



# MILE OAK NEWSLETTER



FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2024  
AUTUMN 2 NEWSLETTER



Dear Families,

We have reached the end of a long and incredibly busy autumn term. There has been so much to celebrate over the weeks and so much progress and development has happened across the school. Children are consistently making excellent progress in their learning and we continue to offer them the broadest curriculum with an extensive array of opportunities to enhance their learning experiences.

Our pupils continue to be role models for the school, representing the values that we hold so dear and consistently thinking BIG. They have all worked exceptionally hard and deserve a well-earned rest over the holiday period, ready for the start of the new term in January.

The children's performances in the Christmas concerts have been both inspiring and full of festive cheer. We feel so incredibly proud of them all and know that you are too.

A huge thank you to FOMO, led by Emma, for the wonderful Christmas fair they organised and ran last Friday. It was a wonderful afternoon that brought the whole community together to celebrate and enjoy the festive spirit. Thank you to Santa and his elf for dropping by to see all the children; we know just how busy he is at this time of the year!

Thank you to all the staff who continue to work tirelessly, every day, to support all the children across the school. Their unwavering commitment and desire to improve the outcomes for our children shines through in all that they do and we are so lucky to have such a talented and inspiring staff team supporting and teaching our children.

Finally, thank you to all the families who continue to do so much to support the school and their children. It would not be possible without you all. We are grateful for the feedback from the recent parent survey and we will be sending a response to this in January.

We wish you all a wonderful festive break and look forward to continuing our journey together in the new year. Monday 6th January is a whole school inset day so we will welcome all children back to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

*Mr. Lording*



AMBITION



RESPECT



PRIDE



COURAGE

# FAREWELL AND WELCOME



Unusually for this time of the year, we have a number of staff who will be leaving us at the end of this term.

Miss Koller and Miss Griffiths have both begun their maternity leave, we wish them all the very best and look forward to them both returning to school in the next academic year.

Mrs Wells, our school SENDCO, will be taking a well-earned retirement. Her contribution to the development of SEND across the school has been monumental and had a significantly positive impact on the outcomes for pupils. We will miss her greatly! Mrs Wells will be returning for a few days in January to complete the thorough handover of her caseload.

Finally, Mrs Down, one of our amazing Assistant Headteachers will be leaving to seek a new challenge and spend more time with her family. She is going to be immensely missed by the children and staff as she has made such a significant contribution to the improvement journey at Mile Oak as a class teacher, reading lead and Assistant Headteacher.

We would also like to welcome Miss O'Brien who will be joining our staff. She has already completed some support work at Mile Oak over the last year and we are delighted that she will now be a permanent member of our team. Her experience, knowledge and desire to improve outcomes for all pupils will be incredibly valued by our community.

*Mr. Lording*



AMBITION



RESPECT



PRIDE



COURAGE

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Dear Parents and Family Members,

We hope that you and your children have enjoyed the end of term activities and particularly the Christmas shows. Congratulations to all the children and to their amazing teachers for such entertaining performances.

During this term, the school governors have been looking at the positive learning progress being made across all the year groups, and making sure that the school finance is managed well. We are there to support the work of the school team but also to make sure every child is receiving the best possible education.

We were pleased to receive the recent parents' survey, with even more responses than in previous years. It is heartening to see that the majority of parents are very satisfied with the school and feel their children are happy, safe and doing well. There were a number of positive comments but it is also important for us to hear any concerns.

It is clear that there are concerns from some parents about support for children with special educational needs. There were also comments about the impact of the behaviour of a few children. Governors are very aware of these issues which have been the subject of considerable discussion with Mr Lording and the Senior Leadership team. Action has been taken with a number of support plans now in place. There is also a new project starting in the Spring Term which will help some high needs children. However, the lack of support services for special needs is a national concern and we feel this acutely locally. We will continue to lobby for more support for Mile Oak students.

Other issues which were raised by some parents was timeliness of communication and also the need for a wider variety of clubs and extra-curricular activities, particularly featuring creativity. We absolutely support improvement in these areas and will be discussing what can be done in the New Year.

We are a small group of seven governors, comprising two parents of Mile Oak pupils, a grandmother of a pupil, three people with a keen commitment to education and of course Mr Lording as our headteacher. We have a new governor joining us in January and we have space for more. Please contact me if you would like to discuss what is involved in becoming a governor - there is also information about us on the school website.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Rosalind Turner  
Chair of Governors



AMBITION



RESPECT



PRIDE



COURAGE

# MILE OAK ANTI RACISM STRATEGY

We continue to develop our whole school anti-racist strategy. We have been working in partnership with other schools and the local authority to drive this forward.

In January, we will be making further updates to our anti-racist journey page on the school website, which can be accessed at <https://www.mileoakschool.co.uk>

We have recently updated our anti-racist strategy plans and have added these to the website for parents to view. As always, your feedback is welcome and we particularly encourage this from our global majority families.



## Mile Oak Anti-Racism Strategy

Training for leaders,  
staff and governors

Black and racially  
minoritised pupil,  
parent and carer  
support and amplified  
voice

Anti-racist leadership,  
evidence gathering  
and strategy

Racial literacy for  
children and staff

Diversifying and  
decolonising the  
curriculum

Environment, culture,  
values and policies

Black and racially  
minoritised staff and  
governor progression,  
retention and voice

Next term we will be extending our children of colour pupil voice group 'The Mile Oak Majority' to our year 5 pupils. A letter will be sent home with more details at the beginning of term.

... Hiedi Larter



AMBITION



RESPECT



PRIDE



COURAGE

# FOMO UPDATE

**THANK YOU!**



It has been a busy term in the build up to Christmas, with FOMO hosting the Christmas fair, organising Christmas crackers for the children's school lunch and gifting books to every child in the school. Thank you to all of those who volunteered and attended the Christmas fair and our Halloween disco last half term. From the combined events, we raised an impressive **£2185**.

The money raised by FOMO in the past year has been used to pay for the following for the children:



- Book bags for Nursery new starters
- Book bags for Reception children
- Every child in Year 6 receiving a copy of their class photo
- A book for every child in the school this Christmas
- Christmas crackers for the children's festive lunch

We hope to continue to pay for these things on an annual basis and are also raising funds to buy 4 new picnic benches for the playground, in the colours of our school houses.

The next event will be 'The Lovebug Ball' on **Thursday 13th February**.



As a PTA, it is becoming increasingly difficult to put on events due to a lack of FOMO members. Therefore, going forward we kindly ask for one FOMO representative from each class.

As the class rep, you would help to share FOMO updates with other families from your child's class and attend occasional meetings to organise events and fundraising initiatives. The support of our Mile Oak families is crucial in maintaining FOMO.

If you think you could be a class rep, please contact Emma Lee via the Facebook page or email [friendsofmileoak@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmileoak@gmail.com)





# LITTLE OAKS NURSERY



All the children at Little Oaks have had a very busy half term; full of exciting stories, sensory play, outdoor games and lots of fun! We even had a visit from Hannah at farm school, where we learnt all about autumn and the changing seasons.

We went on bear hunts in the playground, just like in our story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen, and visited the moon in cardboard boxes with baby bear, inspired by the book 'Whatever next' by Jill Murphy. The children also enjoyed thinking of ways to catch the star, like the boy in 'How to catch a star' by Oliver Jeffers.

The children have been developing and strengthening their early writing skills by mark making in a variety of ways. We especially enjoy patterning with our fingers in the sand tray and in shaving foam – this was like a real snowstorm! In our role play area the children wrote shopping lists and made marks like fireworks, in glitter, on the light board. The children also enjoyed using their safety knives to cut open pumpkins and collect the seeds. We are hoping to grow our own pumpkins for next year.

Another favorite activity is dinosaur dentists! The dinosaurs sat very nicely whilst the children worked very hard with the shaving foam and tooth brushes to get their teeth clean and check their teeth were healthy. The children talked about how they brush their teeth at home and what happened when they went to the dentist.

Outside in the playground, the children worked on their balancing skills. It was very tricky at first but now they can balance with only a few wobbles. We also played parachute games where we had to work together to keep the ball on the parachute whilst we were shaking it.

Christmas came early in the nursery! The children enjoyed finding our elf, Twinkle, each morning and singing 5 mince pies at group time. We also turned our role play area into a Christmas bakery, where the children made their own mince pies and gingerbread biscuits.

We hope you all have a lovely break and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

... The Little Oaks Nursery Team

# A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION



Our term started with a bang as the local fire service visited us to tell us about all the hard work they do to keep us safe. We heard about all their equipment and even tried on their helmets. This visit helped us link our learning to experiences of fireworks being part of cultural events such as Halloween and Bonfire Night, and to Diwali; the Hindu and Sikh festival of light, and how it is important to stay safe during these times.



Another theme we have explored was how the seasons are changing and the nights are drawing in. We talk about the weather daily and love noticing how it changes through each day and each week. We have been 'camping' in our role play areas and visited the Forest School area finding out the answer to our big science question 'Why do leaves crunch?' The family event was such fun and gave us a chance to share our forest school skills with our grown-ups. Recently we had a very special visitor in school, Henry the hedgehog. He dropped by with his owner, Graham, to support our learning about woodland animals and we learnt the meaning of the words 'nocturnal' and 'hibernate'.



As if that wasn't enough fun for one term, we have used the fantastic story of The Gingerbread Man to develop our story sequencing and comprehension skills. We were visited by the little old woman whose gingerbread boy ran away. Fortunately, the Bumblebee Bakery had opened its doors again and we were able to make her a new one. We also got to make some for ourselves too, and they were yummy! Our term concluded with the eagerly anticipated Christmas show. The children have worked so hard to learn and perform a range of songs. We have been so excited to perform it for you. We hope you loved it as much as we have getting it all ready. We have also continued our learning of festivals by visiting The Church of The Good Shepherd where Father David told us all about The First Christmas.



Our next topic is sure to be another fun-filled escapade as we 'enter stage left' into the footlights with our topic 'That's Show Business!' We will be experiencing and immersing ourselves into the world of performing arts including dance, magic, singing and circus skills. We will think about colour and shape, and develop our self-confidence as we learn to perform to each other and other classes. The very popular Mile Oak Talent Show will take place, and the older children will show us their skills.

Thank you for your continued support with phonics and reading at home. We are always keen to hear how your child is doing at home. Please share by commenting in the reading journal. We also love to see activities from home, including developing writing, and the children love sharing their Learning Journal updates so please take some time to add a few pieces if you are able to.

Best wishes for a restful holiday.

... The Reception Team

# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR ONE



What a busy end to 2024 Starling and Goldfinch classes have had! The children have continued to impress us with how they have settled so quickly into the Year 1 routine.

This term we have enjoyed getting stuck into our topic 'Traditional tales'. In guided reading we have been reading the texts 'The Deep Dark Woods' and 'Fairy Tale Pets'. We have been learning about the VIPERS reading skills and applying these to the texts in small groups and during our self-initiated time.



To consolidate the learning of our 'Traditional Tales' topic we had a visit from The Rainbow Theatre company. We were so lucky to have four of the Traditional Tales acted out for us – some of us even performed in the show! As well as The Rainbow Theatre coming to visit, we had some of the characters from the traditional tales come to visit and read us a story!

This half term we have continued working on our Year 1 'writing rules' within English. We can all tell you what a good sentence needs and we put this in to practise when writing a recount of The Rainbow Theatre visit, and when writing a set of instructions for how to make a Christmas card.



In history, we have been learning all about the past and the present. First the children looked at their own lives and how they have changed from a baby, to a toddler, to a child. We then looked at the changes from the past to present at our school by looking at old school photographs; did you know that Mile Oak School used to have a swimming pool?

In maths, we have been practicing our counting and subitising skills as well as learning what parts form a whole. Perhaps your child could tell you what two parts make the number 5 using our stem sentence: \_\_\_ is a part, \_\_\_ is a part, 5 is the whole. We have also been working really hard on our numeral formation! Here is the song we have been learning if your child would like to keep on practicing at home: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DzKqCmjVXLI>



We have also enjoyed our PSHE topics this half term. We have been learning about children who are part of the Gypsy, Roma Traveler Community and how our lives are both similar and different to theirs. We also took part in Anti-bullying week where we were proud to wear odd clothes to celebrate our differences!



A final highlight of the half term was the Christmas Show! The Year 1 children paired up with the Year 2 children to sing and perform actions to some well-known Christmas songs. We also really enjoyed learning Makaton actions and the words to "The Christmas Alphabet" poem. We hope you all have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday! We look forward to lots more fun learning experiences in 2025!

... The Year 1 Team



# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR TWO



What another brilliant half term we have had in Year 2! Robin and Wren classes have loved immersing ourselves into our 'Once Upon a Time' topic and exploring different versions of traditional tales.

Right at the start of this half term, we created some amazing self-portraits. We started by sketching ourselves very carefully one step at a time, then mixed our skin tones using primary colours. We also created a background for our portraits by drawing pictures that represent us. The children were so excited to take their artwork to share with everyone at home! Inviting our families into school for the Mile Oak Reading café has also been a highlight for the children this half term.

In English, we have produced lots of amazing pieces of writing! We created some incredible leaflets all about Ghana and learned a lot about the food and culture. Our food tasting of traditional Ghanaian food really helped the children with their amazing vocabulary. We also spent a lot of time reading and re-telling the story of 'Prince Cinders'. We enjoyed writing character descriptions which gave us the skills we needed to add lots of descriptions to our stories. The adults were so impressed with the amazing vocabulary the children came up with!

In maths, we have been working hard to learn how to solve addition and subtraction calculations using two digits. We can do this successfully either by partitioning the numbers or using resources to help us. We have also loved consolidating our number skills using Numbots. We would love for the children to continue doing this over the holidays!

Finally, we rounded off an amazing half term with a brilliant Christmas performance. We have been practicing the songs in our music lessons and in assemblies for weeks and everyone was so proud when it all came together. We also loved learning our 'Remember the Reindeer' poem and our dance. Well done for a fantastic half term Year 2! We hope everyone has an amazing, well-earned rest over the Christmas holidays and look forward to more amazing learning in 2024.

... The Year 2 Team



# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR THREE



What a busy term Year 3 have had! The book that we have been enjoying is about the plight of dolphins and wildlife in our oceans and the effects that rubbish can have on them. 'The Song of the Dolphin Boy' has elicited lots of discussion and deep thinking. We have written reports about rubbish and have devised our own litter surveys for the local area and around school.

Our topic of 'Bright Lights' has developed our understanding of sources of light, reflective surfaces and shadows in science. We have really enjoyed exploring the power of light, using our mini 'dark boxes' in class.

In Religious Education we were asking the BIG question 'Has Christmas lost its true meaning for Christians?'. This led to discussion about what Christmas means for each of us, and how our meanings and values can be different, but still be very special. Father David was very impressed with the questions and interest that the children showed at our visit to the Church of the Good Shepherd. The children have a very good understanding of how Christmas is important to Christians.

The children have worked hard on their sewing and have decorated and made felt trees, using overstitching and running stitches to fasten and secure the different materials. What has been most impressive is their willingness to share their skills with their friends! The children are excited to take home their efforts to share.

In music, the children have been practicing their singing and performance skills. We paired up with Year 5 for our Christmas performance this week and were so proud of the effort the children put into their singing and poetry! They should all feel extremely proud of themselves.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break!

... The Year 3 Team



# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FOUR



We have continued our topic of The Tudors and taken it further by learning about explorers and other important Tudor figures. This has included Jacques Frances, the black diver and the renowned playwright, William Shakespeare!

We began the term by cooking a Tudor Feast. We learned all about the Tudor diet and found that for the rich people it was not very healthy as it contained lots of meat and few vegetables. This inspired us to design a menu to help Henry VIII lose weight. We prepared two Tudor pottage stews, one with pearl barley and one with split peas. For pudding, we made baked apples, which were flavoured with sultanas, cinnamon, dates and honey. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning to chop, peel and mix this food to create the feast. They then got to taste it all and most children were brave enough to try all of it! Finally, we wrote an evaluation of the whole experience.



The children have continued to amaze us with their times table dedication. They all join in so brilliantly with the class counting stick and it has been really impressive to see so much progress on TTRS too. Many children are now beginning to work up the levels and we have seen many be awarded with 'Rock Hero' this half term. Keep up the hard work, Year 4!

The children engaged really well with Anti-bullying week and showed a good understanding of this year's theme, Make a Noise About Bullying. There were some enlightening classroom discussions and children thought about what we could do in different scenarios. The children certainly looked odd when they dressed up to mark the week on the Friday!

We have been reading the book 'My Other Life' which explores an alternative life through a mysterious portal. The children were hooked in reading sessions and it got them thinking about their own portal ideas. Inspired by this, they planned out their very own portal story! The children thought carefully about how to make their story exciting and descriptive. They brainstormed rich, powerful vocabulary and used a story mountain plan to map out the different parts of their story.



One frosty morning this term, the children came to class and were greeted by ice hands on their tables! After feeling a little baffled, the children started to observe the ice hands closely and thought about what might happen to them during the day. The children made sensible predictions and were introduced to scientific vocabulary to support their predictions. Every two hours, we checked the ice hands by weighing them and measuring their temperature. We recorded our findings and analysed them over the day. By home time, our ice hands had all melted and there was nothing but a puddle of water left in the trays! This investigation became our starting point for learning about solids, liquids and gases. We explored how they are similar and different.

... The Year 4 Team

# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FIVE



This half term, Year 5 have continued to impress us with their positive attitude to learning, applying the school values each and every day.

Within reading, we have continued with Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief, which the children have said is their favourite book ever!

Not only does it truly capture their imagination, their prediction skills are inspired as Rick Riordan often leaves the chapters on a cliff-hanger.

We have been mathematically ambitious to identify the most efficient mental and written strategies when solving addition and subtraction problems understanding that skills such as number bonds, doubling and times tables are key for our success.

Our Big Questions in Science concentrated on the human life cycle and how our bodies change both physically and mentally as we age. The children were fascinated with the many milestones they have achieved in their lives physically and mentally!



Whilst Elder have been active with dance and basketball skills in the PE curriculum, Rowan continued with their swimming lessons. It has been fantastic to see the children's confidence grow in the water over the course. Both classes have taken time to regularly complete the daily mile and the improvement in their motivation and fitness levels can clearly be seen.

Towards the end of the term, we visited St Nicholas Church in Portslade Old Village and challenged Father David with our Big Question in RE - Is the Christmas story true? He was impressed with the questions the children asked, along with their engagement during his explanations. Did you know, in the bible, it does not state how many wise men there actually were?

Next term, we will be starting our new topic: SPACE and our DT and art focus will be 3D sculpture where the children will be challenged with designing their own solar system... Watch out world! The wider curriculum focus will switch from history to geography with our class story 'The Story of the Blue Planet' supporting our learning.



... The year 5 Team

# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX



Year 6 have worked incredibly hard this term. We are very proud of the maturity they have shown in their learning and as leaders around the school. It has been clear that they are relishing the opportunity to be role models and that they are enjoying supporting children in younger year groups. In some cases, our children have been giving up their lunchtimes to help out other children in the school, such as those who have been helping children in Reception and Key Stage One with their lunches.

**English** - We started the year writing a non-chronological report about The Colorado River. Before we could write anything, we used iPads, laptops, information books and atlases to research current facts about the river. The writing started with the physical geography of the river and ended discussing the impact of humans on the river and how they are tackling these problems to ensure the preservation of the major waterway. Our class reader - *Boy in the Tower* - has inspired us to write a newspaper report due to the dramatic events that unfold in the story. Firstly, we learnt about the features of a newspaper by analyzing an example text and then use those features to write our own with the support of our teacher. Our class newspaper reports are about a highly destructive flood that tore through the village of Boscastle in north Cornwall. Because newspapers need to be dramatic, we dug deep to find many ways to convey the awful scenes that unfolded that day. Once it was finished, we published them on the laptops using our word processing skills.

**Geography & Topic Work**- In geography the children learned all about rivers. They are now armoured with new vocabulary such as: meander, source, mouth and tributary. We also taught rivers through other subjects such as computing – where children used Google Earth locate key features of the Colorado River and The Thames and we used our knowledge of environmental art to make natural collages of rivers. We ended the topic by using our oracy skills to discuss the true statement, ‘In 2020, no river in England and Wales was classed as being in good overall health.’

**Art** - Because rivers flow, we have chosen Vincent van Gogh as our focus artist as his brushstrokes can show movement. We started the term looking at his (and others’) paintings, life and the movement associated with him – Impressionism. We were also very lucky to have been able to have an online lesson with The National Gallery where the children were introduced to the gallery and to Vincent Van Gogh’s style. The lesson supported the children in analysing a painting and how lines differ depending on whether they are the features we see outside or the inside of our homes. We also used Purple Mash to replicate his lines digitally.

**The Boy In The Tower** - We have thoroughly enjoyed our main reading book for this term, *The Boy In The Tower*. A story about a boy named Ade, who loves living at the top of a tower block. From his window, he feels like he can see the whole world stretching out beneath him. His mum doesn't really like looking outside - but it's going outside that she hates. She prefers to sleep all day inside their tower, where it's safe. Except it isn't for long. Strange plants start to take over and tower blocks fall down around them. It is left with Ade to try and find a way out...

Overall, the Autumn term has been a great success with lots of progress being made, alongside having lots of fun! We would like to say thank you for your continued support at home, as well as wishing you a Merry Christmas. Let's make 2025 as much of a success as the start of year 6 has been!

... The Year 6 Team

# PE UPDATE

This half-term has been incredibly successful for Mile Oak in sport and PE. We have attended the annual cross-country meet at Waterhall, which was completed in very tricky conditions so it made it incredibly difficult to take part in! At the event, the children represented the school fantastically well and there were some of the best placings that the school has ever achieved at the event. A special mention has to go to Jackson.C, who finished 90th in the Y5 boys' race. Also, Hania. J, who finished 56th in the Y5 girls' race. Last but not least, Jack T-J, George.Bs and Michael.L, who finished 23rd, 35th and 86th place in the Y6 boys' race. All of the children showed great courage to finish the race under the conditions and out of so many children (about 200 in each race).

This term, the school football team has made a lot of progress and there have been many standout performances across the season so far. In the league, the boys have performed admirably but their league position has not reflected their great attitude to win. Unfortunately, we have lost and drawn some very close encounters, where on another day we would have taken all three points. The boys team attended a tournament at Falmer campus and were narrowly beaten in the semi-final. After Christmas, there will be cup games and friendly matches for those children who have not yet played a game.

Thankfully, there have been many more opportunities for our girl's football team to play this year. They have gained some vital experiences of football matches and have put up some incredibly resilient performances. This is despite some of the girls never having played a competitive match previously, which showcases the amount of determination and effort that they have shown this year. During the tournament this term, the girls drew their first two games but lost the third, meaning that they did not progress to the next round. They played commendably and were unlucky not to make the semi-finals.

Finally, a group of Y3/4 children attended a netball festival at Patcham school. They represented the school very well and, for many, it was their first time representing the school at a sporting event. All of the coaches commented on how much progress that they made over the course of the session.

Thank you for all of your support in 2024 and we look forward to providing the children with more sporting opportunities in a very exciting-looking 2025.

... Mr McCusker and Mr Crellin



# READING UPDATE



We have had a brilliant term celebrating reading at Mile Oak. As ever, children have loved coming to the book swap and finding a new book to enjoy and take home. This event could not take place without the kind donations we receive from families so thank you. The Book Swap takes place every half term but donations of books are appreciated at any point so, if you have any to donate, please send them to the school office.

This term we have also started to run the Mile Oak Reading Café which has been a highly successful event. The café is a chance for families to come in and share books with the children. So far, the Year 1 and Year 2 classes have visited and have loved the opportunity to read together with family members (and eat a biscuit or two!). These events will be continuing throughout the year, with cafes for Years 3 and 4 taking place in the Spring term (a Ping will go out to relevant classes soon).

To help promote reading for pleasure, we have introduced 'love of reading' lessons across the school. These sessions are an opportunity for children to share their reading identities, recommended reads and to celebrate books and reading in general.

Finally, I am delighted to share that, for Christmas, FOMO have very generously purchased a book for every child in the school which children will have brought home this week. A huge thank you to FOMO for organising this for the children.

Have a wonderful Christmas holiday and keep on reading!

... Mrs Down



# PSHE UPDATE



This year, the theme of Antibullying week was "Choose Respect," with a focus on encouraging everyone in the school to make a positive choice in how they treat others. This was an important week to raise awareness about the impact of bullying and to promote kindness, empathy, and respect among the children of our school.

By choosing respect, we can help create a safe and supportive environment where everyone feels valued. During this week, we focussed on teaching children about the importance of standing up against bullying, fostering understanding, and embracing differences. We had a fantastic dressing up 'ODD' day to celebrate our learning and everyone made a huge effort with this.

Together, we can create a culture of respect and kindness that lasts all year long.





... Mrs Hills











# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Spring 1 Religious Festival Calendar

January			
6th January	Epiphany	Christian 	This is the 'twelfth day of Christmas', which, according to Christian belief was when the three kings visited the infant Jesus in Bethlehem, bearing symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh; and when John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the River Jordan. Epiphany is the day when some say that all Christmas decorations should be taken down, since otherwise bad luck will follow.
14 <sup>th</sup> /15th January	Makar Sankranti	Hindu 	Sankranti is the start of a new zodiac sign. This is the date based on the solar rather than the lunar calendar. For many Hindus it is a day for giving and patching up quarrels and disagreements. Fires are lit outside and peanuts and sesame sweets are eaten round them. The traditional Punjabi meal consists of cornmeal chapatis and a mustard leaf dish.
19th January	World Religion Day	All Faiths	This day promotes interfaith understanding by emphasising factors common to all faiths. 
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Al-Isra' wal-Mi'raj (The Night Journey & Ascension)	Muslim 	This marks the night journey of the Prophet Muhammad through the heavens to the presence of God. It is when the command that Muslims should pray five times a day was given to the Prophet. The rock from which the Prophet ascended is now in Jerusalem's 'Dome of the Rock'. Muslims mark this night by reading the <i>Qur'an</i> and saying additional prayers.
29 <sup>th</sup> January	Lunar New Year	Chinese	New Year's Day is the most important event in the traditional Chinese calendar and marks the beginning of the first lunar month. The festival is colourfully celebrated with fireworks, dances (such as the famous Lion Dance) and the giving of gifts, flowers and sweets. <b>2025</b> is the year of the <b>snake</b>

February			
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Sarasvati Puja	Hindu 	Widely celebrated in North India, this festival marks the beginning of spring. For Hindus it is usually linked with Saraswati, the goddess of learning and the arts. Yellow is her associated colour.
15 <sup>th</sup> February	Par nirvana	Buddhist 	This is a festival that marks the death of the Buddha. It is also known as Nirvana Day. Buddhists celebrate the death of the Buddha, because they believe that having attained Enlightenment he achieved freedom from physical existence and its sufferings.
12th February	Chinese Lantern Festival		The Lantern Festival marks the first full moon of the year and the lengthening of the days. Strings of lanterns in various designs are hung up indoors and outside as decoration.
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Magha Puja	Buddhist 	This is a celebration in honour of the Buddhist community. It remembers when Buddha taught the main principles of the Dharma and set out his teachings. The day is observed with meditation, chanting and the reaffirmation of people's commitment to Buddhist practice.
14 <sup>th</sup> February	Lailat-UI-Bara'ah (The Night Of Forgiveness)	Muslim 	Muslims seek forgiveness for their sins at this time. Many believe that on this night, a person's destiny is fixed by Allah for the coming year. The night is spent in prayer, asking for forgiveness and God's guidance. Some fast during the daytime in preparation. In certain parts of the world Muslims visit the graves of relatives, and the giving of charity is also traditional. In many places the night is marked with firework displays.
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Maha Shivratri	Hindu 	This festival is dedicated to Shiva, one of the deities of the Hindu Trinity. Devotees of Shiva observe a fast during Maha Shivratri and stay up all night at a place of worship.
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Ramadan	Muslim 	Ramadan is the 9th month of the Islamic Calendar, when the Prophet received the first revelation of verses of the <i>Qur'an</i> . It is the holiest month for Muslims, and they dedicate themselves to spiritual renewal, prayer and intensive devotional reading of the <i>Qur'an</i> . During the month of Ramadan Muslims are required to fast from daybreak until after sunset. No food or drink may be consumed during the hours of fasting, and those fasting must also abstain from smoking and from sexual relations. After the custom of the Prophet, the fast is traditionally broken each evening by taking dates and water.

# NEXT HALF TERM

## Topics for Spring 1

**Reception** - That's Showbusiness

**Year 1** - Toys

**Year 2** - Ice, Ice Baby!

**Year 3** - Where do we live?

**Year 4** - Romans

**Year 5** - Space

**Year 6** - Battle of Britain

Please visit the school website and select your child's year group to view the curriculum overview for their year:

[www.mileoakschool.co.uk/year-groups](http://www.mileoakschool.co.uk/year-groups).

This details what children will be learning in each subject.

In addition to which topics children will cover, the curriculum maps show the key skills which will be taught.

## Core Reading Texts for Spring 1

**Reception:** Life is Magic: Meg McLaren, Wolf Won't Bite: Emily Gravett and Flyaway Katie: Polly Dunbar

**Year 1:** Nothing: Mick Inkpen and Something Else: Kathryn Cave

**Year 2:** The Snow Dragon: Vivian French and Winter's Child: Angela McAllister

**Year 3:** Tilly and the Time Machine: Ade Edmondson

**Year 4:** Roman Diary: The Journal of Iliona and Young Slave: Richard Platt

**Year 5:** The Story of the Blue Planet: Andri Magnussen

**Year 6:** When the Sky Falls: Phil Earle



# January



Mon 06.01.25 INSET Day

Tues 07.01.25 Children return to School

Wed 08.01.25 Reception September 2025/26 School Starters Tour - 9:30am, 1:30pm & 5:30pm

Mon 13.01.25 Reception Topic Share 3:30pm

Tues 14.01.25 Time to Talk - Toileting 9:00am

Tues 14.01.25 Year 6 Take Shelter Trip - Classes to be confirmed

Tues 14.01.25 to Tues 11.02.25 Year 3 Pedestrian Training

Tues 14.01.25 Reception Magic Show

Tues 14.01.25 to Tues 28.01.25 Year 5 Swimming - Rowan Class

Tues 14.01.25 Year 3 Topic Share 3:30pm

Wed 15.01.25 Year 6 Take Shelter Trip - Classes to be confirmed

Wed 15.01.25 Year 2 Topic Share 3:30pm

Thurs 16.01.25 Reading Cafe - Year 3 Cherry Class 8:50am

Mon 20.01.25 Year 4 Topic Share 3:30pm

Wed 22.01.25 Reading Cafe - Year 3 Beech Class 8:50am

Wed 22.01.25 Year 1 Topic Share 3:30pm

Thurs 23.01.25 Year 5 Topic Share 3:30pm

Mon 27.01.25 Year 6 Topic Share 3:30pm

# February

Tues 04.02.25 Year 1 - Starling Class Big Make 9:00am

Tues 04.02.25 to Tues 11.02.25 Year 5 Swimming - Elder Class

Wed 05.02.25 Reading Cafe - Year 4 Ash Class 8:50am

Wed 05.02.25 Reception Dragon Dancing Workshop

Wed 05.02.25 Year 5 Science Observatory Trip

Fri 07.02.25 Year 4 - Hazel Class visit Seven Sisters

Fri 07.02.25 Year 1 - Goldfinch Class Big Make 9:00am

Wed 12.02.25 Reading Cafe - Year 4 Hazel Class 8:50am

Wed 12.02.25 Year 4 - Ash Class visit Seven Sisters

Thurs 13.02.25 FOMO Lovebug Disco

Fri 14.02.25 Last Day of Term



 **At Mile Oak Primary School We Think Big!** 

AMBITION RESPECT PRIDE COURAGE



For entry to Reception in September 2025, we welcome prospective families to visit our school.

We have the following open events on offer but we would be very happy to provide a personal tour during the school day or after school upon request.

**Open Events** - To register an interest or to book one of the dates, please contact the school office.

Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	9:30am
Tuesday 05 <sup>th</sup> November	1:30pm
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	10:00am
Monday 02 <sup>nd</sup> December	1:30pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	1:30pm
Wednesday 08 <sup>th</sup> January	9:30am, 1:30pm & 5:30pm

-  01273 077114
-  [office@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:office@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk)
-  Mile Oak Primary School, Graham Avenue, Portslade, BN41 2WN
-  <https://www.mileoakschool.co.uk>

We are on Social Media!  

## Little Oaks Nursery

Little Oaks Nursery is led by qualified teachers and highly experienced practitioners. It has a nurturing, creative and inspiring curriculum, with provision for children aged between 2 & 4 years old.  
**Nursery tours are available throughout the year!**



# MILE OAK SAFEGUARDING TEAM



*Mile Oak Primary School*

*"THINK BIG"*

*Safeguarding Team*



*Mr Loring,  
Headteacher (DSL)*



*Mr Cosgrove,  
Deputy Headteacher (DSL)*



*Mrs Larter,  
Family Champion (DSL)*



*Ms Wilks,  
Assistant Headteacher  
(DDSL)*

*In the unlikely event that none of the safeguarding team are available, please contact:*

*Front Doors for Families*

*Telephone: 01273 290400 (9am-5pm, Monday to Thursday and 9am-4.30pm, Fridays).*

*Emergency Duty Service (outside working hours): 01273 335 905 or 01273 335 906*

*Email: [FrontDoorforFamilies@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:FrontDoorforFamilies@brighton-hove.gov.uk)*

# COMMUNICATION

We have received excellent feedback regarding our new communication protocol for staff and parents. All communication is logged by the admin team and tracked for a response.

Whilst it can sometimes feel simpler to grab a teacher at the end of the day, this means staff are not able to supervise children who they are releasing to parents. Before school, it is vital that teachers can fully prepare for the day ahead and many of them run early morning interventions. In addition, our wonderful admin team track communication which means it does not get lost in a busy email inbox or become a forgotten question at the end of the school day.

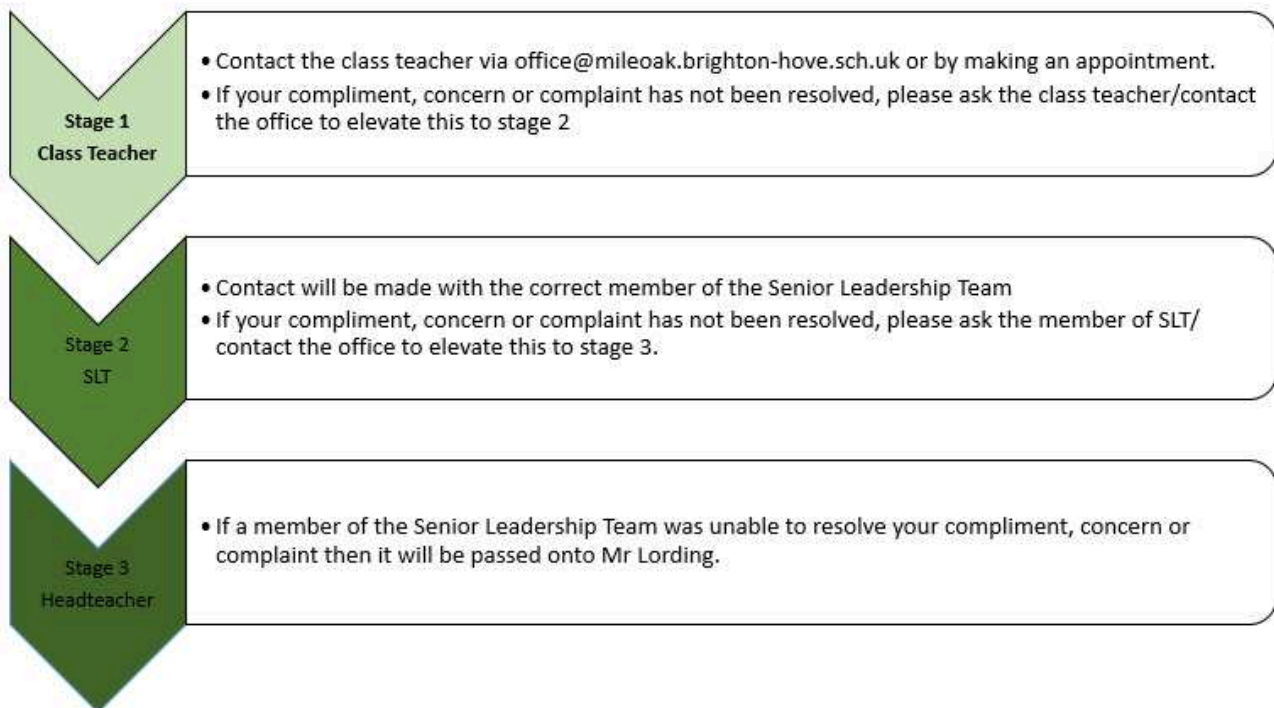
Once initial communication has been made, staff will respond within 2 working days. If a face-to-face meeting is required, the relevant member of staff will make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

The Admin team are very happy to take calls, emails or even messages in the postbox out side of the reception area and will ensure your query, concern or compliment is passed on to the correct members of staff.

For further information on our communication protocol, please visit our website.

## Communications Protocol

To ensure swift responses, equitable access and careful tracking of communication, we have asked the administration team to adhere to the following communication protocol. All communication will be directed to the correct stage.



Mile Oak Primary School, Graham Avenue,  
Portslade, BN41 2WN



01273 077114



[office@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:office@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk)



<http://www.mileoakschool.co.uk>