**FROM Disco
is back!**

**BAR! TREATS! GOOD MUSIC!
TICKETS £3 PER PERSON**

Accompanying adults must purchase a ticket.
Under 3's free

**SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2021
6.30PM TO 9PM
OLD MILL HALL**

KEY DATES

FROM COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
7PM IN SCHOOL

NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

FRIDAY 12TH NOVEMBER
PLEASE BRING AN ITEM TO DONATE FOR THE
CHRISTMAS TOMBOLA

FROM DISCO

SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER
6.30PM-9PM
TICKETED EVENT - VIA PARENTPAY

PRE-LOVED CHRISTMAS JUMPER DONATIONS
TO SCHOOL BETWEEN MONDAY 15TH - FRIDAY
19TH NOVEMBER

CHRISTMAS WINTER WONDERLAND

SATURDAY 27TH NOVEMBER
4PM-7PM



Stars of the Term



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

Beavers: Casey L

Otters: Harvey

Dragonflies: Meadow

Ducklings: Miyah

Badgers: Poppy D

Butterflies: Robert

Grebe: Chloe

Swallowtail: Finley K

Frogs: Lily T

Swans: Riley S

Kingfishers: Thomas A

Heron: Caelan

Weasels: Mikayla

Pondskaters: Cameron



Millbrook Primary School

2021 - 2022 School Calendar

August '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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29	30	31				

September '21						
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October '21						
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31						

November '21						
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December '21						
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January '22						
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February '22						
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March '22						
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April '22						
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May '22						
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June '22						
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July '22						
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31						



School Closed/ Holidays



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

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



Bank Holiday

Times Table 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.millbrookschoool.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 #](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).

