



Millbrook News

November 2017 - No.4

Our Value for November is: Thoughtfulness



Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents

Welcome back to term 2. I hope you had a lovely half term break. I know learning has started this week with a bang in many classes, including dinosaurs visiting year 1! Please ask your child what their topic is this term. We look forward to discussing your child's progress with you at parents evenings – letters have gone out so do please return these asap so we can sort appointments in good time. Mrs Youngman and I are looking forward to seeing lots of you then.

I'm sure you'll be pleased to hear that Mrs Burson had a little girl last week. Mum and baby Florence are both doing well!

I'd like to use the start of term to remind you about attendance – it was disappointingly low last term. We are fully aware that children get poorly, but there were many absences that are not related to ill health. Every day of school missed means that a child misses out on important learning – be it a particular sound in phonics, a crucial method in maths or a technique used in reading or writing. Please make sure that you don't take children out of school during the 39 weeks we have to ensure they make really good progress. It really does make a difference – research with older pupils shows starkly that attendance below 95% starts to impact on GCSE results. We are not working towards those quite yet but we absolutely see the difference in children who miss too many days of school. Thank you to all of you who are working really hard with us on this already.

Jane Ratcliffe



Hello,

My name is Mr Baish and I am an assistant headteacher at Millbrook. As head of Key Stage Two, my key responsibility is the progress and learning of children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6. I teach from Monday to Thursday in 5B and I am also responsible for some of the day-to-day management of the whole school to make sure everything runs as smoothly as possible. My spare time is often taken up watching my beloved Arsenal, or playing (and often losing) in the Oxford tennis league. If you have any questions you'd like to ask or suggestions you'd like to make for the school, please get in touch as I'd love to hear from you!

Parents' Evenings

Your child will be bringing home a letter inviting you to book a short progress meeting with their teacher on either the 14 or 16 November. An electronic version will also be sent to you if you receive ParentMail. Please return your slip to school by Thursday 9 November. Your child's teacher will advise you of your time slot.



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Dolcy D'Souza



Dolcy will be leaving us in mid-November when she and her family return to Goa. We will be very sad to see Dolcy go but would like to wish her, her husband, Christopher and Maria all the best for the future. Keep in touch!

Children in Need Spotacular



We will be going spotty and raising money for Children in Need on **Friday 17 November** in the following ways:

-  Wear spots and non-uniform and bring in 50p
-  Holding a spotty bake sale after school
-  Collecting the old "Round" Pounds – please start checking down the back of your sofa!

<https://bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/> More information to follow.....

Remembrance



Poppies will be on sale at school from next Monday 6 November. JLT will be walking around with them, so remember to bring in some pennies to purchase one. We will be holding a Remembrance Assembly in school on Friday 10 November.

Very Important Pupils (VIPs)

VIPs – 9 October 2017

Lara T & Caelan R – 1M, Charlie N & Lewis C – 1G, Lucas L & Emily M – 2T, Raydee L-J & Imogen T – 2D, Jake S & Emily K – 3EB, Thomas C & George B – 3MB, James S & Peter R – 4P, Laura C & Neve K – 4C, Isla R & Ky W - 5B, Rebecca J & Macie Z – 5PC, James D & Freya K – 6L, Eliza H & Charlie S – 6J



VIPs – 16 October 2017

Thomas A & Jaydee A – 1G, Euan C & Lola-Jane H – 1M, Amelie M & Harry H – 2D, Savannah E & Noah A – 2T, Flynn D & Finley A – 3MB, Harmony R & Yasmin S – 3EB, Riley V & Freddie R –

4C, Lindy O & Erin W – 4P, Sienna S & Alex R – 5PC, Grace D & Rosa L – 5B, Lilly B & Max P – 6J, Khaya G & Lewis R – 6L

VIPs – 31 October 2017

Harry R & Maddie O – 1M, Ashton W & Harry C – 1G, Edward L & Emily M – 2T, Charlie B & Emily B-P – 2D, Elenoa L & Emily C – 3MB, Logan L & Tommy D – 3EB, Skye J & Lucy W – 4P, Kian K & Toby S – 4C, Adam C & Toby D – 5B, Ella B & Thomas M – 5PC, Bethany G & Christopher B – 6J, Katie R & Lewis R – 6L

Well done to you all. We are super proud!

Have you had a postcard?

We are celebrating hard work and good behaviour by sending some very special children and their parents one of our Values postcards. Look out for one on your door mat!



Guide Dog Puppy Walking

Become a puppy walker for guide dogs and help people within your community who are blind or partially sighted to lead a normal life.

Puppy walking is an essential element in the development of a fully trained guide dog. A puppy walker takes a puppy of around six weeks into their home and develops it for the first year of its life. All this takes love, commitment and time from all the family. The reward, however, is immeasurable as the puppy is then trained to become a guide dog who gives the blind or partially sighted the same freedom of movement as everyone else.

For further information please contact simon.werner@guidedogs.org.uk.

Events at Grove Parish Church – this weekend!

Please join us for a **Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning** on Saturday 4 November from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm to help the fight against cancer. Teas, coffees and a selection of cakes will be on sale in the church hall for a voluntary contribution of your choosing. If you are also able to provide a cake, please bring it along on the morning.

There will be some second-hand items for sale.

There will also be some craft activities on offer for primary-aged children (for a very small donation).

You are warmly invited to a service of Commemoration for those we hold dear at Grove Parish Church on Sunday 5 November at 3.00 pm followed by tea and cakes

Events at Wantage Library

Code Club – starting on Monday 6 November, 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm, and running every other Monday – Do you have a favourite computer game, and would you like to learn how to make your own computer games? At our Code Club, you can learn how to make cool games, animations and websites too! If you are aged 8 to 13 years old, and would like to come along to Code Club, please book your free place now by phoning Wantage Library on 01235 762291!

Imogen Matthews – Author Talk – Friday 10 November – 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm – Join us for an evening with Imogen Matthews, local Headington author, who will introduce her latest novel, ‘The Hidden Village’ set in World War II Holland. The session will end with an audience Q & A, and book signing by Imogen. Please book your free ticket now, by phoning Wantage Library on 01235 762291.