



Twenty - Twenty - One to Remember!

Well, what a year 2021 has been already! It's been very different to how I had envisaged it would have ever been.

I'd like to express my sincerest thanks to parents, carers and all those who are in support bubbles who are working tirelessly to support our pupils with their home learning. To all parents / carers who are key / critical workers and are working hard day and night to keep our country going—thank you. To anyone working in I.T.—wow, who knew how many technical issues there could be!

It's fair to say we've all had some adapting to do this year. It's not been easy but I'm sure in the not too distant future we'll soon be able to look back on this time and smile.

Thank you for your lovely words of support—this has really helped us to get through some of the darkest days. The teachers at Millfields never expected, when they started their teaching career, to be teaching children via video link. This has been a huge transition in the way they do their job, a job they are passionate about. I am proud of how well my staff have adapted and thank you for your patience and understanding you have shown them during this time.



Our display by Beech and Rowan classes is particularly apt for the times we find ourselves in.

We are so proud of each and everyone of our pupils—we hope you are too. Children have had so much taken away from them this last year but they have also developed (and quite literally grown) in more ways than we could have ever imagined. Their resilience and determination to continue to learn during such unprecedented times is admirable. Children are our future, although these times are challenging, this experience will shape them and give them the confidence to overcome whatever challenges they may face ahead in life.

Children's Mental Health Week

The health and wellbeing of all of our pupils is our main priority all year round.



During P.S.H.E. lessons teachers have been working with children following 'Jigsaw', a unique, spiral, progressive and effective scheme of work, aiming to prepare children/young people for life, helping them really know and value who they are and understand how they relate to other people in this ever-changing world. Whilst your child is at home you may like to look in to the free story activities available on the Jigsaw website: <https://families.jigsawpshe.com/stuck-at-home/>.



These stories explore dreams and goals, people's strengths and feelings as well as how hectic family life can be and how we can all help to make life at home more harmonious. Both stories have thought provoking activities for you and your child to work through together.

Your child may recognise the 'Calm Me Time' which takes place in most P.S.H.E. lessons.

During lockdown, our pupils mental health is at the forefront of all we do. Our live lessons give children the opportunity to see their teacher and other class friends which provides a little bit of 'normality'. Wellbeing sessions are taking place weekly. During these sessions, class teachers and children can talk openly about how they are feeling and what they have been up to. Daily Story Time sessions are available on Teams for children to help them have a calming end to their school day and to feed their imagination. Forest School activities are uploaded on to PurpleMash each week to encourage children to enjoy the outdoors and to have time away from their computers.

We know that, despite our best efforts, children will still be struggling and will be finding this new way of life particularly hard to come to terms with. Not being able to meet with friends, have birthday parties or even go to the shops, life is different. We want to make sure that school can be as 'normal' as possible—albeit remotely. Should you feel like your child is struggling with any aspect of lockdown, from home schooling to managing mood swings, please do let us know—we may be able to help and if not we can look to direct you to the best places that can.

Place2Be is a children's mental health charity that has lots of useful resources to help and support you and your child. You can follow the link below for more information on the help available: <https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/supporting-your-child-s-mental-health/>



Improving children's mental health

The theme of this years Children's Mental Health week is "Express Yourself". The 'Children's Mental Health Week' website has some free resources you may like to use with your child to help them express themselves. The link for this is below:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

Thank you to all parents, carers and support bubbles that are helping to bring positivity and happiness in the lives of young ones during these testing times.

Turn over to see the ways our pupils have been celebrating this years Children's Mental Health Week at Millfields ...

Children's Mental Health Week - Activities

Recently children in school, and at home, have been focussing on their wellbeing.

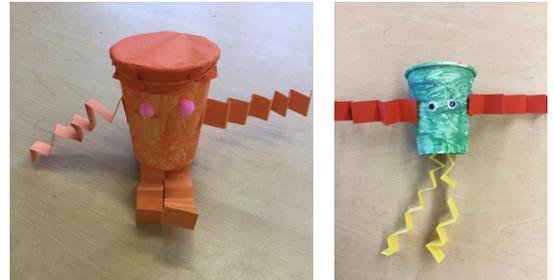
Here are some of the ways children have been exploring and talking about their wellbeing...

Pre-School

Willow Class have been making 'Worry Monsters'. To make your own Worry Monster you will need:

- a paper cup or kitchen/toilet roll tube
- paint
- pipe cleaners, googly eye and pompoms (optional)

First, paint the cup/kitchen roll tube, then fold card to make concertina arms (or you could use pipe cleaners). Use pompoms or googly eyes for eyes, or you could draw them on instead.



Pre-School Worry Monsters

Cut a circle of paper and attach it to the top of the cup/tube to make the worry monster's hair. Secure the circle paper with an elastic band and write your worries or draw a picture of your worries on a separate piece of paper and put them inside.

Year 1



Some of the stories Year 1 have been reading

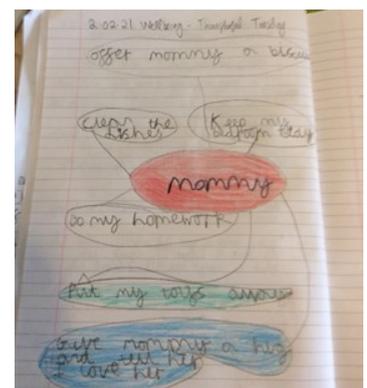
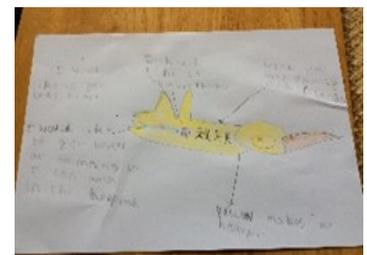
Story Time sessions were focused on the feelings and challenges we can face.

Children completed a live lesson talking about feelings, identifying what feelings can look like, showing one another different faces and guessing how they're feeling. They then had to think about something that has made them sad and 3 things that make them feel better, before drawing a picture of those things and labelling them.

Year 2

Year 2 looked at what the word 'well-being' means and how we can look after our mental health. Children completed an activity for each day of the week such as 'Thoughtful Tuesday', 'Wishful Wednesday' and 'Friendly Friday'.

Children also had a go at creating their own 'dream birds' that represent our various dreams and goals. We discussed what we can do to work towards this and how it's important to look after our mental health when working towards a goal. Children produced a range of birds with goals such as doctors, teachers, scientists, astronauts and even chocolate tasters!



Year 2 Dream Birds work

Children's Mental Health Week - Activities

Here are some more of the ways children have been exploring and talking about their well-being...

Year 3

We asked the children to think about what makes them happy. We asked them to create a Happiness Jar: Using a real jar make and decorate your own 'Happiness Jar'. On different pieces of paper write down things that make you happy and put them inside the jar.

At times when you may be feeling upset, worried or anxious take a piece of paper from your happiness jar and do what you have written down to make you feel happy again!

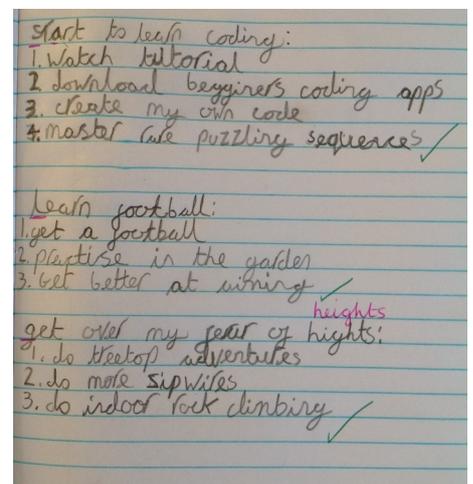
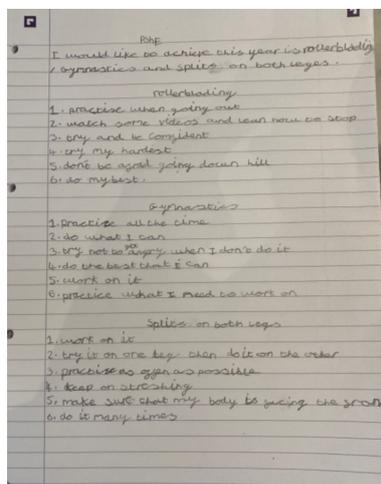
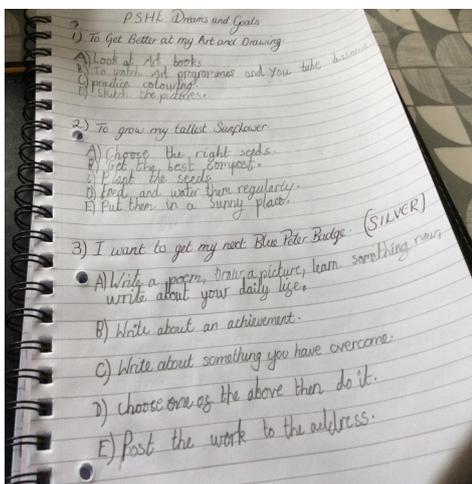


Year 3 Happiness Jar Work

Year 4

Hazel and Oak Classes have focused on their wellbeing in PHSE and have worked at looking towards the future and any dreams and goals they might have. The aim of this is to steer children away from the current situation and encourage them to be positive and think about what they might want to achieve in the future.

The children have had to think of a goal for the future and then consider ways to achieve that goal.



Some of the fantastic pieces of P.S.H.E. home learning from Year 4 children on their 'Dreams and Goals'.

Forest School

At Forest School, children have been taking part in some of Mr Meese's mindfulness sessions. Children have been balancing a pebble on their stomach and have felt it moving up and down as they concentrate breathing deeply and calmly. The children of Cherry Class also made scarecrows to bring a smile to the faces of the other children in school.



Mindfulness Breathing and Smiley Scarecrows



Millfields School Meals

We're pleased to let you know our school meals takeover plans are well underway.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our school meals questionnaire. The feedback we received from this has helped us to develop some exciting new menus. Unfortunately our budgets don't quite stretch to the Sushi that had been requested - but we'll sure you'll love the variety of healthy meals on offer. We'll share these menus with you soon.

We plan to go live with our in house school meals in the Summer Term. We'll keep you updated with our developments!



Friday 12th February: End of Half Term Fun Day

To say a big thank you to all children who have worked so hard this year, each class will be celebrating the end of this half term with a Fun Friday.

Whether you're at home learning or in school—all children are invited to join in with their class, to let their hair down and have some fun. Look out for more information from your child's class teacher soon.



Families Magazine

We'd usually hand out the latest 'Families' magazine, so to save you missing out on anything we've popped the link here for you to have a look: [Families Magazine Hereford & Worcester](#)



Although we're not affiliated to this magazine in any way we thought you might like to look at the activities on offer for children to complete, there's also some free audio books and advice and information resources that you may find useful.



Design a Bike of the Future

The Crowngate Shopping Centre in Worcester have been in touch to tell us of an exciting new Secure Cycling Storage Pop Up shop which will be opening within Crowngate Shopping Centre in Worcester City Centre on Monday 22nd February.

To celebrate the opening they are launching a competition in partnership with Evotech for one lucky child to win bikes for their family to the value of **£1,000**. The competition is open to Worcestershire children up to the age of 16. To be in with a chance of winning this amazing prize entrants are asked to 'Design a Bike of the Future'.

The competition will be live from Tuesday 23rd February (Closing date is Tuesday 9th March), and anyone wanting to participate will be able to download a template from www.crowngate-worcester.co.uk any time from February 23rd.

A specialist bike shop will be judging the competition and will pick the winner. The Crowngate shopping centre also hope to display the winning design on the walls within the cycle storage unit for everyone to enjoy.

If your child / children would like something different to do and for a chance to win a set of bikes for your family to enjoy, why not give it ago— Good luck!



Stars of the Week!

Each week we celebrate children that have produced exceptional pieces of work, or have given of their best in class. Well done to all our stars that have worked hard **over the last couple of weeks**. Keep up the great work!



Look out for information on
the
Forest School Awards
coming soon!



Home Learning Heroes!

We want to celebrate those children working hard at home during lockdown. The work that has been produced is incredible - well done! Parents and carers, thank you also for the help and support you have shown your children, it really does make a difference. You're all heroes! Here are some children that have sent in some outstanding pieces of work...

Home Learning

HERO

Delilah
&
Evie
Willow

Home Learning

HERO

Jesse,
Robyn &
Ali
Acorns H

Home Learning

HERO

Jenson,
Sophia &
Thomas
Acorns W

Home Learning

HERO

Edward,
Amy &
Lilian
Holly

Home Learning

HERO

Aiden
&
Harry C
Maple

Home Learning

HERO

James
&
Seth
Beech

Home Learning

HERO

Jimmy
&
Cobie
Rowan

Home Learning

HERO

Zach L
&
Rex
Cedar

Home Learning

HERO

Libby
&
Isabelle W
Cherry

Home Learning

HERO

Rocco
&
Lucy
Hazel

Home Learning

HERO

Aaliya
&
Blake M
Oak

Look out for information on
the
Forest School Awards
coming soon!



'Every Child Counts, Every Moment Matters'

Term Dates 2020 / 2021

Millfields First School Term Dates for the Academic Year 2020 / 2021

Term	School Opens on:	School closes at the end of the school day on:
Spring Half Term 1	Monday 4th January 2021	Friday 12th February 2021
School Closed: Spring Half Term	Monday 15th February 2021 to Friday 19th February 2021	
Spring Half Term 2	Tuesday 23rd February 2021	Thursday 1st April 2021
School Closed: Easter Holidays	Monday 5th April 2021 to Friday 16th April 2021	
Summer Half Term 1	Monday 19th April 2021	Friday 28th May 2021
School Closed: Summer Half Term	Monday 31st May 2021 to Friday 4th June 2021	
Summer Half Term 2	Tuesday 8th June 2021	Wednesday 21st July 2021

School will be closed on the following days:

Teacher Training Days
Monday 22nd February
Monday 7th June 2021

Bank Holidays
Good Friday: Friday 2nd April 2021
May Day: Monday 3rd May 2021



School Closed: Teacher Training Day Reminder

Please be reminded that on **Monday 22nd February** school, and Pre-School, will be closed for a Teacher Training day.

There will be no work set for children on this day.

School will re-open to those children that have a critical worker / vulnerable child place on Tuesday 23rd February. Pre-School will reopen to all as normal on the 23rd too.

Home learning and live lessons will commence on Tuesday 23rd. We hope you enjoy the extra day off from home learning and the extended half term!



'Every Child Counts, Every Moment Matters'

Term Dates 2021 / 2022

Millfields First School Term Dates for the Academic Year 2021 / 2022

Term	School Opens on:	School closes at the end of the school day on:
Autumn Half Term 1	Monday 6th September 2021	Friday 22nd October 2021
School Closed: Autumn Half Term	Monday 25th October 2021 to Friday 29th October 2021	
Autumn Half Term 2	Monday 1st November 2021	Friday 17th December 2021
School Closed: Christmas Holidays	Monday 20th December 2021 to Friday 31st December 2021	
Spring Half Term 1	Wednesday 5th January 2022	Friday 18th February 2022
School Closed: Spring Half Term	Monday 21st February 2022 to Friday 25th February 2022	
Spring Half Term 2	Monday 28th February 2022	Friday 8th April 2022
School Closed: Easter Holidays	Monday 11th April 2022 to Friday 22nd April 2022	
Summer Half Term 1	Monday 25th April 2022	Friday 27th May 2022
School Closed: Summer Half Term	Monday 30th May 2022 to Friday 3rd June 2022	
Summer Half Term 2	Tuesday 7th June 2022	Friday 22nd July 2022

School will also be closed on the following days:

Teacher Training Days
Thursday 2nd September 2021
Friday 3rd September 2021
Monday 4th October 2021
Tuesday 4th January 2022
Monday 6th June 2022

Bank Holidays
Good Friday: Friday 15th April 2022
May Day: Monday 2nd May 2022

You've Got This...

'They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them FEEL.' - Carol Buchner

'The brightest stars are those that shine for the benefit of others' - Unknown

'Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out' - Robert Collier



'It always seems impossible until it's done' — Nelson Mandela

'The journey matters as much as the destination' - Michelle Dockery

'Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory' — Dr. Seuss

'A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.' - Albert Einstein

'Let your unique awesomeness and positive energy inspire confidence in others' - Anonymous

'Believe you can and you're halfway there.' - Theodore Roosevelt