

# Millbrook News

January 2017 - No.8



*Our Value for January is: Unity*

## **Message from the Head Teacher**

Dear Parents

Where did January go? I can't believe we are nearly one twelfth through another year! But let's not worry about time passing but reflect on all the great things going on at Millbrook:

- After school yesterday it was a pleasure to be part of a Vale Academy Trust staff meeting on mastery in maths. There were teachers in our large hall from all trust schools, including some KA's maths teachers, who were exploring the concept of variation in maths – our brains were well challenged as we used mastery theory to plan a unit of maths together. This was trust unity in action
- Lesson observations and follow ups are well underway as part of our regular monitoring cycle. This is just part of the support senior leaders give to teachers as part of their ongoing professional development, but also gives us an opportunity to see and reflect on the breadth of learning experiences available to the children. It is a real privilege to see some great learning going on.
- Hobbies day today is an opportunity to learn about what your children love to do out of school – we are all looking forward to finding about their interests and I hope they all have a fun day.
- We had a governor day last Friday so our governors could spend some time in school meeting children and staff. They spent time talking to children and completed a questionnaire about behaviour with some of them. They were really impressed with how well they know our school rules and how well they understand the behaviour expectations we have. They were very complimentary about behaviour in general as children move around school and settle to their work. As a reminder for you our rules are:
  - ✓ Work hard
  - ✓ Be kind
  - ✓ Follow instructions
- I'm delighted to say that we have secured some funding to develop the area where the amphitheatre currently stands – I am meeting playground developers and will keep you informed of progress. I know everyone will be delighted to get this area better used.

Wishing you a happy Friday

*Jane Ratcliffe*

### **Open Day Dates**

Our next Open Day is on **Tuesday 6 February** from 1.30 to 3.00 pm. Further dates are:

- 9 March 9.00 to 10.30 am
- 23 May 1.30 to 3.00 pm

Come along and join in with class activities. We look forward to seeing you!

### **Parking in Neighbouring Roads**

We have had a complaint from a neighbour about parents blocking drives in roads near to the school. If you are driving to collect your child from school please do not park inconsiderately and please treat our neighbours with respect.

### **Nursery Intake 2018**

If you have a child born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 he or she is eligible to apply for a Nursery place for the September 2018 intake. Our Nursery takes children from the September following their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday for one academic year.

Since September 2017 we have been offering three alternatives:

- *Morning sessions: 8.30 to 11.30 am (15 hours termtime only)*
- *Afternoon sessions: 12.15 to 3.15 pm (15 hours termtime only)*
- *All Day places: 8.30 am to 3.15 pm (30 hours termtime only)\**

*\*Only for eligible parents (see below) - this option includes a lunch club available at a daily charge to cover staffing. Parents provide a packed lunch.*



Many working parents of 3 and 4 year olds will be eligible for 30 hours of funded childcare per week for 38 weeks per year (equivalent to school termtime). If you are not eligible for 30 hours your child can still receive 15 free hours per week.

To find out if you are eligible please go to the government website:  
<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> for further information.

**To apply for a 15 or 30 hour Nursery place please contact the school office for an application form. We will be allocating places soon.**

### **School Uniform Reminder**

Our school uniform consists of:

- Royal blue or white polo shirt with or without the school logo or a plain white shirt
- Royal blue sweatshirts or cardigans with or without the school log.
- Grey trousers, skirts, shorts or pinafore dresses. Shorts must be school shorts. Skirts must be of a suitable length (ie knee length)
- Plain, dark tights or plain dark or white socks.
- Blue and white checked dresses for the summer months.
- Dark school shoes (black, brown or navy) during the winter months. Smart black, brown or navy boots may be worn in very cold or wet weather.
- Sensible sandals, if desired, for the summer months. Plain and flat with straps around the foot and heel to hold them firmly in place.
- A watch and one pair of small study earrings may be worn. No other jewellery is allowed. Earrings must be covered or removed for PE lessons.

**PE is an essential part of school uniform and must be provided and in school on the days that it is needed. Our PE Kit is:**

- Black or navy shorts
- A T shirt in the correct house colour (bright red, bright yellow, dark green or royal blue)
- Trainers for outdoor PE (plimsolls for indoor PE only)
- Children can bring a dark, plain tracksuit top and bottoms for the colder months – school jumpers are not to be worn for PE lessons.

The full policy may be viewed on our website. <http://millbrookschool.org.uk/uniforms/>

### **PE T-Shirts**

We are re-ordering the house coloured PE T-shirts and they will be available shortly. Once the new stock arrives the price for a PE T-Shirt will be £1.30 per top. We will let you know when they arrive!

### **Date for your diary**

Bake sale fundraising event on Friday 9 February – More information to follow.

### **Forces Coffee Mornings**



All Forces parents are warmly welcomed to our Forces Coffee Mornings each Friday. Please note that the coffee mornings now run from **9.00 am to 10.20 am** in the Rainbow Base.



### **Emergency Contacts**

Please can you email [office@millbrook.vale-academy.org](mailto:office@millbrook.vale-academy.org) if you have moved house or would like to update any of your contact details. Alternatively, pop into school to pick up a form from the office. It's really important that we have up to date contact information in case we need to reach parents in an emergency.



Who is **FROM**?? Well, **FROM** (Friends of Millbrook) is a group of parents, teachers and teaching assistants who voluntarily help to raise funds for Millbrook School.

2018 will see FROM raising money to remove and replace the amphitheatre on the school playground with a new area containing equipment for outside play. This is a major investment for the School and one in which every child will benefit. In addition FROM is also making a contribution to each year group towards trips etc.

Before Christmas, our successful Christmas Fayre raised £1800 towards our goal, with donations for refreshments at the Christmas singalong raising a further £50.

Our next event is coming up on 23 March! This year we have decided to do our popular Easter Bingo with a twist! We will be hosting Millbrook's first Cake Off on the same day. If you are a secret (or not so secret) baker, then this will be right up your street. Classes for everyone and plenty of prizes! After school, all of the cakes will be for sale with any left over being sold at the Easter Bingo event in the evening. Due to the popularity of Easter Bingo, this event will be held at Old Mill Hall so that we can make more tickets available. Look out for more information on this event soon!

Save the date – FROM's Summer Fayre, Saturday 7 July.

### **Facebook**

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



**Term Dates – this academic year (2017/18)**

Term 3 ends Friday 9 February at 3.10 pm.

Term 4 starts Tuesday 20 February at 8.50 am

Term 4 ends Thursday 29 March at 12.30 pm.

Term 5 starts Monday 16 April at 8.50 am (May Day Bank Holiday Monday 7 May)

Term 5 ends Friday 25 May at 3.10 pm

Term 6 starts Monday 4 June at 8.50 am

Term 6 ends Wednesday 25 July at 12.30 pm

Term Dates for next academic year (2018/19) issued by the Vale Academy Trust:

<b>Term 2018 -2019</b>	<b>Start and finish date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Term One</b>	Wednesday 5 September – Friday 19 October 2018 inclusive	
<b>Holiday Dates</b>	Monday 22 October – Tuesday 30 October 2018 inclusive	
<b>Term Two</b>	Wednesday 31 October – Friday 21 December 2018 inclusive	
<b>Holiday dates</b>	Monday 24 December 2018 – Monday 7 January 2019 inclusive	
<b>Term Three</b>	Tuesday 8 January – Friday 15 February 2019 inclusive	
<b>Holiday dates</b>	Monday 18 February – Monday 25 February 2019	
<b>Term Four</b>	Tuesday 26 February – Friday 5 April 2019 inclusive	
<b>Holiday dates</b>	Monday 8 April – Monday 22 April 2019 inclusive	Easter Bank holiday Monday 22 April
<b>Term Five</b>	Tuesday 23 April – Friday 24 May 2019	May Day Bank Holiday Monday 6 May
<b>Holiday dates</b>	Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May 2019 inclusive	
<b>Term Six</b>	Monday 3 June – Wednesday 24 July 2019 inclusive	



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