Millbrook Connect

Believe Achieve Succeed

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term has flown by! It seems hard to believe that upon returning after Easter, we will be entering the summer term! As always, there has been a range of wonderful things going on at school this term including a very successful science week, World Book Day, Bedtime and Books evening, Science explorer dome visit, an i-Rock music concert, various sporting competitions and on-site parents evenings! … *And we haven't even mentioned Millbrook's first ever assembly 'flash mob'!*

This edition of Connect will also provide you with an update on our curriculum work, as well as book recommendations, a section all about what are children are saying, and Millbrook Manners.

Thank you for all your support this term; we couldn't do it without you!

We hope you have a restful and enjoyable Easter holiday,

Faye Charlton Laura Youngman

Head(s) of School

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Millbrook Manners in the Community

In this edition of Connect, we have decided to highlight a range of different children who have used their Millbrook Manners in our school community! Every day, we seem to be learning about more children who have decided to use their Millbrook Manners to make a difference or to show our school values of kindness and responsibility. We hope you enjoy reading about all of our fabulous pupils below!

Brodie (Y4, Swans Class) – after our first lunchtime on the school field this year, Brodie took it upon himself to collect up all the jumpers that had been left behind. He then sorted them into names and un-named and returned the named items to their owners, and put the unnamed items in lost property!

Harry, Emily, Raydee, Haydn, Savannah and **Lucas** (Year 6) – this team of Year 6s had a very important job of designing a series of questions for our potential teaching candidates! They took their role very seriously and devised some excellent questions such as, '*How would you show our school values of Kindness and Responsibility in your teaching?*' and '*Why would you like to work at Millbrook?*' and '*Who has been your biggest inspiration in your life so far, and why?*'. The children then got to ask their questions to the candidates as part of our recruitment day and they were amazing!

Ashton (Y5, Kingfishers) – <u>every</u> single afternoon at the end of the day, Ashton stops by the Leadership offices to say '*Have a nice* evening!' or to ask us how our day has been. How lovely is that?!

Jenson (Y5, Kingfishers) - He borrowed a book from Mr Baish, but his water bottle leaked in his bag which meant the book was ruined! So he used his pocket money and bought a replacement, all off his own back, AND bought Mr Baish some chocolate!

Spotlight On…

This term the spotlight is on….. iRock lessons!

The company iRock offer our children at Millbrook rock and pop band lessons every Friday. These lessons provide an amazing confidence boosting experience for children by making music fun and giving them a platform where they can truly express themselves!

The lessons:

- BUILD CONFIDENCE
- BOOST WELLBEING
- WORK AS A TEAM
- EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

To find out more information about iRock please click on the link: https://irockschool.com/parents/

We rounded off the term with an iRock concert which saw our current 4 bands from across Y1 to Y6 perform songs including Shivers, Dance Monkey, Seven Nation Army and Radioactive!!! The children were just incredible and enjoyed performing to their families as well as their friends and classmates afterwards! We were so proud of them! A massive thank you to Dan and Luke the iRock teachers who are just brilliant!

School Development Priorities & Teaching and Learning update

It has been such a short term, but it is amazing how much work we have managed to pack into a few weeks! As a school, we are really keen to share our development journey with our parents and carers, and we hope that you enjoy reading the latest updates about our key priorities as a school!

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.

✓ We held a briefing for all members of staff in 'Team Millbrook' after school to celebrate our successes and update everyone on our focuses for curriculum development this term – this was well-attended and enjoyed by all! **Watch this space for a date for a future curriculum event for parents and carers!**

✓ The Senior Leadership Team have continued to look at books and speak to children about their curriculum– we have been delighted to see some amazing learning and to hear the children talk about the curriculum so passionately! It is clear that children are enjoying lessons; remembering their learning and are making links which will help it 'stick!' We know that they are enjoying their regular 'recap' mini-quizzes!

✓ We are looking forward to welcoming Lynn Knapp (National Leader of Education) and some members of the Vale Academy Trust back into school next term to share more of our journey; this time linked specifically to Key Stage 2 Reading and 'non-core subjects.

✓ Members of the Senior Leadership team have been working with and supporting other schools within and outside of the Vale Academy Trust, for example leading reviews and collaborating with teachers to develop various subject areas– we are so proud of our team!

✓ Mrs Youngman, Mrs Charlton, Mrs Jacques and Mr. Baish, have also been working with some children in Year 6 to develop their confidence in certain areas of the curriculum; this has included small group, as well as 1:1 support and has been very much enjoyed by all; we have loved seeing the children so excited about Maths in particular!!

✓ Finally, (hot off the press!), we have held our first ever Millbrook Science Fair! Check out the article later in this edition of Connect!

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.

- ✓ Mrs Charlton and Mrs Youngman visited Windmill Primary School (another school who have used Read Write Inc successfully over a number of years) – we loved our visit and are excited about the next phase of our journey!

- ✓ We have ordered some new RWI resources to supplement our current library of books, including non-fiction reading materials, posters for classes and magnetic letter tiles. **A huge thank you to FROM for helping us purchase these – we are <u>so</u> grateful!**

- ✓ Mrs Keymer, Mrs Catungal and Mrs Donnellan have continued to work with teachers and support staff in implementing Read Write Inc – it is certainly having a transformational impact across the school, and has been evidenced via pupil and parent views, as well as when we pop into classes! Great job everyone!

Key Priority 3: Grow and develop teachers

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

- ✓ Our joint coaching project across both Millbrook and Charlton primary schools, led by Mrs Youngman and Mrs Campbell (from Charlton), is now in full swing!
This term we have held a number of sessions for staff; including one linked to the Cognitive Science behind learning and remembering, as well as coaching training for members of the Senior Leadership team – we are super excited to continue to embed our culture of learning for everyone in Term 5 and we will keep you updated!

- ✓ A training programme for our support staff has been launched and will start after Easter; this will be linked to some fantastic new resources that form part of our development package for new teachers.

- ✓ Our Early Career teachers are doing an amazing job – they have become highly valued members of Team Millbrook; they continue to receive support and training via our in-school mentors (Mrs Donnellan, Miss Baldry and Miss Meyer) and through local 'hubs' as part of the Oxfordshire Teaching School Hub.

What are our pupils saying?...

Here at Millbrook, we believe that Pupil Voice is key to our ongoing drive for improvement as well as being one of the biggest measures of our success. Recently, we had a Vale Academy Trust review of our Behaviour and Attitudes. As part of this review, the team spoke to a range of pupils from across the school and we would like to share with you some of the comments they made! We couldn't be prouder! Millbrook Magic!

I am included very well, everyone is kind and when I don't understand, my teachers explain it to me

School makes me happy as our teachers always have a smile on their face!

Everyone is kind and inclusive. They are all welcoming!

The teachers help me get more education and help me with my learning

School is fun and safe!

Our teachers are great - they help us and are fair

PE is amazing here!

And to end, this incredible comment from one of our Y6 pupils…

Millbrook School is a wonderful place to be! Honestly, if I didn't have school my life would be missing something!

Science Week

This term, Millbrook held their very own Science week in conjunction with Science Oxford's Big Science Event. During the week, each year group carried out lots of exciting investigations which were designed independently by the children. We saw great examples of collaboration, as the children worked in pairs to answer scientific questions such as 'Which material makes the best raincoat?' and 'How much water is needed to make the wobbliest jelly?' The children really took this chance to show off their working scientifically skills. We had Year 6 pupils building complex electrical circuits, Year 4 trying to find soundproofing materials and Year 2 created ways to disperse seeds more efficiently! After finishing their experiments, each pair had to create a poster to show their findings and evaluate their own work – just like proper scientists.

Alongside the incredible lessons in class, KS1 had the opportunity to crawl inside the Explorer Dome when it visited the school. Once inside, they were treated to a fantastic light show and learnt so much about light and shadows. They made shadow puppets, used a mirrors ball to create different effects and it even rained inside! The children absolutely loved this experience and were all still talking about it days later.

At the end of Science Week, each class voted for a winning pair to go through to the in-school final. Their they talked about their experiments and showed off their work. The judges were very impressed with all the hard work and had such a tough time choosing the winners to go through to the Big Science Event Final.

Grand finalists

<u>Y1/Y2</u>

- Olivia and Miyah (Ducklings)
- Carys (Badgers) and Isla (Butterflies)

<u>Y3/Y4</u>

- Suzie and Lucy (Frogs)
- Millie, Esme and Olivia (Swans)

<u>Y5/Y6</u>

- Harry and Cam (Pondskaters)
- Sophie and Amber (Herons)

Well done to all who took part. The above finalists will take their work to a science event outside of school later in the year and we know they will do Millbrook proud!

Science Week Photos!!!!!

Sporting Events

This term, Year 6 took part in the first ever 3v3 Vale basketball tournament at KA's west site. With this new format recently introduced to the Olympics, the children attending were incredibly keen to participate which enabled us to enter two teams for the competition. The fast-paced game is played on only one hoop and the children were very quick to learn the rules of the game - they had to self-officiate and they did this excellently! There were lots of games against other schools across the Vale and both teams had some wins and some losses, but overall, they played with fairness and a smile on their face, and eventually both teams ended up 4th in their pools. It was great to see the Year 6 boys work hard as a team, supporting their other team and also, supporting other schools and pupils - they all showed kindness and responsibility in abundance. Well done Year 6 basketball team; the NBA awaits!

Our girls football team also represented the school this term when they took part in the Year 5/6 Vale Tournament on Monday 21st March. The girls played a series of 5-a-side matches against teams such as Wantage, St James and Sunningwell Primary Schools. The girls won, drew and lost their games but what impressed 'Coach' (Mrs) Charlton (!) the most was their <u>incredible</u> behaviour and Millbrook Manners. When Charlton Primary School progressed into the finals, the girls asked to go outside to cheer them on! Great stuff girls!

The annual cross-country competition was held this term. Firstly, congratulations to everyone for taking part. It is not easy to run long distances but all of the pupils worked and to the best of their ability which is all we ever ask. Secondly, a massive thank you and well done to our year 6 sports leaders who worked with Mr Chadwick to provide this opportunity for all Key Stage 2 pupils. Without you, the event wouldn't have been as successful as it was and your encouragement and enthusiasm helped everybody. The results were:

Y3/4 girls: 1st Sophia H (Y4) 7.46 **2nd** Emily W (Y4) 7.52

Y3/4 boys: **1st** Monty (y4) 6.54 **2nd** Callum (Y4) 7.13

Y5/6 girls: 1st Lauren (Y6) 11.37 **2nd** Amber R (Y5) 12.13

Y5/6 boys: **1st** Haydn (Y6) 8.52 **Joint 2nd** Noah (Y6)and Lucas B (Y5) 11.22

Run Reception, Run!!!!!

This term, Otters and Beavers have been focusing on health – oral health; mental health; fitness; exercise and diet. The children have been under training for the last 13 weeks, which has included weekly circuit training and continuous running practice with Miss Sanderson and Mrs Catungal at the helm! The children have been building up to their target challenge of running a mile (4 laps around our school field) at the end of term.

We can proudly report that **every child** in reception class achieved this impressive goal! Miss Sanderson commented, "*We are extremely proud of how hard all the children trained and then how they translated this into their running of a mile! Not one child refused or cried! In fact, they were cheering each other on and were determined to all finish!*" All the children were rewarded with a winner's medal and wore them with such pride around the school!

As you can see from the photo of Otters Class above they were all extremely proud of themselves! Well done Team Reception!

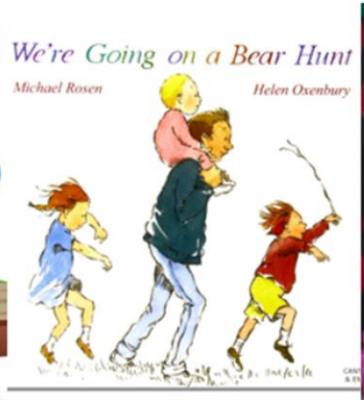
Book Corner! Looking for a good book? In this section, we have asked two of our teachers to recommend a book they've enjoyed recently!

For our younger readers, Mrs Betts recommends...

Mrs Betts:

Teacher

This book is one of my favourites for our Nursery children. They just love re-enacting the story pretending to be the swaying grass, walking through the river and mud, going through the dark forest and a snowstorm into a dark cave to find the bear. The children often feel very sorry for the bear as he has no friends.
It's a lovely story to re-enact while you're out on a walk!

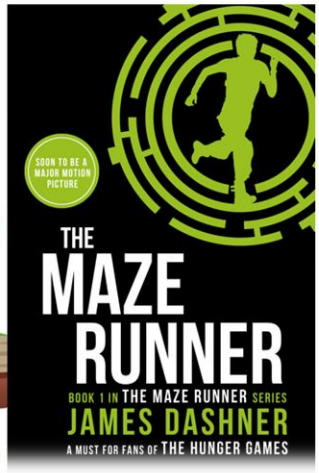


For our older readers, Mr Jacques recommends...

Mr Jacques:

Deputy Headteacher

The Maze Runner is a brilliant book and is full of mystery, teleportation and a giant stone maze. This book is a must read; I couldn't put it down! It is great for children in upper KS2 and more confident readers.



Stars of the Term

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

Beavers: Freddie

Otters: Lily

Dragonflies: Lucas

Ducklings: Zeva

Badgers: Connor

Butterflies: Edward

Grebe: Elliott B

Swallowtail: Eva

Frogs: Charlie

Swans: Oscar

Kingfishers: Summer R

Herons: Amber

Weasels: Emma

Pondskaters: Alisha

Calling for second-hand bikes!

Do you have an old bike someone else could make use of?

Sustainable Wantage are seeking second-hand bikes to help get Year 6 children in Wantage and Grove equipped for Bikeability training. We're particularly looking for 24" and 26" wheel sizes. Please check your sheds and spread the word to friends and family too!

If you have a bike to offer, please email a photo of the whole bike and a photo of the chain to wantagemix@gmail.com.

SUSTAINABLE WANTAGE

The Mix
15 Mill Street, Wantage, OX12 9AB
facebook/thewantagemix
www.sustainablewantage.org.uk

THE MIX

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Vehicle idling – please STOP!

Unnecessary vehicle idling is a contributor to local air pollution and increased health risk to the children at Millbrook. One of the areas where unnecessary idling occurs the most is at schools by parents waiting to drop off and pick up their children.

We have included a fact sheet with this letter to give you more information on the hazards of idling and to help illustrate just why this issue is so critical.

We are encouraging parents to make an informal "No Idling" pledge and that you become an active participant in improving air quality and reducing health risks by eliminating idling within the school pick up zone.

The simple but critical change in behaviour of idling your vehicle will drastically improve the air quality in the community and the air your children breathe.

Thank you for pledging your support.

Idling Reduction Fact Sheet

Did you know?

- Each of us takes 20,000 breaths each day
- The average person breathes 3,400 gallons of air a day
- Children breathe 50 percent more air per pound than adults
- Vehicle exhaust is a key contributor to air pollution
- Idling wastes more fuel than turning your vehicle engine off and on again

Key Dates for the Diary

April 2022

Fri 8th April: FROM Easter Bingo – 6pm doors open. 6:30 eyes down!

Mon 25th April: Summer term begins – children return to school

May 2022

Mon 2nd May: Bank holiday – school closed

Wk beg 9th May: SATs Week for Year 6

Fri 27th May: Jubilee Dance Celebrations

Fri 27th May: Last day of term – finish at 3pm

June 2022

Mon 6th June: INSET day – school closed to children

Tues 7th June: Children return to school

Millbrook Primary School

Millbrook Primary School

2021 - 2022 School Calendar

August '21

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30	31				

September '21

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October '21

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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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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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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

Bank Holiday

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 recently, 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).