



MILE OAK NEWSLETTER



FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2023
Autumn 1 Newsletter



We have reached the end of our first half term and the time seems to have flown by. The children have settled exceptionally well into their new year groups with new friendships being made in classes. Throughout this period, the children have worked incredibly hard and continued to demonstrate the school's values of respect, ambition, courage and pride. They have earned a well-deserved rest over half term!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new reception parents. We are so pleased that you have joined our school and your children have settled into school life amazingly over the last 6 weeks. We are so proud of them and excited about their year ahead and beyond.

I would like to officially welcome Mr Cosgrove, our New Deputy Headteacher, to the school and community. Many of you will have already met and spoken with him and we are delighted that he chose to work at Mile Oak. He has settled in incredibly well and has already developed excellent relationships with so many of the children.

Thank you to all the staff who have worked tirelessly to support the children. Their resilience and dedication is exceptional and our children thrive as a result.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have been so supportive of the children. We appreciate all that you do and the kindness and warmth that you exhibit to staff. Our school community is so much stronger when we are a supportive team for our children.

This half term has been challenging for a number of our children and I want to reassure you all that the school, supported by governors, has taken steps and action to ensure that the school is a safe, happy and calm environment for all pupils. This is an area that we are constantly reviewing and making changes to where appropriate. As always, the Senior Leadership Team are happy to meet with parents who wish to discuss this or any other concerns.

We wish you all an enjoyable half term break with the chance to recharge the batteries and spend time together as families. Excitingly, FOMO have once again set up a Halloween Trail around the Mile Oak area that families can take part in over the holiday. Can you find all the letters to spell the mystery phrase and receive a prize?

We look forward to welcoming all the children back to school at 8:40am on Tuesday 31st October.

Mr. Lording



AMBITION



RESPECT



PRIDE



COURAGE



LITTLE OAKS NURSERY



Our half term at Little Oaks has certainly been jam packed! We have been busy welcoming many new faces and enjoying getting to know each and every, little learner.

The children have enjoyed sharing their interests with us – we've had ice, trains, songs, role play and enjoyed the story Owl Babies. This particular story has helped us learn about families, autumn and separating from our familiar adults.

We've been out and about in the school spaces, being nature detectives and noticing the seasonal changes. Our new knowledge has been applied through creative activities such as leaf printing – our hallway display is most impressive! Come rain and shine we love being outside. Many of us dressed for the weather to explore the water channels created by heavy rain fall and, like always, we enjoy getting our bodies moving on the playground using equipment like balls, bikes and balancing runs.



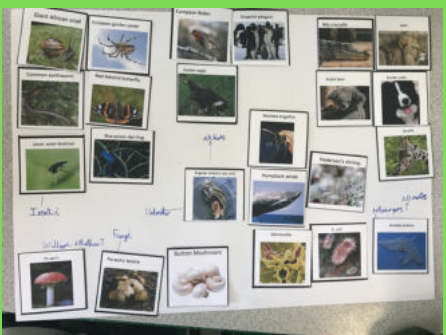
All our children have been working hard to play and learn together, find their voice and become part of the Little Oak's community – we are ever growing and feel so privileged to have such wonderful children beginning their journey with us.

Have a wonderful half term.

... The Little Oaks Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX



Reading – This term we have been reading two action packed books which have ignited our reading and writing skills. *Beowulf* taught us all about the classic story between good and evil and we made links to other – more modern – heroes. *Viking Boy* taught us about action and Norse mythology: Odin, Valhalla and the Valkyries. We practised all of our VIPERS skills while reading the books and gained some fabulous new words.

Maths – This term we have focused on our place value skills; working with whole numbers up to 10,000,000 as well as with decimal numbers into the thousandths! We have seen some incredibly flexible thinking with our ability to partition amounts in different ways and also with our ability to represent amounts in various structures. It has also been good to see the children getting excited about Times Table Rock Stars again. In September we had many new Rock Legends, including: Mahan, Ozzy, Bobbi, Isla, Annabelle, Isabelle R, Amelia H, Aysesu and Matthew T. We also had a new Rock Hero: Jack C! Well done everyone, keep pushing for that next level!

Science – This term we have been learning about how all of the living things were classified originally by Carl Linnaeus (a renowned scientist of his time). He realised that living things can be grouped by their common features, for example: cows and buffalo; horses and zebras; humans and chimpanzees. The children were quite surprised that we are part of the primate family along with other apes and gorillas. Once they understood more about how we group animals, they had a go themselves.

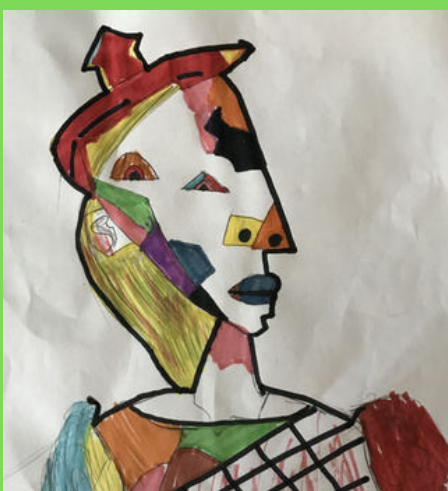
As you can see, the children have learned classification vocabulary such as: microorganism, bacteria, vertebrates and invertebrates. A learning point came out of this exercise, showing that not all children are clear on the fact that to be an insect, you need 6 legs and that spiders are not insects but in fact arachnids.

History – The children have loved learning about the Vikings and their part in not only UK history but that of the world. During our Viking Day, the children were introduced to Bjorn, an ancient Viking Warrior, who told the children all about where the Vikings came from and what their motivation was for invading and raiding Britain at the time. Bjorn had also brought in a number of artefacts for the children to handle and be curious about. Most children said that the most surprising item was the chainmail as it was so heavy they could hardly pick it up.

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX



During the day, Bjorn told us the myths of ancient Norse which included Freya, Thor and Loki, using the children as actors to bring the stories to life. The afternoon was reserved for warrior training as we had a raid planned! The children got taught about the different weapons and defences the Vikings used when battling or raiding. Some also got to experience holding a huge shield and defending themselves from Bjorn's spear. Eventually, the children battled it out with spear wrestling where strength and strategy were key to success.



In the classroom, the children have developed their knowledge of chronology and are able to organize key events in world history including the rise of the Vikings. Children also learned that raiding was a huge part of Viking history but also that Britain was great for farming which meant many Vikings came and settled here. The south of England already had some invaders of their own – The Anglo-Saxons – who were not about to give up their land so easily. We researched Alfred the Great for homework and discovered that he was one of the most successful leaders who defended his land very well and stopped the Vikings in their tracks. The final piece of the puzzle is The Battle of Hastings which saw the end of the Viking and Anglo-Saxon reign and the succession of William the Conqueror (William of Normandy).



Spanish Day – Year 6 had a great day mixing with Year 2 and supporting them throughout the day. It was absolutely lovely to see our older children taking care of and nurturing the younger ones. All teachers praised the children's behavior and kindness.

During the day, the children were lucky enough to have a flamenco workshop where they learned a few of the traditional dance moves. They also completed some fantastic artwork based on Pablo Picasso and Antoni Gaudi. These pieces of art are so wonderful that they will be put on display.



DT – This term, Year 6 have been developing their sewing skills and building on what they already know about different stitches and textiles. For their mobile phone cases, they have also considered the whole design process making sure it is likely to be popular, that it does the job that it is intended to do and that it is a quality product.

... The Year 6 Team

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FIVE



Reading -

This term we have been reading a fantastic text – Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief – which has really engaged the children and ignited our reading and writing skills. The book has captured the children's imaginations and has taught us about Percy's struggles and determination to succeed in his mission. We have also looked at linked texts to do with Ancient Greece such as famous Greeks and geography.

Maths -

We have begun our maths curriculum this year by looking at place value and more specifically looking at seven-digit whole numbers and the value of their digits. The children have done fantastically well and have worked extremely hard on this topic, which will feed into the rest of the mathematical concepts that they will cover this year.



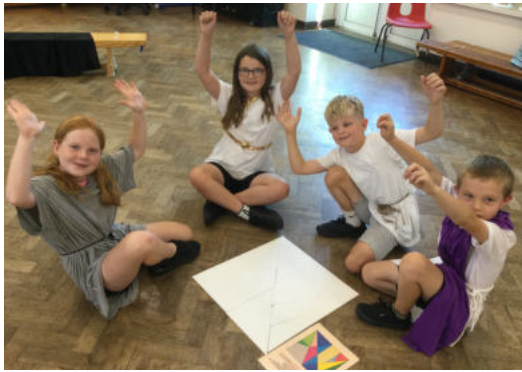
Unsurprisingly, their favourite game was 'naughty or nice', where they had to roll dice and choose which place value column to put that number into, trying to make a larger number than their partner. They ironically loved the nasty version of the game more!



Science -

In science, the children have been looking at a range of life cycles this half term. First, we looked at how a plant can reproduce by itself and to test this we have put spring onions into water and observed them over time. The children have been mesmerized by the onion's ability to grow on its own and we have been recording our findings on a weekly basis. The children have also been learning about the life cycles of amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FIVE



History -

At the beginning of the year, year five were incredibly lucky to have experienced an Ancient Greek enrichment day. There was a plethora of activities throughout the morning such as a quiz aimed at increasing their knowledge of Ancient Greece, a strategy game, and they re-enacted some myths from that era. This gave them an immense amount of knowledge for the term ahead.

During the afternoon, the children learnt all about Ancient Greek battles. They were able to experience what battle attire the Greeks would have worn and also what weapons they would have used during this time. Whilst talking about the weapons, the lady spoke of the tales of various Greek battles, such as the battle of Thermopylae and the Trojan wars.

Each class then participated in an Ancient Greek Olympics, where they named their team and scored points in a variety of challenges. The mighty 'Pigeons on Chairs' (Rowan Class) ran out eventual winners. The children loved this experience and it has ignited their passions for their topic this term.

Spanish Day -

As a part of our Spanish curriculum this year, year five participated in a Spanish-themed day. Year five and three welcomed each other into their own classes and completed some art, language, dance, history and geography centered activities.

In the morning, we sang songs around the Spanish language such as days of the week, colours and numbers. The children particularly loved the numbers song as it grew quicker and quicker as the song went on. We also listened to the Spanish national anthem and compared it to the British one, and the instruments involved in each composition.

After break, we studied some abstract art made by Pablo Picasso. The children looked at his cubism style of art and then created their own versions of his portraits by being creative with all of the different facial features.

All of the pieces that were created were vibrant and original. They really enjoyed this experience!

When lunch had ended, the children had the opportunity to try some Flamenco dancing, which was a new, thrilling activity that the children were really looking forward to. A year three and five child were paired up and they learnt a routine, it was so lovely to witness the year fives supporting the younger children. I do not know what they children enjoyed more – learning the routine or seeing Mr McCusker's interesting dance choreography! It was a lovely day and one that the children will cherish!



... The Year 5 Team

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FOUR



It has been an amazing start to Year 4! We are so happy with how the children have settled into the year and the class routine and they have all impressed us with their learning behaviours.

Our topic this term has been the Tudors, which we have all been thoroughly enjoying. The Topic began with a battle! Each and every child produced the most convincing weapons to fight with and enjoyed the opportunity of using them in our re-enactment of the Battle of Bosworth. I am sure you will agree from the photos that they all look terrifying! This was a valuable drama session to teach how the Tudor Reign began and it was a wonderful stimulus for our writing unit.

Our Tudor topic was further enhanced by our trip to Hampton Court Palace at the end of September. We all had a wonderful day exploring the grounds and the palace. The children loved seeing the lavish building that Henry VIII built in order to live his luxurious life as a king. At one point in the day, Lady Norfolk, a Tudor lady, dressed in her fineries, gave us a tour and a taste of what working in Henry's court would have been like. Some of the jobs children had to do were truly disgusting and made the children appreciate school a little bit more! We acted out some jobs and sang in a choir in the Great Hall! We were blessed with lovely weather and enjoyed the beautiful grounds with its lakes, fountains and plants. One of the most exciting parts of the grounds was the maze- it was on another level! It was not the most calming of places as twenty-nine children explored at top speed trying to find the centre and then trying to get out.



Luckily, no one was lost! Another exciting place, was the haunted gallery, which is said to be haunted by Catherine Howard. We all felt a little spooked as we walked along the dimly lit corridor and some children even said they felt a tap on their shoulder! All in all a fun day was had by all and as always our children were truly exceptional and represented our school with pride.



If you have not seen already, each child has their own personal spelling sheet; they have a copy at home and school. We are so impressed with the determination they have shown to learn these high frequency words. Year Four is an important year to continue the success of reading fluency and we work particularly on expression and improving vocabulary understanding. Please support your child with developing a routine of reading daily. At the end of the academic year the children will take the times tables screening test so this year, we work very hard at retaining these facts. The children love to use Times Tables Rock Stars, something they should be using regularly at home- who will become a rock legend this year? Next term, we will continue our topic on a Tudor theme; our focus will be explorers and Shakespeare!

... The Year 4 Team

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR THREE

Well what a busy start to the new school year Beech and Cherry class have had. We have hit the ground running with our topic about The Stone Age. We have enjoyed reading the books 'Stone Age Boy' and 'The Stone Age Hunters and Gatherers', where we learnt about how Stone Age people lived and survived. The stories showed us how they knapped flints into shapes to make arrow heads, spears and axes. We learnt how they hunted and patiently stood still to catch fish.

We also went on the bus to The Brighton Museum where Penny showed us real artefacts from the Stone Age. We had to use a special cylinder with letters on, called a cryptic and break the code to be able to get into a box. In the box was evidence of Stone Age people doing different jobs. They were farmers, cooks, hunters and toolmakers. Once we had looked at the artefacts and objects, we could trade with other groups so that all groups had the things they needed to survive.

In maths we have been consolidating our understanding of place value and ordering numbers in size order. We have shown numbers as different representations such as digits, number counters, Dienes and Hundreds, tens and ones – HTO.

In PSHE we have thought about our Zones of Regulation and how we can maintain being in the Green Zone so that we are ready for learning. We have recognised that all zones are part of us and are not wrong but it is important to find ways that suit us as individuals to keep regulated.

In History we have looked at timelines and plotted what we have already learnt in KS1 in history so far. We added The Stone Age trying to understand where in our history it sits. We have listened and explored key texts in English and Guided Reading to support our understanding about how life might have been for our Stone Age ancestors!



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR THREE



Year 3 enjoy our Spanish lessons, but we particularly loved learning about Spain during our school Spanish Day. We joined up with Year 5. It was lovely to work with a different year group. We looked at Google Earth and compared the United Kingdom with Spain. We also zoomed in to look at our school. It was really interesting to get closer and closer.



We also learnt about Spanish artists and drew Pablo Picasso and Antoni Gaudi mosaics. Later on we had a go at learning how to Flamenco Dance. It was great fun.



In Music, the children have been playing the glockenspiels. We are learning how to strike and play the notes. The children are becoming skilled at hearing the different tempos and playing accordingly.



In Science we have found out about different types of rock, how rock can be formed, and how fossils are created. We have experimented with finding out about how we can test the rocks to sort and classify them.



Art – we are learning how to create different tones and shades by using different types of pencils. The children are practising different pencil strokes to create tonal shades. We will then use these skills to recreate images of Stone Age tools and weapons.

... The Year 3 Team

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR TWO



What a brilliant start to the autumn term we have had in Year 2! We have enjoyed learning all about The Great Fire of London with a very special visit from 'Rainbow Theatre'. The children loved taking part in their interactive performance and it helped us to imagine what it would have been like to have lived in London all those years ago. We then went on to making and burning our Tudor houses. The children were so excited to see how a real fire can spread and sang the chorus of 'London's burning' all together!

We then used what we had learnt from these experiences to create some amazing poetry. We even transformed into Samuel Pepys with our feather pencils to write our own diary entries about the fire. Our final weeks of the half term have been spent learning all about fire safety to create some fantastic posters for the school. Let's see if you can spot them!

We have also been learning lots in other subjects! In maths we have been practising partitioning numbers and bridging to 10, with our trusted numberblocks always ready to help.



In science we have been learning all about different materials and their properties. We have also been busy learning geography, RE, music, computing and lots more!

We loved our time on Spanish Day. We had lots of fun learning how to Flamenco dance and became experts on the Geography and culture of Spain.

We enjoyed completing some artwork in the style of Spanish artists, including Gaudi and Picasso. We also learnt the colours in Spanish through songs!

Our next topic is 'Once Upon a Time' where we will learn all about fairytales. We will include some traditional favourites and others with a more modern twist! We also have an exciting trip to the local church planned which ties in with us learning all about the Christmas story.

Please keep a look out for our school ping on homework ideas for over the half term break. Well done to all the children for settling in so well and for a fantastic start to Year 2!

... The Year 2 Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR ONE



What a busy start to the new school year, Starling and Goldfinch class have had! We are very impressed with how the children have settled into Year 1 and their enthusiasm towards the learning. The children have all adapted well to the changes of Year 1 and should be proud of the fantastic work they have produced.

This term we have enjoyed getting stuck into our first topic 'Out and About'. In guided reading we have been reading the texts 'Town mouse, Country mouse' and 'Look what I found in the woods' to help us develop our knowledge of the outside environment. We have also been learning about the VIPERS reading skills and applying these to the texts; perhaps your child can tell you what one of the skills is.



In Geography we have been using simple maps and plans of the local area to link where our school is to where we went on our school trip! We have also begun using atlases, Google Maps and Google Earth to name and locate the UK's countries. We have spoken about changes that have happened within the school since the children left reception and we have begun to discuss physical and geographical features in and out of school.

To consolidate the learning of our Out and About topic we went on a walk around the local area stopping at the Church of the Good Shepherd and Mile Oak farm. We were so lucky to have a talk from Father David who told us about the different celebrations and ceremonies that are held at the Church and Hannah taught us about landscapes on a farm, we were hedgerow detectives and made a hedgerow crown!

Throughout this half term we have been working on our Year 1 "writing rules" within English. We can all tell you what a good sentence needs and we put this to practise when writing a recount of our school trip!

In maths we have been continuing using Mastering Number to help develop our fluency in number bonds to 10. We have also been learning about 1 more, 1 less and the doubles to 10. We have then been practising these skills on Numbots on the iPads. The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing the games on Numbots and sharing how many coins they have earned at home! Keep up the good work mathematicians!

A final highlight of the half term was Spanish Day! The Year 1 children paired up with the Year 4 children for the day and completed language, geography and art activities. The children were excited to learn some Spanish phrases from the older children such as 'Good morning' and the numbers to 10. The children especially enjoyed learning how to Flamenco dance and sharing their choreography with each other!



... The Year 1 Team

A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION

Reception children have had a brilliant start to their learning journey. The first few weeks of getting to know each other and settling in to school life went so well. We are so proud of all of them!

Children have quickly learnt the routines and expectations for phonics teaching and learning - they arrive eager for their sessions, listen well and give all tasks a go. We are so impressed with how they are linking letters to sounds, segmenting and blending orally and even beginning to word read - just WOW!

We couldn't get through a day in reception without our noses in a good book! Over the half term we've been so busy getting to know stories well and have developed some firm favourites.

Anyone for porridge!?! We know a particular girl that is partial to a bowl that is 'just right', but what's your favourite food? Goldilocks and the Three bears not only introduced us to important narrative structures but also inspired a wonderful exploration of favourite foods as well as sketches and discussions about the special people in our own families.

We know the repeated refrain to 'It's My Birthday' by Helen Oxenbury off by heart and the story inspired recipe, card and invitation writing, birthday role-play and even baking real birthday cakes - delicious.

Monkey and me, monkey and me, monkey and me, we went to see... Emily Gravett's wonderful tale of a little girl's animal antics with her most treasured toy has been read and reread here in reception. We love the rhyme and repetition and have enjoyed innovating the story to include our own special toys. We have worked hard orally rehearsing lines from the story, getting ready to have a go at our first piece of narrative writing!

More fabulous stories and books - 'I am Angry' by Michael Rosen, 'Hello Friend' by Rebecca Cob and 'Once There Were Giants' by Martin Waddell and many non-fiction books have supported our learning about growing and changing, friendships, families and regulating our emotions. It's through stories that tricky concepts come alive for us in reception.

We're becoming nursery rhyme pros and love to sing and add actions to our weekly rhymes. Why not try one at home? You can choose from - Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, It's Raining it's Pouring, Pat a Cake Pat a Cake, Humpty Dumpty and The Animal Fair.



A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION

Our 'Booknic' with our year six friends was a real highlight where we enjoyed book browsing and sharing some quality stories with them on a picnic blanket on the school field. We even prepared for the occasion by making sandwiches and icing biscuits. It's fair to say the event was a hit with all the children!

Thank you to all the parents and carers that have attended our reception Reading meetings. It's so important that you hear about our approach and provision at Mile Oak so that you are fully equipped to support your child at home. Please come and see us if you couldn't make it; it's through working together that your children will thrive in their reading.

As if that wasn't enough, the children have become such independent learners in our environments. They love playing and learning together both inside and outside. The role play areas are always busy and the recent car wash, with real water, has been a particular favourite!

Our topic has been brought to life by several very special baby visitors- thank you to all the families that supported this! All the baby photographs have been a joy to share, and the children have been making links with their own pasts through talking about how they have changed since they were little.

Please continue to name everything as we enter the period of hats, gloves and warm coats! We will be learning outside as well as inside, so please dress your children appropriately. As a little preview our next topic is called 'It's getting darker'. As the weather changes and the seasons flow, we will explore festivals and celebrations from around the world, and explore nature and our local habitats, including our forest school area.

We can't wait to see where our learning and our stories will take us next half term!

... The Reception Team



PE UPDATE



It has been a wonderful start to the year for PE and school sport at Mile Oak. The children have been partaking in a variety of sports such as football, tag rugby, yoga and swimming for Year five. All of our children have been using our school values during lesson time alongside the sporting values that we teach such as sportsmanship, fair play and collaboration. These values will ensure that pupils will be able to thrive in a competitive environment, especially when representing the school at sports fixtures and festivals in the future.

The football season has started brightly with Mile Oak finishing in the top 4 of the Brighton and Hove schools tournament. This is the highest that our school has finished in the competition and the boys should be very proud of their achievements. They all played with determination and courage and on a different day they could have won the tournament. We are hopeful that the school will have a successful season with some very talented players in the squad. There will be many more opportunities for the football team this year and it has been fantastic to see so many faces at football club on a Monday.

During November, there will be some children representing the school at the county cross country championships. A team from year five and six will have the chance to run a two kilometre race at Waterhall in Brighton.

Finally, there have been some extremely exciting opportunities for the children to take part in clubs this half term. Many thanks to ACE academy, who have run some really fun clubs for our children such as multi-sports and our very first girls football club. There will be many more sporting occasions coming up later on in the academic year.



... Mr McCusker and Mr Crellin



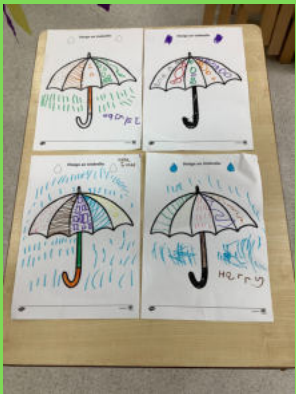
WRITING UPDATE



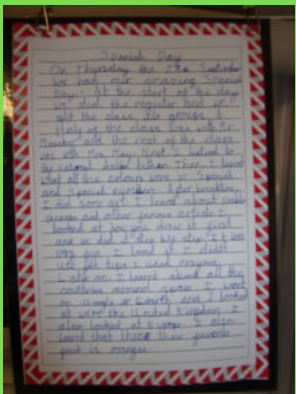
In **Reception** we have been using our whole bodies to develop our muscles and arm strength. Lots of fun has been had with dancing scarves and rainbow ribbons flying through the air. Dough disco is a particular favourite activity too, using our hands and our best disco moves to squeeze, scrunch and pinch the dough; all while we develop our motor control to help us with our early writing skills. The classes are also excited and highly motivated by our writing resources and can often be found with a writing belt or a clipboard while exploring our environments. We are at the beginning of our patterning journey leading into developing handwriting. There have been lots of shapes and patterns being formed in a variety of ways including in sand trays, on tracing pockets and even when we are colouring. What a wonderful start to our writing journey in reception.



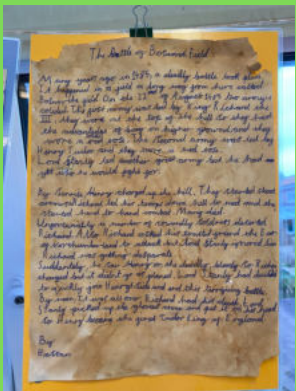
The **Year 1's** have been planning and writing a re-count all about their trip around the local area. They have been rehearsing what happened on their trip to their partner before sequencing the photos and then writing the information in full sentences. The children have worked really hard on including all of the features from the writing toolkit into their writing such as finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. They have also been working very hard on their cursive writing and applying this to all of their writing- well done Goldfinch and Starling class!



We loved starting off our **Year 2** by writing about someone special to us. We thought about what they look like, their personality, their likes and dislikes and why they are special. We had to think about our Year 2 non-negotiables, such as capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and neat handwriting. We then challenged ourselves to include adjectives. After we had written it, we then copied it up in our neatest handwriting and displayed it in our classrooms for everyone to see!



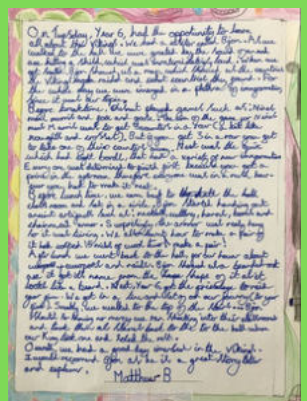
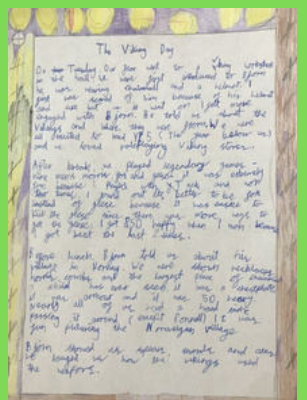
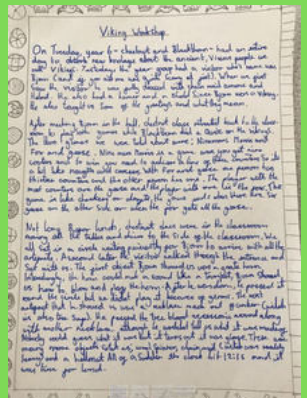
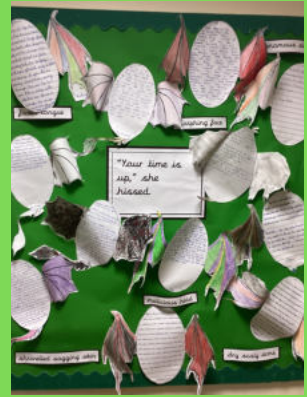
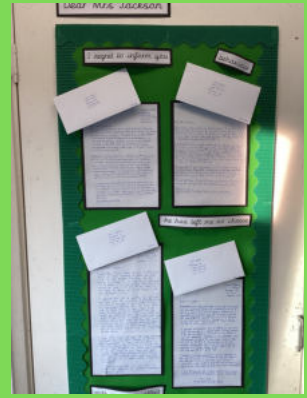
Year 3 have worked hard on their writing this term. We have been concentrating on handwriting and presentation, improving each time we write. We have enjoyed using The Stone Age Boy text as inspiration to write descriptive narrative, using expanded noun phrases and adverbs to make our writing more interesting. We are also beginning to use a variety of conjunctions to extend our sentences. After our exciting Spanish Day in school we used our skills to write recounts of the day.



The children in **Year 4** really enjoyed writing all about The Battle of Bosworth. This is the battle that started the Tudor reign and also the event that started our term. Children were asked to make Tudor weapons and shields over the holidays and they used these to recreate the battle in the school playground. We then spent time getting to know the events of the battle really well, as well as practising our writing skills. We were then finally ready to write our own historical recounts of The Battle of Bosworth. The children thoroughly enjoyed publishing these and making them look really old!



WRITING UPDATE



In **Year 5**, our Percy Jackson text has acted as the stimuli for this term's writing genres. First, we studied the character of Mrs Dodds in the story and this helped us create a character description of her as she transforms from an innocent teaching assistant into a demonic creature. The children published their writing onto a winged creature which is now displayed in our corridor – they look amazing! In the story, we then found out that Percy had been expelled from Yancy academy and we had to write a letter from the head teacher to his mother explaining why this had happened. The children learnt about being formal in their writing and we looked at a range of clause structures to improve the cohesion of their letters. We also wrote a letter in reply to the head teacher, where Mrs Jackson explained the unfairness of the expulsion from Yancy Academy. More recently, the children have written a setting description about the half-blood great hall. We have compared this to the great hall in Harry Potter and this has given the children lots of inspiration for their writing and has ignited their imagination. There have been many descriptive devices that the children have had to use such as figurative language, the use of the five senses and prepositional phrases.

In terms of writing, this term started with a bang for **Year 6!** The children met Grendel, a beast from ancient Viking times. Even though we only see the evil in Grendel, many children believed that something bad must have happened to him when he was young. Because of this, the children planned and wrote a back story to Grendel explaining why he ended up a blood-thirsty monster and terrorised the people of Heorot. Grendel is such a gruesome character that the children found it easy to describe his dreadful temper with phrases such as: 'my fists were balls of fire' and 'the rage that was simmering inside of me was unleashed.' However, they were also able to use their compassion and really provide Grendel with reasons for his awful behaviour in their flashback stories. Due to this being a dramatic fictional text, the children produced a range of descriptive phrases and adverbials to describe the action. They were also ensuring that their writing flowed and the paragraphs were well linked together. Year 6 were also extremely lucky to have a Viking visitor who told stories, explained facts and showed the children an array of artefacts. As the experience was so enriching, the very next day the children planned a first person recount of their exciting day. Because this was a non-fiction text, the children's main focus was to describe the events clearly and to be aware that the reader of their work would want to know how they felt throughout the day as well as knowing which parts were their favourite and why.

... Ms Wilks

OUR CITY, OUR WORLD!



We are about to start a brand new project at Mile Oak Primary School called Our City, Our World.

This is an exciting and essential city-wide project which will use education to raise awareness of and tackle climate change and sustainability.

This will be a long term project which will involve teaching children about climate change, allowing them to explore their thoughts and feelings about topic and 'greening' our curriculum. This will begin after the half-term break.

The project will also involve looking at how we can run our school in a more sustainable way and engaging the wider community. This will begin after Christmas.

We will need your help and engagement throughout this project!



**TO INTRODUCE THIS PROJECT TO THE COMMUNITY,
THERE WILL BE A LAUNCH EVENT HELD ON
THURSDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2023.**

THIS WILL INCLUDE:

- TOY SWAP
- CHRISTMAS JUMPER SWAP
- BULB PLANTING
- AND MUCH MORE!






We hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend.




More details to follow in the Half Term!

... Mr Harris

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION


Autumn 2 Religious festival calendar




October			
2nd October	Gandhi Jayanti	Hindu 	Gandhi Jayanti is an Indian national holiday that celebrates the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, who is referred to as the 'Father of the Nation'. He was the driving force behind the foundation of the state of India. His birthday is celebrated with services, prayers using topics that glorify peace and non-violence, and the singing of Gandhi's favourite devotional song entitled 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram' (Ram Dhun for short).
6 th October	Shemini Atzeret	Jewish 	This is the conclusion of Sukkot. This day is characterised by candle lighting and festive meals which reaches its climax with Simchat Torah when the conclusion—and restart—of the annual <i>Torah</i> -reading cycle is celebrated. Shemini Atzeret marks the beginning of the rainy season in Israel and, therefore this day includes the year's first prayer for rain.
15- 24th October	Navaratri	Hindu 	Navaratri means 'nine nights', which is how long the festival, in the honour of the goddess Durga, lasts. The day after the end of Navaratri is celebrated as the 'victorious tenth' (Vijaya Dashami) and huge figures of Ravana are filled with fireworks and burned on Ram Lila grounds

November			
1st November	All Saints' Day	Christian 	This day provides a chance to offer thanks for the work and witness of all saints, recognising that not all are known or specially celebrated.
8 th November	Birthday Of Guru Nanak	Sikh 	This is the birthday of Nanak, the first Sikh Guru. To celebrate it, Sikhs gather at the <i>Gurdwara</i> to hear sermons and sing hymns about the life of the first Guru. The congregation will share a free meal (<i>langar</i>).
12 th November	Diwali	Hindu 	For Hindus this is a New Year festival lasting from one to five days, during which fireworks are set off and lights are hung out. It is a festival of light, coinciding with the darkest night of the lunar month. It is generally associated with Lakshmi, goddess of wealth and prosperity, or with the victorious return of Rama and Sita after their exile. Sikhs also celebrate Diwali since Guru Hargobind, the sixth Guru, was released from Gwalior prison on this day. The Golden Temple in Amritsar is illuminated and firework displays take place there. It is a time for new clothes, presents and sweets.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Autumn 2 Religious festival calendar

12 th – 19 th November		Inter Faith Week	<p>Beginning on Remembrance Sunday and running until the following Sunday each year, Inter Faith week seeks to strengthen good inter-faith relations, increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, and increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs</p> 
30 th November	St Andrew's Day	National	The patron saint of Scotland since the 8th century. Andrew was an apostle and brother of St Peter.

December			
3 rd December	Advent Sunday	Christian	<p>Advent is the start of the Christian year, four Sundays before Christmas. It is often celebrated by lighting the first candle in the advent crown – a circular wreath of greenery. A further three candles are lit on subsequent Sundays, culminating with the Christmas candle on the 25th December. This signifies the transition from darkness to light.</p> 
7 th - 15 th December	Hanukah	Jewish	<p>This is a week-long celebration and one of the biggest festivals of the year for Jewish people. The festival marks the date about two thousand two hundred years ago when the Maccabees recaptured the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and re-dedicated it to Jewish worship.</p> 
25 th December (in some countries 6 th January)	Christmas Day	Christian	<p>Christmas Day celebrates the birth of Jesus, whom Christians believe to be the son of God. Gifts are given as reminders of the offerings brought to the infant Jesus, Christmas carols are associated with this time and nativity sets are displayed in many churches and in some homes.</p> 

NEXT HALF TERM

Topics for Autumn 2

Reception - It's Getting Darker

Year 1 - Traditional Tales

Year 2 - Once Upon a Time

Year 3 - Geography Field Work

Year 4 - The Tudors and Explorers

Year 5 - Ancient Greeks

Year 6 - Rivers and North America

Please visit the school website and select your child's year group to view the curriculum overview for their year:

www.mileoakschool.co.uk/year-groups.

This details what children will be learning in each subject.

In addition to which topics children will cover, the curriculum maps show the key skills which will be taught.

Core Reading Texts for Autumn 2

Reception Mrs Blackhat, A Dark Dark Tale, The Woods, Stickman and The Christmas Story

Year 1: Fairy Tale Pets and Deep dark woods

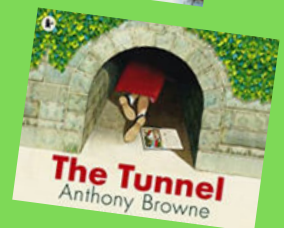
Year 2: Prince Cinders, The Tunnel and Little Red

Year 3: Song of the Dolphin Boy

Year 4: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Year 5: Percy Jackson and the Lightning thief

Year 6: The Boy in the Tower



October

Mon 30.10.23 INSET Day

Tues 31.10.23 Children Return to School

Tues 31.10.23 Reception - Fire Bridge Visit (On Site)

Tues 31.10.23 - Fri 03.11.23 Reception and Year 1 Bikeabilty

November

Wed 01.11.23 Year 5 Swimming - Walnut Class

Mon 06.11.23 Year 1 - Rainbow Theatre Group Visit - Fairytales

Wed 08.11.23 Year 5 visit PACA Library - Elder Class

Wed 08.11.23 Year 5 Swimming - Walnut Class

Wed 08.11.23 Year 2 visit Church of the Good Shepherd - Robin Class

Thurs 09.11.23 Year 5 visit PACA Library - Rowan Class

Thurs 09.11.23 Year 2 visit Church of the Good Shepherd - Wren Class

Tues 14.11.23 Year 6 visit The Railway Land Wildlife Trust

Wed 14.11.23 Year 5 Swimming - Walnut Class

Thurs 16.11.23 Year 5 visit PACA Library - Walnut Class

Mon 20.11.23 Individual and Sibling Photos - Catch Up

Wed 22.11.23 Year 5 Swimming - Walnut Class

Wed 22.11.23 Reception Forest School Event - Class to be confirmed

Thurs 23.11.23 Reception Forest School Event - Class to be confirmed

Thurs 23.11.23 Our City, Our World Big Launch - Time to be confirmed

Tues 28.11.23 Reception - Hedgehog Visit

Wed 29.11.23 Year 5 visit St Nicholas Church and local walk

Thurs 30.11.23 Year 3 visit Church of the Good Shepherd

Thurs 30.11.23 Mile Oak Book Swap





December

Fri 01.12.23 Rocksteady Concert

Tues 05.12.23 Reception visit Church of the Good Shepherd

Wed 06.12.23 Reception visit Paddock Court

Wed 06.12.23 Year 5 Swimming - Rowan Class

Mon 11.12.23 Year 5 & 6 Christmas Show 9:30am

Mon 11.12.23 Reception Christmas Show 2:30pm

Tues 12.12.23 Christmas Lunch - Whole School

Tues 12.12.23 Christmas Class Parties

Tues 12.12.23 Year 5 & 6 Christmas Show 2:30pm

Wed 13.12.23 Reception Christmas Show 9:30am

Wed 13.12.23 Year 5 Swimming - Rowan Class

Wed 13.12.23 Year 1 & 2 Christmas Show 2:30pm

Thurs 14.12.23 Year 1 & 2 Christmas Show 9:30am

Thurs 14.12.23 Year 3 & 4 Christmas Show 2:30pm

Fri 15.12.23 Year 3 & 4 Christmas Show 9:30am

Fri 15.12.23 Last Day of Term

Please note that FOMO will be holding their annual Christmas Fair and Festive Dress Day -
Dates to be confirmed!

MILE OAK SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Mile Oak Primary School

"THINK BIG"

Safeguarding Team



*Mr Lording
Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead
Teacher for Children in Care
and previously in Care*



*Mrs Larter
Family Champion
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead*



*Ms Wilks
Assistant Headteacher
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead*



*Mrs Foster
Learning Mentor*



*Rosalind Turner
Chair of Governors
Nominated Governor for Safeguarding
Teacher for Children in Care and
previously in care*

In the unlikely event that none of the safeguarding team are available, please contact:

Front Doors for Families

Telephone: 01273 290400 (9am-5pm, Monday to Thursday and 9am-4.30pm, Fridays).

Emergency Duty Service (outside working hours): 01273 335 905 or 01273 335 906

Email: FrontDoorforFamilies@brighton-hove.gov.uk

COMMUNICATION

We have received excellent feedback regarding our new communication protocol for staff and parents. All communication is logged by the admin team and tracked for a response.

Whilst it can sometimes feel simpler to grab a teacher at the end of the day, this means staff are not able to supervise children who they are releasing to parents. Before school, it is vital that teachers can fully prepare for the day ahead and many of them run early morning interventions. In addition, our wonderful admin team track communication which means it does not get lost in a busy email inbox or become a forgotten question at the end of the school day.

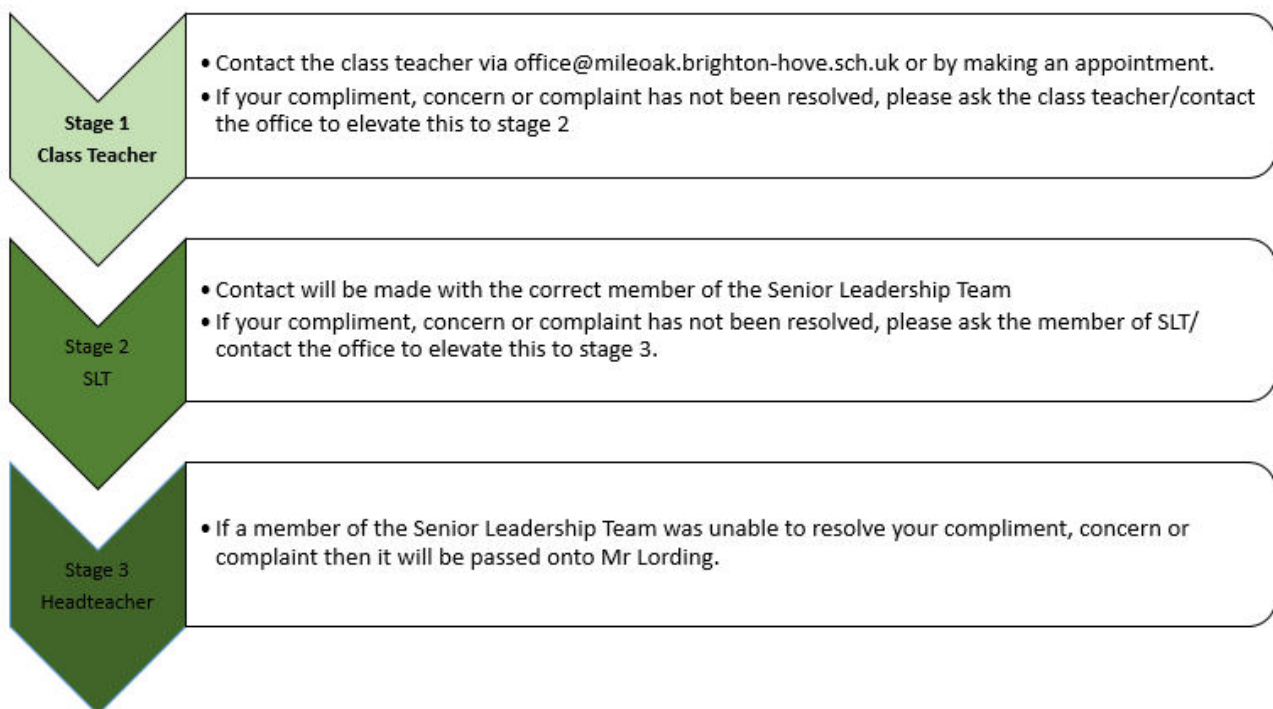
Once initial communication has been made, staff will respond within 2 working days. If a face-to-face meeting is required, the relevant member of staff will make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

The Admin team are very happy to take calls, emails or even messages in the postbox out side of the reception area and will ensure your query, concern or compliment is passed on to the correct members of staff.

For further information on our communication protocol, please visit our website.

Communications Protocol

To ensure swift responses, equitable access and careful tracking of communication, we have asked the administration team to adhere to the following communication protocol. All communication will be directed to the correct stage.



Mile Oak Primary School, Graham Avenue,
Portslade, BN41 2WN



01273 077114



office@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk



<http://www.mileoakschool.co.uk>