



Millbrook Connect

Believe Achieve Succeed

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 6 – our final term of this academic year! We decided to send out our termly Millbrook Connect this side of term so that we could include the incredible photographs from our Platinum Jubilee event on the last day of term! Thank you to all of you that came along and supported our event – it felt like the perfect way to end the term, basking in the glorious May sunshine! ☺ Read on to see photos from our Jubilee picnic as well as hearing about what went on that afternoon to commemorate the Queen on her 70 years on the throne!! I think you'll agree the children looked fantastic in their red, white and blue! It was also so brilliant to have our parents back on site again!

Please do look out for a letter coming out soon inviting you, our parents and carers, into school for our 'i-Rock concert' and 'Sports Days'.

In this edition of Connect, you can find out all about what was going on at Millbrook in Term 5. So, please pour yourself a cuppa and enjoy!

Faye Charlton Laura Youngman Head(s) of School

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Millbrook Manners in the Community



This term's Millbrook Manners in the Community contribution comes from one of our parents who wrote to Mrs Charlton to let her know how our children were using their Millbrook Manners beyond the school gates....

Dear Mrs Charlton, I just wanted to tell you how absolutely proud of Millbrook students you'd have been this afternoon. Several Year 6s, as well as Leo (Y5) and Emmy (Y4) all took part in a football game - Millbrook vs Grove C of E! They displayed amazing team player attitudes. There was also zero rivalry, just polite, with rational rules/fouls decided and Emmy even ended up playing for Grove C of E to make up the numbers.

It was an absolute pleasure to watch. They did Millbrook proud! 🤝



This is just so brilliant to hear and makes us all incredibly proud! Go Team Millbrook!



Spotlight On...

This term the spotlight is on..... our new book vending machine!

We were so excited last term to introduce our book vending machine for our Stars of the Term! Thank you so much to the bona fide legend Mr Pocock and his company SPX Flow for making this happen; we are so incredibly grateful for your help!

Mr Pocock came into Millbrook to officially 'open' our vending machine ahead of the Star of the Term event... we even rolled out the red carpet! To say the children were excited to choose their books and use the machine is an understatement! Also, huge thanks to our amazing FROM (Friends of Millbrook) team for helping to fund the machine with books! 🥰



School Development Priorities & Teaching and Learning update

Wow! Last term flew by – we can't believe it has come to an end already. Despite this, the team have continued to work incredibly hard on our core development priorities. Take a look to see what we have been up to!

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 have continued to develop our broad and balanced curriculum at Millbrook. Work this term has included supporting teachers who are new to leading a subject, as well as mapping out school 'key concepts' – Mr Baish has been working closely with teachers to support them in evaluating the strengths in each subject, and the next steps. 'Kindness is key' to our approach for staff as well as children!



- ✓ We have been thinking about how best to help children remember the 'sticky' knowledge and skills in each subject – we have considered how 'thinking maps' can be used across the curriculum to help recording and trialing some new 'working walls' in classrooms. More information on these to follow soon!

- ✓ Our curriculum enrichment programme has restarted post-covid with some fantastic trips to enhance learning – for example Year 5 visited the Living Rainforest and Year 1 went to Farmer Gows.

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.

- ✓ We have been delighted with the amazing impact of RWI across the school!
- ✓ Non-fiction books will be introduced fully as part of the daily lessons this term
- ✓ Children are more confident and fluent when reading.
- ✓ The impact of the children reading decodable books in lessons every day, reading with staff, buddy reading, and reading at home, has had such a positive impact for the children, especially the less confident children.

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) has continued to grow and develop! We have been trialling a range of coaching techniques with staff and this has been well received.
- ✓ Mrs Youngman led a training session for our support staff linked to questioning and how this can help children learn.
- ✓ VATHeadteachers met together to talk about the role of 'cognitive science' in learning (models of memory and helping children retain key learning); this will be the focus of our INSET day on 6th June for teachers, and then will be developed across the trust in the future. We look forward to sharing more about this with you soon!

Pupil Parliament Update

Our fabulous Pupil Parliament have been super busy this term! They met with Mrs Youngman to talk about what they felt would make Millbrook even better and their ideas have been shared at a Senior Leadership Team meeting. We have been so proud of their mature and thoughtful approach to making MBK even more special!



One area that they agreed that they would like to further develop, is the range of equipment available to them at playtimes – as a result of this, Mrs Ball (Chair of FROM) kindly agreed to attend one of their meetings to hear their ideas, and so that she could share their great suggestions with the committee. Ideas included:

- **More sports equipment such as footballs**
- **'Educational' outdoor games, e.g. outdoor word and Maths games**
- **Some outdoor 'garden' games such as Connect-4, giant Jenga**
- **Development of areas to reflect and do quiet activities such as reading, colouring, chatting (for example a bench or reading areas)**

The children were so grateful that Mrs Ball was able to come to their meeting. Thank you, as always, to FROM for their amazing support!

Soon we will be appointing our new Head Pupils and the Parliament reps (we cannot believe a year has flown by!) – we are so proud of this year's Parliament; what an amazing impact they have had!

Our Amazing Year 6 Children!!!!



In May, our Year 6 children took their SATs tests in reading, spelling punctuation and grammar and maths. We couldn't be prouder of them! They have worked so hard throughout their time at Millbrook, and also had to cope with the disruption of COVID, but this did not deter them from giving it their best!

Each morning, children were invited to our 'SATs morning breakfast' to keep them calm and relaxed ahead of their tests (as you can see from the photo above they were ready to go!!!). A huge thank you to all our staff who helped organise this and a special shout out to our cook Paulette for arranging the food and for Mrs Taylor and Mrs Smith for cooking the best toast the children have ever had!

We finished the week with a party to celebrate the end of a tough week! Mr Law arrived just after lunch with 10 Dominos pizza boxes, chips and a huge smile on his face! We continued the celebration with some extra golden time on the field and some sweet treats kindly donated by our parents – thank you so much!



The children blew us away with their mature attitude, determination and drive to do their very best. You are the greatest Year 6 pupils in the world and whatever happens you have done your family, your school, and most importantly yourselves, proud! 😊

Spread the word... our new Nursery is open!!

Nursery is where a child's educational journey begins and adventures await! We offer a teacher-led education for two, three and four year olds. Our nursery is a fantastic place for children to begin their learning and development.



If you know someone looking for a nursery for 2022/23 please tell them that visiting our new nursery at Millbrook is a great place to start!

We offer tours to give you a chance to see our lovely NEW building and grounds and the nursery in action on a normal day.

Booking a visit is easy. Either pop into the office or email officemb@millbrook.vale-academy.org

Or alternatively, you can phone us on 01235 764822 to organise a time to visit the school!



Board of Directors Visit



At the end of last term, Millbrook had a very successful visit by the Vale Academy Trust's Board of Directors. Moving forward, the Directors are very keen to come into the Trust's schools for their Board meetings and decided to begin their 'tour' with Millbrook!

During the visit, the Board received a tour of the school where they met several members of our team along the way and then finished with a presentation by Mr Rose, Mrs Charlton and Mrs Youngman about Millbrook's key strengths and next steps. The Directors were very complimentary about the change in the school and progress made in recent years by the team. Some feedback from the Board included:-

"I wanted to write following a truly inspirational visit to Millbrook to say thank you and congratulations on all you are achieving at the school. I was blown away by your energy and enthusiasm but also the very methodical way that you as a team have been going about making change happen. It was inspirational at every turn and I have no doubt that when Ofsted next come knocking there will be a great story to tell."

"All staff are inspired by the working surroundings. Working at Millbrook as you all do each day, you lose sight of the fantastic improvements in the school premises which you enjoy. They bring about a calmness and comfort that must inspire everyone who works there."

"I particularly loved the clarity of your strategy; it was astute, focused and rooted in discerning research into what is best for your school; the sort of improvement that "sticks to the sides. Also, the tangible sense of pride and excitement amongst the members of your team; it was genuine."

"School improvement can be very messy, but what we heard and saw yesterday was so clear - in your words, fresh and simple. It was inspiring and it must be terrific to be working or learning on Team Millbrook under your leadership!"

As you can see the visit was a real success and provided further validation of the improvements we are making each and every day as a school!

Platinum Jubilee Celebration at MBK!

🕒 795 days since we were sent into lockdown...

🕒 113 weeks...

🕒 19,000 hours...



It's been so long since we were able to welcome all of our parents, carers and wider Millbrook Family back into school on such a large scale, so today felt that extra little bit special as we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style! 🎉👑🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬🇧

Thank you to everyone for your help, support and positivity on a glorious afternoon of sunshine, picknicking, stalls and singing!









Olympic Medallist Visit to Year 4!

On Wednesday 25th May, Year 4 had an amazing opportunity with a world class athlete visiting them – Simon Urdu! Our inspiring afternoon started in the classroom with Simon sharing his Olympic bronze medal from the 2004 Athens Olympics and his European gold medal for the 4 x 400m relay, among a multitude of other impressive Masters medals. Hearing about the events, the atmosphere, the training and the determination was inspiring in itself but Simon also shared a powerful statement that anyone can achieve this who wants to: 'This photograph from the Olympics is just the start. I know one day one of you is going to stand up there and say I won a medal for my country. I am just a human, you are human, anyone can achieve this with training, determination and strength'.

As Simon is now a coach for UK athletics, Year 4 were also very lucky because their PE session was transformed into a PT (personal training) session! The children learnt how to pass the baton and work effectively in a team sprint around the track. Not only were we dazzled by Simon's modesty, optimism and determination, we are also really proud to say he is a Millbrook parent. Thank you Simon for coming to visit us and we hope to see you again soon!



What does being part of a Trust mean for my child?

Involve - Engage - Inspire - Enrich

As a school, and through the Vale Academy Trust, we have undertaken to offer every child a broad range of exciting educational opportunities throughout their time at school, from early years to the end of Year 6 (and beyond!).

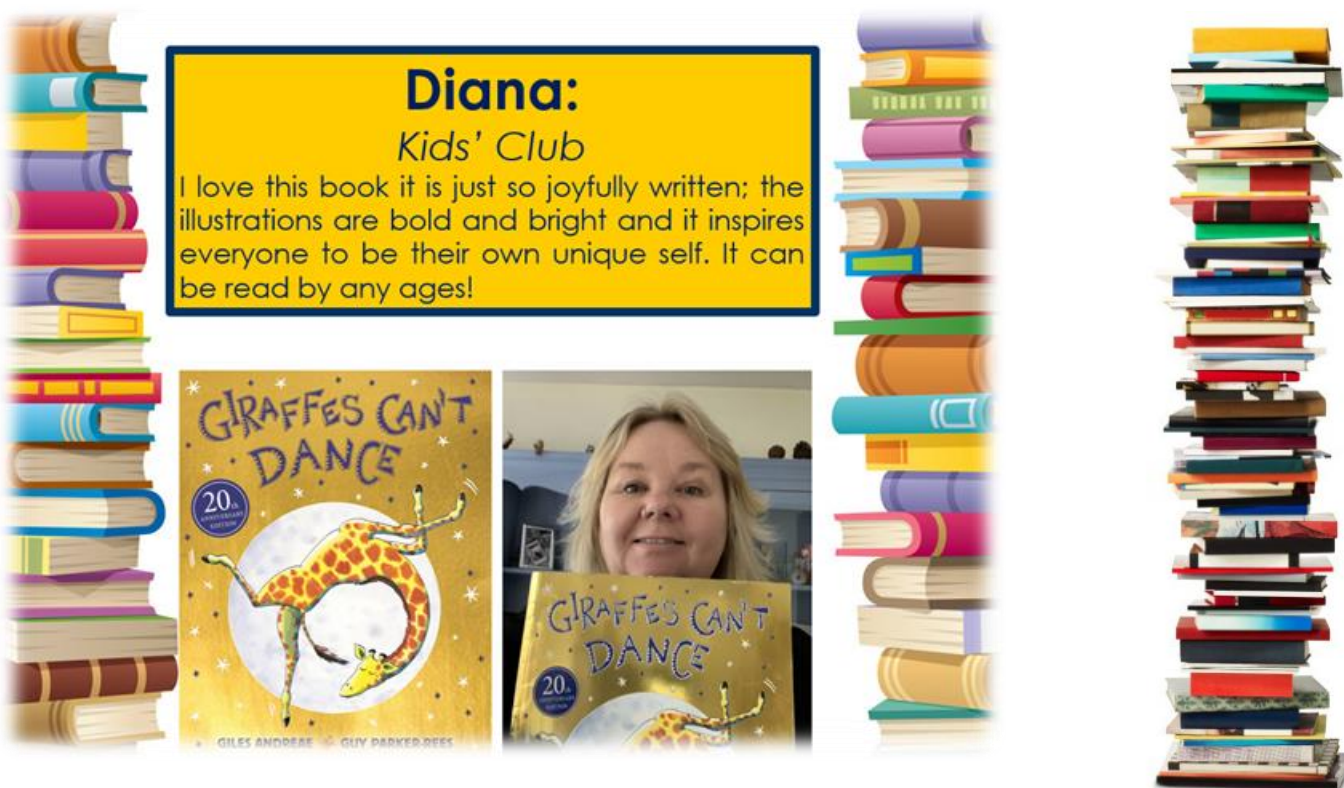
We captured the results on the values graphic below, confirming the wide-ranging menu of activities that we are proud to be offering. This is made possible through working together and our collective determination that every Vale Academy Trust school is a great school to choose for its provision of excellent opportunities and outcomes for your child.



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


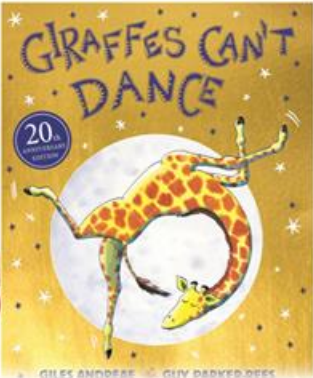


*For our younger readers, **Diana** recommends...*



Diana:
Kids' Club

I love this book it is just so joyfully written; the illustrations are bold and bright and it inspires everyone to be their own unique self. It can be read by any ages!



*For our older readers, **Kenna** recommends...*



Kenna:
Kids' Club

I love being whisked off to the magical world of Harry Potter and my favourite character is Luna Lovegood. I would love to work at Hogwarts and I would definitely love to do lunch duty in the Great Hall!



Stars of the Term



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

Beavers: Ella-Mae

Otters: Abbey

Dragonflies: Oliver

Ducklings: George

Badgers: Lorelei

Butterflies: Lewis O

Grebe: Imogen

Swallowtail: Taylor

Frogs: Elijah

Swans: Lottie

Kingfishers: Holly

Hérons: Charlie D

Weasels: Elli

Pondskaters: Ellie-Brooke

Key Dates for the Diary



June 2022

6th - 10th June: Phonics screening check (Year 1 and 2)

7th June: Year 4 and 5 Tennis roadshow (1-3pm)

13th - 23rd June: Year 4 Multiplication Checker

8th – 16th June: Year 6 Bike Ability

Wed 15th June: Science Fayre Final

Fri 17th June: Whole-school fun run (more info to follow)

Tues 28th June: Year 4 school trip

July 2022

Fri 1st July: Mini Enterprise Day (more details/info to follow)

Wed 6th July: KS1 Sports Day (Y1,2 and 3)

Thurs 7th July: KS2 Sports Day (Y4, 5 and 6)

Fri 8th July: Year 2 school trip to the Steam Museum

Sat 9th July: FROM Summer Festival

Wed 13th July: Meet their new teacher day for all classes / Y6 to KAs

Thurs 14th July: Star of the term assemblies (9am: Y3 - 6 and 2.30pm: Rec - Y2)

Fri 15th July: i-Rock concert for parents (9.30-10am)

Wk beg 18th July: Year 6 Leavers BBQ -*exact day/time tbc*

Tues 19th July: Reception Showcase for parents (2.15pm-3pm)

Thurs 21st July: Year 6 Leavers Assembly for Y6 parents (9am)

Thurs 21st July: Last day – *finish at 12pm!*



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
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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26	27	28	29	30		

October '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30				

December '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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January '22						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February '22						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March '22						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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27	28	29	30	31		

April '22						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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May '22						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June '22						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July '22						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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 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](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).

