

School News

Reception and Pre-School Falconry Visit

Children from Willows and Acorns classes were treated to a Falconry talk on Wednesday 30th January. Children listened to the interesting facts about the different birds that visited our school. Children also had the opportunity to stroke some of the birds and were even able to watch them fly across the hall.

Mrs Gould, Pre-School Manager, said: "Willow class were amazed by the owls. They learned all about their different natural habitats. Their faces lit up with delight when they were told they could stroke them. The children's natural curiosity was a joy to see".

Miss Evans, Early Years Leader, added: 'The visit from the falconry centre links with our topic of the 'Deep, Dark Woods' and all the books we are currently reading in Acorns classes - particularly 'Owl Babies'. Meeting the birds of prey has ignited a fascination about the different species of owls and other nocturnal animals. The children learnt a lot of new information, such as the position of owls ears and why they have such incredible hearing'. One of the children said: "I liked being able to stroke the Spectacled Owl and watch the birds fly over my head."



Key Stage 2: 'Be Internet Legends' Assembly

On Friday the 11th of January, two visitors from Parent Zone and Google presented an assembly on Internet Safety to all of KS2. The session focussed on 'Be Internet Legends', a Google initiative designed to present online safety to children in a fun, engaging way - and this assembly was no different! The children loved finding out how to keep themselves and others safe when using the internet and learned some valuable lessons about protecting their personal information, being kind to others online, and being critical thinkers so they won't fall for fake websites and messages.



Thursday 14th February 2019 — Friends of Millfields School Disco.

Acorns (Reception) and Willows (Pre-School) - 1.30 until 2.15

KS1 (Years 1 and 2) 2.15—3.15

KS2 (Years 3 and 4) 3.15—4.15



The cost for the disco is £1.50 per child, which includes a packet of crisps and some sweets. **Please send payments into school in a clearly named envelope.** Please send in disco money to the school office from now until the 14th February.

For KS1 AND KS2 the Friends will be running a sweet shop. Please bring extra money in for this on the day.

KS1 children can purchase a small packet of pick 'n' mix sweets for 20p. KS2 Children will have a choice of a small packet of pick 'n' mix for 20p or a large packet of pick 'n' mix sweets for 50p.

On the day children will need to bring in a named bag with Party clothes in ready to change into for the disco.

Cherry Class Swimming.

Cherry Class will be Swimming at Bromsgrove School from Thursday 14th February up to and including Thursday 9th May 2019. Please ensure all swimming consent forms for Cherry Class are returned by **Wednesday 13th February**. Thank you.

Catering News — Pancake Day Tuesday 5th March 2019

Class Catering will be serving Pancakes as the choice of dessert for those children having hot dinners on Tuesday 5th March. (Allergies have been accounted for within the recipe). Please note the previously advertised dessert for this day will be changed in place of Pancakes.



World Book Day Thursday 7th March 2019.

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March.

Children are invited to bring in their favourite book from home, they will then get the opportunity during the day to share this book with their class. World Book Day vouchers will be given out to all pupils, these can be used in a variety of outlets including our school book fair later in April.

To celebrate this event we would like to invite children to dress up as a child character from their favourite book, e.g. Oliver Twist, Pippi Longstockings, Harry potter etc.

Comic Relief Friday 15th March 2019.

To support Red Nose day this year we are inviting children to wear 'something red' for a minimum contribution of £1.00. Please could you send your contributions in to school **on Friday 15th March** in a clearly named envelope.

This will be a non-school uniform day for children, in exchange for a £1.00 donation to wear as much or as little 'red' as you like — please note no football kits or 'onesie's' are allowed to be worn for this event.

We are pleased to let you know that we will be selling Red Noses in school. Each Red Nose is individually boxed and will cost £1.25. The Noses will be on sale in the office this year from Monday 4th March, please ensure your child has the correct change available. Thank you in advance for your support for this fundraising event.



Class Photographs - Monday 18th March 2019.

Tempest Photography will be in school on Monday 18th March 2018 to take Class photographs.

Mothers Day Coffee Morning — Friday 29th March 2019.

On the 29th March we will be holding another of our successful 'Mothers Day Coffee Mornings'.

For a small donation each, you and your child will be able to enjoy a drink and a breakfast style pastry or a piece of fresh fruit.

Donations: **Adult £2.00, Children £1.00** Please pay on the day—All monies raised will go to the school fund to provide further opportunities for the children.

There will be an earlier option to come in between 7.30am until 8.45 am, and 3 further 20 minute seating's will take place from 9.00am onwards. If you choose the early time slot you will need to stay with your child until the bell goes—unless they are booked into Breakfast Club.

If you would like to join us please complete the slip at the end of the newsletter confirming which seating option would best suit you and return to the office at your earliest convenience.

Please be aware that the 9.00-9.20 seating will inevitably be a popular time and you may see some queuing / delay whilst we manage this. If you are able to come in at a later time please do consider this as there should be less of a wait / delay as the morning goes on.

Please return your booking slip by no later than **Friday 22nd March**—this will allow us to calculate enough refreshments for everyone attending.

We will also be holding Fathers Day event later on in the year—look out for more information to follow.



Pioneer Residential Visit — Wednesday 3rd April - Friday 5th April 2019

The Pioneer visit for Year 4 pupils is taking place on Wednesday 3rd April 2019 to Friday 5th April 2019.

Can we remind you that full payment is required by Friday 1st March 2019 at the latest please.

Can you send in your green paying in card each time a payment is being made to the Office so that the records can be updated correctly. Thank you to those who attended the meeting on Monday 21st January.

We will update you if any further meetings are required.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.



Easter Service Wednesday 10th April 2019.

This years service will take place at St. John's Church on **Wednesday 10th April 2019.**

Parents family and friends are invited to join us at the service. If you are able to assist with walking the pupils to and from the school please gather in the school hall when the bell rings at 8.50am. We will then walk to church for an approximate 9.45am start.

Parents with accompanying pre-school children are welcome to join us, but will not be able to assist with supervising the pupils. Thank you.

We hope you have a very enjoyable time.

Easter Bonnet Parade - (Friends Event) - Friday 12th April 2019.

We will be holding our Easter Bonnet and Coffee Morning in school on Friday 12th April 2019. We would like all pupils to create an Easter Bonnet which they will be able to wear during the parade.

During the morning each class will come down to the hall to parade their bonnets. Some older children who are perhaps not too keen to wear bonnets can wear something with an Easter theme if they prefer for example a decorated T-shirt or tie. Parents are invited to watch the proceedings whilst having refreshments.

The Parade times will be as follows:

Reception	9.00am
Year 1	9.30am
Year 2	10.00am
Key Stage 2	10.30am



Please be aware there may be some delay with these start times as it is difficult to predict how many people will attend.

Refreshments will be available on the day at a cost of £1.00 for a cup of tea or coffee and 50 pence per child for a drink and biscuit (**payable on the day**).

Beauty and the Beast—Whole School Theatre Visit

Please be reminded that all contributions towards the Beauty and the Beast Theatre visit must be sent in to school by Monday 25th February ready for the visit on Friday 1st March 2019. Thank you to those families that have contributed so far - we appreciate your support.

End of school day.

As you are aware, the end of school is 3.15pm. This is the time that teachers end the school day. Sometimes the teachers will have the children ready to leave school at this time, with their coats and bags ready. These children will therefore be quick onto the playground. Sometimes however, teachers will be working with the children right up to this time and therefore the children will be a little later on to the playground by the time they have their coats and bags ready. If this happens, please be patient, the children will be with you as soon as they are able. Thank you for your support in this.

Playground supervision

Please could we kindly request that all children are supervised on the playground by parents/guardians before the school bell rings in the morning. We have been made aware of a couple of incidents where children have been hurt/injured by other children before school. Thank you.

Parentapps

Please remember to send your information for our new app in asap. We need to give the information to the provider at the start of February.

To download the app please go to:

Apple - <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/parentapps-connect/id1440730909?mt=8>

Google - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.parentapps.connect>

Or search on the app store on your device. The app is not live yet. When it is you will receive an invitation via email or text.

Before and After school.

We would also like to remind people that they must collect and drop off their children at the correct times i.e. if you have booked until 6.00pm you must collect at this time at the latest. If you have booked from 7.30am/8.15am **you must not arrive before this time**. All late collections and early arrivals will be charged for accordingly (a flat rate of £10.00). In the case of late collections this charge can be avoided by providing an explanation for the lateness in advance.

Booking for before and after school club are requested in advance to help us plan staffing and food requirements.

Last minute amendments cannot be refunded from booked hours as staffing has already been planned.

A minimum of 10 days or two full school weeks is required for all cancellations in order for a credit to be issued.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

Battery recycling

Millfields First School has enrolled into the 'Big Battery Hunt' a nationwide challenge run by Duracell to help protect the environment. Each year over 20,000 tonnes of batteries end up in landfill. When **batteries** begin to rot away in landfill sites these chemicals may leak into the ground, which can cause soil and water pollution. When chemicals contaminate soil and water animals, humans and the environment can be harmed. **Recycling** is a great way to help protect the environment.

If you would like to safely recycle your old AAA, AA, C or D batteries please visit the school office. Please ensure you transport your old batteries safely. Unfortunately we can not accept leaking batteries for health and safety purposes.

Millfields Social Club Defibrillator

For your information, Millfields Social Club are pleased to inform you that they now have a fully operational defibrillator on their premises. In an emergency, a 999 call operator may need to direct you to your nearest defibrillator. It is worth noting that there is also a defibrillator located on the school premises that can be accessed during school hours.



Long Hair / Hair accessories

Please can you ensure that if your child has hair, shoulder length or below that it is tied back. This is important for Health and safety during games and PE sessions and also can help to limit the spread of head lice. Please also ensure that all hair ties are small and in line with the school colours. We do not allow 'Jo-Jo' bows or any other large hair accessories in school. Thank you.

NUT—FREE ZONE.

May we remind all parents and carers that we are a nut free school. Therefore please do not send your child to school with any products containing nuts—this includes nut based products such as Nutella chocolate spread and bars. We have children in school that have severe nut allergies and it is essential that we have this strict rule in place.

Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

Forest School News



FOREST SCHOOL

At Forest School we enrich the children's learning in ways different from inside school. The children learn to work in teams, have chances to use a variety of tools and building materials and are able to experience group time around the fire-circle.

This year we are intending to improve on our fire-circle experience by lighting fires in more sessions. To do this we need to collect wood to burn – we do harvest some from the site, but find that our stocks need replenishing on a regular basis. If anyone can donate spare firewood (timber offcuts are fine, but no nails please), please contact us.

In the forest we use building materials and sticks of all sizes. We use small twigs for craft projects right up to larger sticks for den building and thicker branches can be used to give the children a chance to saw wood slices for projects.

If you are intending to cut any trees down in your gardens, and feel you are able to donate any of these items, please complete the form below and hand in to the school office.



GARDENING

This year we are looking forward to growing more plants at Millfields. Rather than us buying plant plugs, children will learn the whole plant life cycle by growing plants from seed and helping to look after them.

Our plan is to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables (weather permitting!) that we can sell to parents and the kitchen as fund-raising schemes.

To start with we are intending to have a class competition to see how many potatoes each class can grow in their sack. If anyone has spare seed potatoes, please donate them for the children to use.

It would also be helpful if parents could donate their unwanted flower pots, seed trays, trowels, compost and seeds. If anyone could make us a cold frame or has one spare, please let us know using the form below.

We really hope our gardening club will be a success and we're looking forward to some green-fingered fun.



For donations or more information on how you can help, please complete the slip below and bring into school or contact Rosie Dixon (Forest School & Gardening Club) via the office.

Forest School / Gardening donations

Name of child Class

We have item(s) to donate (please describe)

.....

I can help by (please describe)

.....

Dates for the Diary 2019



Wednesday 6th February	Acorns E parents invited to Maths lesson 9-10am
Thursday 7th February	Acorns H parents invited to Maths lesson 9-10am
Thursday 14th February	Spring Disco—Friends event
Friday 15th February	School closes 3.15pm for Half Term break
Monday 25th February	School re-opens.
Friday 1st March	Whole School theatre visit—Beauty and the Beast Years R—4
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 12th March	Friends meeting 6.15pm in school staffroom
Monday 18th March	Class Group — Photographs.
Friday 29th March	Mothers Day Breakfast
Wednesday 3rd—5th April	Y4 Residential visit
Monday 8th—12th April	Scholastic—Book Fair
Tuesday 9th April	Parent Consultations 3.45pm—5pm
Wednesday 10th April	Parent consultations 3.45pm—7pm
Wednesday 10th April	Easter Service at St Johns church. Families Welcome 9.30am.
Friday 12th April	Easter Bonnet Parade (Friends event)
Friday 12th April	Break up for Easter.
Monday 29th April	School re-opens for Summer Term.
Monday 6th May	School closed for one day only.
Tuesday 7th May	School re-opens.
Tuesday 14th May	Friends meeting 6.15pm in school staffroom.
Friday 24th May	Cake Sale (Friends event).
Friday 24th May	School closes for Half Term.
Monday 3rd June	School re-opens after Half Term.
Friday 14th June	Fathers Day Breakfast Morning (further details nearer the date)
Tuesday 18th June	Friends AGM meeting 6.15pm in school staffroom
Friday 28th June	School Bandstand Event.
Friday 5th July	Summer Fayre.
Friday 19th July	Ice Lolly Day (Friends Event).
Friday 19th July	School Closes at 3.15pm for the Summer Holidays. (Monday 22nd July is a Teachers Training Day)

Holiday Dates for 2019/2020

School Closes

School Re-opens

Autumn	----	Wednesday 4 th September 2019*
Half Term	Thursday 24 th October 2019*	Monday 4 th November 2019
Term Ends	Friday 20 th December 2019	Tuesday 7 th January 2020*
Half Term	Friday 14 th February 2020	Monday 24 th February 2020
Easter	Friday 3 rd April 2020	Monday 20 th April 2020
May Day	Monday 4 th May (Closed for the day)	Tuesday 5 th May 2020
Half Term	Friday 22 nd May 2020	Monday 1 st June 2020
Term ends	Friday 17 th July 2020*	----

*Teacher Training Days added to this holiday period, (see below).

*Teacher Training Days

Monday 2nd September 2019

Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Friday 25th October 2019

Monday 6th January 2020

Monday 20th July 2020

Bank Holiday

Monday 4th May 2020 (May Day)

Mothers Day Coffee Morning: Booking Slip

Childs Name: **Class:**

I will be attending the Mothers Day Coffee Morning on Friday 29th March at: (Please tick one option)

7.30am-8.45am 9.00am—9.20am 9.30am-9.50am 10.00am-10.20am

Please note we can only allow one adult per family due to seating restrictions within the hall.

Please ensure you have the correct change available on the day.

Please return this completed slip to the school office by Friday 22nd March 2019.



We look forward to seeing you on the day.