Millbrook Connect

Believe Achieve Succeed

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 4! Although last term was a relatively shorter term at only 6 weeks long, we certainly crammed an lot in! We had the start of our daily swimming sessions for years 5 and 6 – year 4 start this term; a pupil-lead school fundraiser (read on to find out more about this incredible event!); a FROM 'bake-off' competition; an end of term FROM disco; school trips to the Pitt Rivers and Ashmolean museums in Oxford; a highly successful 'Behaviour and Inclusion' review, conducted by the Vale Academy Trust, as well as Y6 mock SATs, Star of the Term, and Coach Josh teaching Y3 'Wonderwall' on his guitar (who knew he was so multi-talented?!). We should also mention the array of sporting events that Millbrook competed in last term – again, read on to find out more about these!

This term we look forward to welcoming you back into school next week for our Parents Evening Meetings – look out for the School Jotter notice on how to book your appointment.

Look forward to seeing lots of you then! *Mrs Faye Charlton* Head of School

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Millbrook Manners in the Community

Our Amazing Pupils…Future Leaders in the Making!!!!!

This edition sees our 'Millbrook Manners in the Community' feature two of our incredible pupils! Lexus & Millie (from Y6 Kites Class) saw their 'idea' for a fundraiser become a reality! After being inspired by their English unit of work where they were writing persuasive leaflets about the charity "Save the Children", they decided they wanted to do more to help! They came to see Mrs Charlton and put a proposal forward that they wanted to organise a whole school fancy dress day where they would organise prizes for the best dressed, and in return, the children would make a donation to the 'Save the Children' charity. They made posters, visited the classes, and organised a School Jotter notice for parents to go out. They raised a whopping **£253.25** for this amazing charity! This really shows the power of an ambitious and inspiring curriculum; our pupils see themselves as activators of change! Power to the pupils! Go Team MBK! Enjoy the photos that will give you a flavour of this wonderful day! ⭐*(oh… and see if you can spot "Mini Coach Josh"!* 🤣*)*

Spotlight On…

This term the spotlight is on… Millbrook Manners go Bronze!!!

As you probably know, here at Millbrook Primary School, our 'Millbrook Manners' are extremely important to us. Underpinned by our school values of 'kindness' and 'responsibility', our Millbrook Manners are at the heart of all we do. Whether it is asking someone how their day is going, holding open a door, saying 'thank you', helping someone, or just generally being a superb role-model to others, our children are awarded 'Millbrook Manners' stickers. I'm sure you have seen your child come home wearing one *(you can't miss them as they are neon yellow!* We also celebrate who's earned a Millbrook Manners sticker in our Friday celebration assembly – each week we try to beat our total from the week before! As this has been such a success, we have decided to incorporate our manners stickers into our rewards system. Now, when children in KS2 (Year 3 upwards) are awarded a sticker, they record this on a tally chart and their teacher informs Mrs Charlton when they have reached 25 stickers as this then means they have earnt their 'bronze' manners badge! So far we have had a few children achieve their bronze which means they get to permanently wear their badge, showing that they are a brilliant role-model to others! Once children have reached 50 stickers they achieve silver, and 75 is gold! Watch this space to find out who will be next to earn their badges!

School Development Priorities & Teaching and Learning update

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 : High-quality teaching, every day, every class

- ✓ We began the term with a joint INSET day session with Charlton Primary School (Jan 4th) led by both SENCOs from MBK and CPS – Stella Stockwell and Heidi Thorne. The session was part of our 'High-quality teaching' CPD sessions and focused on 'Scaffolding and SEND'. A follow-up session was then delivered at the end of the term with teachers bringing examples of effective scaffolding from across the curriculum to share as part of a 'golden nuggets' session!

- ✓ Mrs Stockwell and Mrs Charlton conducted a SEND book look for Maths and English. Some excellent evidence gathered of how work had effectively been scaffolded for our SEND children. Shared some of these examples with staff at the staff meeting. Book look showed that SEND children have the same journey; the same end points – they have full access to the curriculum and effective scaffolding is at the heart of this.

- ✓ 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!

Key Priority 2: Improve attainment outcomes in maths, reading and writing

- ✓ Pupil Progress Meetings have been undertaken by our Assessment Lead Mr Jacques with teachers from Reception to Y6 looking at outcomes for reading, writing and maths
- ✓ Personalised learning timetables have been created to ensure every moment is a learning moment and gaps are closed; 'keep up, not catch up'.

- ✓ Whole school transition to White Rose Maths – joint MBK and CPS staff meeting held with Maths leads across both schools
- ✓ Ms Carter (one of our teaching assistants) has successfully completed and passed The National Tutoring Programme training and is now an endorsed school-led tutor. She is supporting with phonics/early reading catch-up through our Read Write Inc provision.

Key Priority 3: Continue improving curriculum quality and developing curriculum expertise across the school

- ✓ Subject lead and curriculum staff meeting lead by Mrs Keymer and Miss Meyer at the start of the term
- ✓ VAT Quality of Education Review conducted – ***Science and PE*** - some highlights included:
- ✓ *Every teacher was a credit to the school!*
- ✓ *Pupil voice strong*
- ✓ *Subject leadership 'team' approach effective*
- ✓ *Science curriculum is well-thought out and goes beyond National Curriculum*
- ✓ *Ambition comes through*
- ✓ *Impact of specialist support evident*
- ✓ Range of learning walks conducted in January across the school by Mr Rose; Mrs Charlton; Mrs Stockwell; Chair of Governors; Director of Learning for VAT and CEO of VAT, as well as VAT Review team for Quality of Education.

Why is it so important to be on time to school?

If a child is late they miss important information about the day's activities. A child that is late will miss school work. Children that arrive in good time for registration are able to talk to their friends before school and settle into the school day with them. A child that is late disrupts staff and other children.

There are many benefits your child will gain from arriving on time to school and class.

Did you know?

- The likelihood of success in learning is strongly linked to strong participation in school programs which is linked to arriving on time.
- It is very important for children to develop habits of arriving on time at an early age, beginning from the time they start school.

Some Gains for Your Child

Arriving on time for school:

- Makes sure that your child doesn't miss out on the important learning activities that happen early in the day when they are most alert.
- Early morning learning activity is often reading or writing your child can lose so many opportunities to learn these critical life skills.
- Helps your child to learn about routines and commitment.
- Gives your child time to greet their friends before class and this can reduce the possibility of disruptions in the classroom.
- Class disruption can make your child feel uncomfortable and can upset other children.
- Arriving on time every day makes children feel good about themselves

HAVING PROBLEMS GETTING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL ON TIME?

Are these some reasons why your child <u>does not</u> get to school on time?

- Your child won't go to bed at night or get out of bed in the morning
- Your child can't find their clothes, books, homework, school bag….
- The school lunches are not ready
- Homework's not done
- Your child is slow to eat breakfast
- Your child is watching TV late at night or when they should be getting ready for school
- It's your child's or someone else's birthday
- There is a test or presentation at school today
- Your child is screaming or not letting go of you.

Things to Try:

- ✓ Have a set time to go to bed and be out of bed
- ✓ Have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- ✓ Make lunches the night before
- ✓ Have set time for starting and ending breakfast.
- ✓ Try straight after school with the TV off so your child can relax for the rest of the night and have a reward when finished.
- ✓ Turn the TV on for set times and only if appropriate.
- ✓ Be firm that children must go to school.
- ✓ Give your child lots of positive encouragement and acknowledge they are organised and get to school on time.
- ✓ Be firm; a birthday does not equal a holiday.
- ✓ On arrival look for some of your child's friends and encourage your child to go and play with their friends.
- ✓ Once settled leave quickly.

REGULAR ROUTINES ARE SO IMPORTANT!!!!!!

FROM Events

Bake-off - £132.20 raised!!!!

Thank you to everyone who took part in the FROM Bake Off.

Mrs Buchanan Mrs Walker & Paulette (our very own Mary Berry!) had a very difficult job judging them all.

The winners were:

⭐Georgia B (Beavers) ⭐Harris B (Swans) ⭐Laura New (Adults category)

A big thank you to all who came and bought cakes after school that Friday.

Every penny raised goes back into funds to support the children's experience at Millbrook!

Disco

Half term got started in the perfect way on Friday 10th February with two FROM discos. The children were treated to:

- Hotdogs
- Candy floss
- Gingerbread
- Friendship Bracelets
- Glitter galore,
- licensed bar
- Sweets & goodies

They all had a wonderful time and the event raised a staggering £897.67!!!!

Success to date!

From Sept 2022, FROM made **£6188.24!!!!!** They have donated to: Forest School, Kids Club (breakfast and after school club), The Nest (our nurture base), provided each year group with £500 class fund and also funded the amazing Christmas pantomime 😊

Upcoming FROM events

- Help FROM kickstart the Millbrook Playground development fund!

From Monday 27th February to Monday 20th March, the children are invited to take part in a sponsored event:

Please look out for the sponsor forms that your child/ren will be bringing home with them on Monday next week:

FROM FRIENDS OF MILLBROOK 2023 Challenge

Sponsorship Form

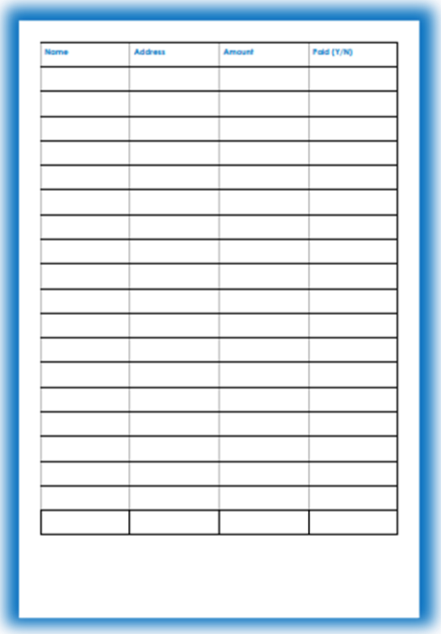
Child(s) Name.....

Class.....

Sponsored event.....

Total Raised.....

Name	Address	Amount	Paid (Y/N)



Name	Address	Amount	Paid (Y/N)

This sponsored event will 'kick-start' our fundraising for the ongoing playground development plans! Good luck!

- Easter 'egg-change' non-uniform day on Fri 24th March – in exchange for not wearing your uniform, we ask that the children bring in a chocolate egg or Easter chocolate. Then on Fri 31st March (last day of term) there will be an Easter egg tombola (£1 a go; guaranteed win) at the end of school (12pm) – more info to follow on School Jotter!

If any of you have any fundraising ideas, or spare time and wish to get involved, then please join us at our next meeting on the **18th April** at **The Baytree Pub**! EVERYONE WELCOME 😊

Sporting Successes!

Girls Football

At the end of January, our Y3/4 and Y5/6 teams took part in the TA Sport Stars girls football tournament this afternoon & absolutely smashed it!!!! Both teams made it all the way to the final after topping their groups!

Our yY/6 team ended up finishing in 2nd place after narrowly losing out in the final against Stockham that finished 1-0! Our Y3/4 team won their final 1-0 making them tournament winners! 🥇🥈

Y2 Mixed Football

Our year 2 mixed football team took part in the TA Sport Stars mixed football tournament this afternoon and were on fire throughout!! They played 5 group games and won every game scoring 10 goals in the process and without conceding a single goal.

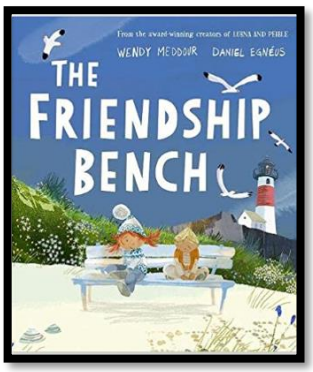
The final was a little bit closer and after conceding their first goal of the tournament early on, they showed great perseverance and drive to come back and equalise, taking the final into a penalty shootout. Some great penalties from both teams gave the goalkeepers no chance and the shootout proceeded into sudden death!! A great save from Millbrook's goalie (Jackson) created Olivia with the chance to win the tournament and she wasted no time in smashing the ball into the corner of the net to crown 🥇 Millbrook 🥇 the deserved winners.

Thank you TA Sport Stars for fabulous, cold, muddy but brilliant events!!!!

A great all-round performance for Team MBK! 😊

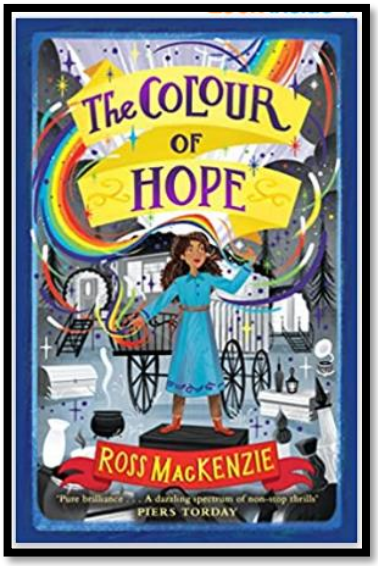
Book Corner! Looking for a good book? In this section, we have asked two of our teachers to recommend a book they've enjoyed recently!

For our younger readers, Mrs Stockwell recommends...



The Friendship Bench is a must-read! The text is simple but beautifully written, and the pictures show us a great deal about the story. Tilly has just moved to a new house, by the sea. She loves doing cartwheels in the sand and playing catch with Mummy and Shadow the dog. But when it is time to start her new school, Shadow and Mummy must stay outside. And inside is full of strangers. *'Why don't you try The Friendship Bench?'* says her teacher, when Tilly is playing alone. *'It helps children find new friends to play with.'* But when Tilly gets there, somebody is already on it…

For our older readers, Mrs Charlton recommends...



My recommendation is 'The Colour of Hope' by Ross MacKenzie. If you are in Year 5 at Millbrook, you will be familiar with this author as he is also responsible for writing the wonderful 'Nowhere Emporium'. 'The Colour of Hope' is pure brilliance! The magical elements of the story are dramatic and exciting but questions are also asked about how it feels to be different or excluded and how we react to people who are unlike ourselves... Tense, thrilling and thought-provoking until the end – I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who loves reading stories that contain non-stop thrills, twists and turns!

Stars of the Term

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

Beavers: Theo

Dragonflies:

Otters: Bea

Ducklings: Leyton

Badgers: Chloe

Butterflies: Hector

Foxes: Louie

Swallowtail: Tori

Frogs: Theo

Swans: Annabelle

Kingfishers: Penny

Herons: Jess

Kites: Alfie

Kestrels: Summer

Well done everyone… We hope you enjoyed your books from the vending machine over half term! ☺

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

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).