



'Every Child Counts, Every Moment Matters'



## NEWSLETTER

13th September 2019



Welcome to a new school year  
at Millfields



### A Warm Welcome from Mrs Montandon

I can't believe we have been back for 2 weeks already! Where does the time go? The children have settled really quickly back into the routine of school. An especially big "Well Done" to all of our new starters, it has been lovely to see how well they have adapted to life at Millfields.

We have lots of events already planned for this term. Please look at the calendar attached to this newsletter and put the dates in your diary. We will try hard not to change any of the dates, but on occasion this may be inevitable due to events beyond our control.

More dates are being added to the list soon. We hope that you will be able to join us at many of our events; we love to welcome you into school.

Our first event is our curriculum evening on Wednesday. Please come and find out about what your child is doing this year, and the expectations for them. It will be an opportunity for you to put a name to a face for your child's teacher, for those who are not able to drop their child off in person.

Our second event is Harvest assembly for Year 4 parents. This is on Friday morning. In assembly this morning I talked to the children about how lucky we are in this country to be able to have so much food throughout the year. We talked about the importance of sharing with those who have less than us. Hopefully they will be asking you for a tin or a packet to bring to our harvest celebration to share between three good causes.

We look forward to seeing you!



### Curriculum Evening

On Wednesday 18th September we are hosting our Curriculum Evening in school. Please see the 'Letters Home' section of our Parent App for more information / times.

This will be an informative evening which is aimed at helping you to support your child through this academic year.

 **Harvest Assembly**

Our annual Harvest Assembly is taking place on Friday 20th September. Please see our Harvest Festival letter which is posted on the Parent App under the 'Letters Home' tab for more information.

All children are invited to donate food produce towards our Harvest Assembly. All produce donated will be displayed in school and then distributed across 3 local charities. We will be gratefully collecting all donations in school on the morning of **Thursday 19th September**.

Please note only parents / guardians of **Year 4 pupils** are able to attend the assembly. Due to limited capacity in the hall, this invite is for one adult per Year 4 child.

We would like to thank you in advance of your co-operation and support.

 **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

We are pleased to let you know that the Friends Association will be hosting our annual Macmillan Coffee morning in school on Friday 27th September.

Please see below for the times during which your child will be able to join you in the school hall.

Class	Session time
Acorns E &H	9.00-9.20
Beech & Rowan	9.30-9.50
Cedar & Cherry	10.00-10.20
Hazel & Oak	10.30-10.40

Please note: Year 1 children will be on their school trip on Friday 27th September and therefore will not be taking part in this event. (The visit was booked back in June and despite our best efforts we have been unable to re-schedule this date.)

Cedar Class: As Cedar Class children will have Forest School on the morning of our coffee morning, please send your child in their Forest School clothes, they will still go up to the Forest after their session time with you.

 **Security Gates**

Please be reminded that the security gates will open at 3.05pm each day. If you need to see the office before this time please ring the bell for entrance. It is very important that parents and visitors do not hold the gate open for anybody, even if they know them, before 3.05pm.

The gates must **not** be tied back under any circumstances. This is for the safety of your children.

Thank you for your co-operation.



## Neighbourly Considerations

Please be reminded to park considerately around our local roads and respect the drives of our neighbours. We have received several complaints from local residents about people leaving their cars across driveways whilst dropping children off at school / collecting - this is not acceptable.

Children's safety at the beginning and end of school is of paramount importance. Parking on bends in the road and on footpaths presents a real danger to all pedestrians.

Please also be reminded that the disabled space outside of school is purely for the use of disabled users who display a valid disabled badge. This allows children and families easier access to the school, where necessary. It is important that this facility is not abused and is kept free for those that really need it. Please can you be responsible, considerate and courteous with your parking at all times.

We have also been made aware of a number of people smoking outside of school. Not only does this set a bad example to children, it also can effect the health of other passers by including young children. Please can we kindly ask that you refrain from smoking directly outside of the school premises, and that all cigarette butts are disposed of appropriately.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Further to this, we have received a letter from PC Pedrick with regards to safety around our schools. Please see the 'Letters Home' section of our Parent App.



## Parent Pay

We are pleased to let you know that our new Parent Pay system is due to go live soon. We will keep you updated on the progress of this. All new starters will receive their activation codes soon.

In the meantime please ensure lunches from the kitchen, for children in Pre-School and Years 3 and 4, are paid for in advance by cash or cheque. Lunches remain the same price at £2.30 (£2.00 for Pre-Schoolers).

Snacks will also remain unchanged and will need to be paid for in cash daily. When we do go live all children that have lunch from the kitchen must have booked their meal via the Parent Pay app, whether they pay for these meals or not. More information will follow soon.



## Friends Association

We are very lucky at Millfields to have such a committed, hardworking and creative Friends Association. The funds they help to raise for the school go directly to benefiting your children. We really do appreciate all the hard work and effort the Friends put into supporting our school.

The Friends Association have already kick started this academic year off by hosting a couple of 'Tea and Tissues' sessions for our new Reception parents. The rest of the year is already looking busy with some exciting fundraising events planned ahead!

Next week the Friends are hosting our annual Macmillan Coffee morning, if you would like to be part of this fantastic team please email:

[friends@millfields.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:friends@millfields.worcs.sch.uk)





## Individual photographs

It's that time of the year again when Tempest photography will be coming into school to photograph your child. Individual photographs will be taken during the morning of **Monday 30th September**.

If you have other children that do not attend Millfields, you are more than welcome to bring them in to have a sibling photo taken with your child/children that attend Millfields. Please arrive anytime between 8.00am and 8.40am and make your way to the lower community room—accessible via the pathway along the side of the Community room, (turn right at the top of the path before the office).

All individual and 'in-school' sibling photos will be taken during the morning of the 30th September. The eldest child will collect siblings and have their photo taken together during school time.



## Allergies / Dietary / Medical Requirements

It is important that, if over the holidays, your child has had any medical changes or developed an allergy, diagnosed by a medical practitioner, that you let the school office know as soon as possible.

If your child has any prescribed medication that is required to be kept in school please can you make sure that it is in date,. This includes Epi Pens and Inhalers. School is not allowed to administer out of date medication, even in an emergency, so it is vital for your child's well-being that you keep a note of the expiry date at home and bring new medication to school before the other one expires.



## Key Stage 2 Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons will commence this term for all Key Stage 2 children. Please see the table below for the dates your child will be swimming. A consent letter will be sent home nearer the time your child is due to start their lessons.

All lessons take place on a Thursday afternoon.

Class	Swimming Lessons
Oak	Thursday 12th September - Thursday 14th November
Hazel	Thursday 21st November - Thursday 30th January
Cedar	Thursday 6th February - Thursday 30th April
Cherry	Thursday 7th May - Thursday 16th May



# Forest School News



We have had a fabulous first week at Forest School. The children have been excited to see all the changes to the site, the natural growth and the seasonal changes as well as new improvements that we have made.

In the Spring term we had a visit from the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and we pledged to help improve the habitats of bees and insects at Forest School. The children then spent time in the Summer term as part of the 'Buzzy Bee Challenge' helping to plant and look after sunflower and pumpkin seeds in our new flower beds and everyone was stunned with how much these plants have grown! We now have a very impressive sunflower area with some exceedingly tall sunflowers in yellows, oranges and reds. The children are pleased that these flowers will provide food for bees and other pollinators in the summer and that the seeds will also be eaten by birds and squirrels during this Autumn. The pumpkin patch has also been very successful and we have several pumpkins that are doing well.



We have been busy making lots of changes and improvements within Forest School including creating a new fire circle with benches for the children to sit on, several new bug hunting areas and log-pile houses, a new bug hotel, and improvements to the mud kitchen area, the pond and storage areas.

We have exciting sessions planned for the Autumn term. We will cover a mixture of topics, learning about the natural world, the changing seasons and giving the children the chance to learn practical skills with a focus on using different tools (age-appropriate!). We will also use Forest School to give the children a hands-on application for what they learn in class, reinforcing their learning and understanding. These will run alongside the regular day-to-day Forest School activities and routines.



Once the term is fully underway and the weather turns cooler, we're aiming to have more fires and do some basic cooking with the children. In preparation for this, **it would be great if you could please send your child to school next week with a pack of large marshmallows** to toast on the fire. These will then be shared amongst the children over the course of the term.

Autumn is always an interesting time in the natural world, with so many changes to discover and explore. We are looking forward to this term with your children.



## Gold Book Award

Congratulations to our first group of children who have already made it into the Gold Book for this year!

### Millfields First School Gold Book

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Willow:** Oscar B for being such a good role model he is so kind and caring to his new school friends, well done Oscar!!

**Acorns E:** Blake J for being a fabulous role model to other children and showing them our carpet rules from the very first day. Keep up the hard work Blake!

**Acorns H:** Aiden B for settling into Acorns so fast. We are all super proud of you Aiden. Well done!

**Holly:** Lena for being so kind and caring and looking after a child in reception, when she could see that they were upset on the playground.

**Maple:** Charity for having a fantastic attitude to her learning. Well done Charity.

**Beech:** Tommy-Lee for his brilliant listening skills and always trying his absolute best. Well done Tommy-Lee!

**Rowan:** Libby for her willingness to always help others and setting a fantastic example! Well done Libby!

**Cedar:** Amelie for being a role model to others. She is always ready to learn and tries her very best. A great start to Year 3, well done Amelie!

**Cherry:** Madison for always being kind, polite and ready to learn in all of our lessons. You have an excellent attitude to your learning, keep it up!

**Hazel:** Oscar G for his excellent listening skills, helpful attitude around the classroom and maturity and confidence during his first weeks in Year 4

**Oak:** Sam M for an excellent attitude to learning and a great start to year 4.

**Forest School:** Elissa (Cherry) for concentrating hard on building at FS and for also tidying up well afterwards.



## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Curriculum Evening
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Festival (Year 4 parents)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	MacMillan Coffee Morning
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 1 Severn Valley Railway Trip
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Individual school photos
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Pre-School Open Morning for parents of children rising 3 thinking of joining Millfields Pre-School
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Open morning for parents thinking of applying to Reception class for September 2020
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>School closed Teacher Training day</b>
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b>	<b>Half term</b>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need day
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November - Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Book fair in school
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' evening
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Pre-school and Reception Nativity (morning)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Flu Vaccinations for Reception - Year 4
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Pre-school and Reception Nativity (morning)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Nativity (afternoon)
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Nativity (morning)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime Year 4
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Children's Christmas parties
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Carol Service (afternoon) St John's church
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Term ends</b>



# Term Dates 2019 / 2020

## Millfields First School Term Dates for the Academic Year 2019 / 2020

Term	Date School Re-Opens	Date School Closes
Autumn Half Term 1	Wednesday 4th September 2019	Thursday 24th October 2019
Autumn Half Term 2	Monday 4th November 2019	Friday 20th December 2019
<b>Spring Term</b>	<b>Tuesday 7th January 2020</b>	
Spring Half Term 1	Tuesday 7th January 2020	Friday 14th February 2020
Spring Half Term 2	Monday 24th February 2020	Friday 3rd April 2020
<b>Summer Term</b>	<b>Monday 20th April 2020</b>	
Summer Half Term 1	Monday 20th April 2020	Friday 22nd May 2020
Summer Half Term 2	Monday 1st June 2020	Friday 17th July 2020

School will also be closed on the following dates:

Teacher Training Days
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2020

Bank Holidays
Friday 8th May 2020 (May Day)