



Millbrook News

November 2017 - No.5

Our Value for November is: Thoughtfulness



Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents

As I write this the wind is roaring outside and it feels like a real autumn day. I hope you all take a moment to enjoy the seasons as we pass through them – I sometimes think we rush through life without really pausing to enjoy it.

I've been lucky enough to have had several opportunities to do it this week – I spent a session in after school club and enjoyed every minute playing with the children. I've also spent some quality time 1:1 with some children which is a real opportunity to get to know them as people and learners, and I've had a wonderful session with some VIPs who were vivacious and confident as we drank hot chocolate with Frank.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Dolcy D'Souza last week – she brought real sparkle to Millbrook and will be much missed – we have been recruiting her replacement and look forward to sharing good news about that with you soon!

We were delighted to see so many of you at parents' evening – it is such an important time in our partnership as your children's educators. I was also delighted to see the responses many of you made to the questionnaire we sent out. The results are as follows:

84 responses

95.2% prefer the new format

90% said the teachers ran to time

98.8% said the information given was useful

The comments you gave were also overwhelmingly positive:

- ✓ "Much better than previous years"
- ✓ "It seemed more organised...More than adequate privacy..."
- ✓ "Well organised, constructive and well executed. A credit to all involved"
- ✓ "A great change where parents get to see more of what goes on, meet and greet other parents and chat with school staff as they wait. You get a better sense of the school structure and spirit with this arrangement..."
- ✓ "Extremely informative and positive feedback given, questions answered well and enough time given by the teacher"
- ✓ "...bigger chairs really help!"

There were many more! There were a few less positive comments and we will look at them as well to see if we can make any tweaks (in particular, how we enable you to look at books). However, the consensus is clear – the vast majority of teachers, parents and leaders much prefer this way and so we will repeat next time. Thank you so much for your contribution in helping us get this right for you.

Quote of the week: *"I was a purple learner today because I worked hard and climbed out of the learning dip" Year 1 😊*

Jane Ratcliffe



What is FROM ?? Well, FROM (Friends of Millbrook) is a group of parents, teachers and support staff who voluntarily help to raise funds for Millbrook School.

This year, in addition to a contribution to each year group towards trips etc, FROM is trying to raise money to support the school's need for better IT equipment and also to contribute to some outdoor sports equipment.

So far this year, the Glow in The Dark disco in October raised over £500 towards this. We also have one of our main fundraisers coming up on the 25th November – our Christmas Fayre! Come along and meet Santa, play the human fruit machine and enjoy Christmas treats, games, pocket money stalls as well as supporting some local crafts and charities. A separate letter will detail how you can help support this event.



FROM has a Facebook page. Please search in Facebook's search bar under 'FROM – Friends of Millbrook' and request to join the group.

Children's Achievements

We are very proud to announce that Oliver C in 6J came 2nd out of 6 in a recent Mini-Bridge competition held at Oxford Bridge Club. Well done Oliver!

If your child achieves an award or similar in a competition or event out of school please let us know so that we can celebrate it in the newsletter.

Vale Tag Rugby

The Millbrook Team played remarkably well and shone for the entire competition. They won all of their games and, even though there were some very tight finishes, they fought until the very end! Their team spirit was brilliant and how they worked together as a team was superb - which allowed every single member of the team to score a try! On behalf of the children I'd like to say a big thank you to Mr Dowling for coaching the children on the game and teaching them specific tactics leading up to this competition. The team will now go forward to the Oxfordshire County Finals which will be taking place in May on the iconic Iffley Road ground. So, huge congratulations and well done to: Josh (Captain), Oliver, Sam, Jayden, Charlie S, Charlie D, Lauren, Lily, Freya and Maize.



Alisha Davies - PE Coordinator

Year 6 Field Study

Year 6 are away at Kilvrough this week and it seems very quiet without them! We look forward to hearing about their adventures when they are back in school next Monday. If you would like to see what they've been doing have a look at the updates on the school website

<http://millbrookschoo.org.uk/>.



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Recent Fundraising



Children in Need – nearly £300



Poppy Day – nearly £184

Thank you for your contributions to these worthy charities!

Full Circle

Millbrook Primary School first welcomed the Full Circle programme in 2003. The programme was developed to bring different generations together; to share time and make friends in order to build stronger communities. The programme unites people over the age of 50 with school children during a lunchtime craft session each Wednesday from 12.00 to 1.00pm during termtime.

If you or someone you know would be interested in joining our friendly group, please contact the school office or Lydia Davison, Home School Link Worker.

Parents' Evenings – 6J

Unfortunately Ms Jones is unwell and was unable to meet parents last Thursday. We will contact parents to rearrange the cancelled meetings in a couple of weeks.

Very Important Pupils (VIPs)



VIPs – 6 November 2017

Riley M & Martim P – 1G; Lola-Jane H & Charlie M – 1M; Lyla N & Charlie W – 2D; Harry P & Drew P – 2T; Marcie J & Olly K – 3EB; Zach N & Bessie J – 3MB; Laura C & Maria A – 4C; Kahleel I & Joe B – 4P; Jack M & Callum T – 5B; Jayden B & Amelie S – 5PC; Giulia I & Luke C – 6L; Matthew D & Max P – 6J

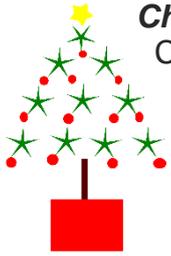
VIPs – 13 November 2017

Emily S & Max B – 1M; Maiya S & Nevaeh G – 1G; Max W & Noah A – 2T; Lauren M & Luther B – 2D; Isaac H & Peter H – 3EB; Thomas C & Luke S – 3MB; Alex C & Olivia M – 4P; Kirsty B-D & Maria A – 4C; Hollie G & Finn C – 5B; Bethany B & Timmy K-D – 5PC; Scott R & Oliver C – 6J; Matthew M & Zoe L – 6L

VIPs – 20 November 2017

Lola-Jane H & Amber K – 1M; Alfie M & Holly W – 1G; Riley B & Ollie H – 2D; Ethan W & Lucas L – 2T; Lilly A & Livia J – 3EB; Lily-May G & Jai K – 3MB; Willow H & Chloe E – 4C; Xanthe W-J & Molly S – 4P; Maizey N-B & Chase B – 5B; Amelie S & Jayden B – 5PC. (*Year 6 are on Field Study this week*)

Well done to you all. We are super proud!



Christmas Meals

Christmas dinners for children from Reception to Year 6 will be held in House Groups again this year. Letters will go home shortly explaining how to book your child's meal. Don't worry if you can't remember their house – we have a full list!

Tuesday 12 December	Wednesday 13 December	Thursday 14 December	Friday 15 December
DRAGON	PEGASUS	GRIFFIN	PHOENIX

We are asking parents to book their child's meal using ParentPay. If you haven't yet signed up to this please ask at the school office so we can get you set up. If you aren't able to get online please pick up a booking form from the school office.

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!



Primary School Health Nurse Team

Please see the November newsletter from the Nursing Team attached to this ParentMail.

Term Dates

A reminder that Term 2 finishes on **Tuesday 19 December at 12.30 pm**. No school meals will be served on this day. *Please be aware that this is different to King Alfred's Academy. Due to moving from 3 to 2 sites over the break they are breaking up earlier on Friday 15 December.*

Term 3 starts after the Christmas break on **Thursday 4 January 2018 at 8.50 am**.