



# MILE OAK NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 8TH APRIL 2022



## *Spring 2 Newsletter*



Happy Holidays!

What a busy half term it has been for Mile Oak Primary School. The children have worked incredibly hard and have earned a well-deserved rest over the next two weeks to recharge their batteries. A reminder that we will welcome all children back to school on Tuesday 26th April.

Three weeks ago, the school was inspected by Ofsted. We are still awaiting their report and hope to be able to share it with you all after the Easter holidays.

Thank you to all Mile Oak staff for their incredible amount of hard work and complete dedication to our children. They are such a big part of what makes our school such a special place for children to learn and thrive in.

A huge thank you to FOMO for the amazing Easter egg hunt event that they organised for the whole school community. It was wonderful to have the site back open and to see so many parents enjoying the school's outdoor environment. It brought back a real sense of community to the school and we are excited that there will be an increasing number of events throughout the remainder of the academic year. Keep an eye out for further updates!

Finally, a huge thank you to all our parents for your continued support of the school, staff and our children. We look forward to a positive and sunny summer term!

*Mr. Lording*



AMBITION



RESPECT



PRIDE



COURAGE

## World Autism Acceptance Week

28 March - 3 April 2022



In the week beginning the 16th May we will be raising our awareness and acceptance of Autism at Mile Oak.

Autistic young people want to be more accepted by society, which is why this year we are focusing on autism acceptance.

During the week the children will be learning more about the differences that all humans have, our strengths and things we find difficult.

A recent study of seven million young people found that around one in 57 children in the UK are autistic (1.76%). This means it is highly likely that every school in the UK has an autistic pupil.

Autistic people have a unique perspective on the world that we should champion.

If you would like to learn more about Autism have a look at these websites:  
National Autistic Society <https://www.autism.org.uk/>

mASCot is a parent led peer to peer support network for families who have an autistic child/children or young person. <https://asc-mascot.com/>

If you have any questions or anything to offer to Autism Acceptance Week please contact Tracy Bennett via the school office.





### **Queen's Jubilee**

We have made excellent progress with our plans to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee On **Friday 27th May**.

We have organised a wide range of traditional games to enjoy on the day, including:

Garden Quoits

Tug of War

Croquet

Skittles

Egg and Spoon races

Skipping game

There will be live music, fun and celebrations.

We will send out further information nearer to the time.

### **The Mile Oak Platinum Jubilee Traditional Tea**

As a school, we will organise and provide sandwiches and scones, jam and cream for the children's lunches.

We would love it if you could help us to make this a truly special occasion for the children by providing donations of the following:

Reception - Crisps

Year 1 - Biscuits

Year 2 - Mini sausages (vegetarian or meat)

Year 3 - Pork Pies/Sausage rolls (vegetarian or meat)

Year 4 - Cheese straws/Breadsticks

Year 5 - Dips

Year 6 - Squash

If you are able to make donations, please bring them to school at the end of the school day on Thursday 26th May or before school on Friday 27th May.



Please remember our Platinum Pudding Competition.

If you intend to make an entry for the celebration, please contact the school office with your recipe card.

# CLASSROOM REORGANISATION

At the end of July last year, we communicated with the whole school community to explain that we would reorganise children's classes annually.

This reorganisation ensures that:

- Children develop new friendships whilst maintaining existing ones
- There is a supportive and caring ethos
- All children feel a sense of belonging within our community
- Any imbalance of need caused by in-year transition and developing needs is addressed
- Children learn and play with a wider variety of peers
- There is greater social interaction between children as they move through the school
- Children develop greater resilience

We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions. All arrangements for class re-organisation are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, Year Leaders and the Senior Leadership Team.

## Our Approach

- Staff observe the children's relationships in all areas of school life
- Children select three friends they would be happy to be in a class with. We guarantee that they will have at least one friend from that list.
- Year group teams work to ensure the re-organisation has:
  - A good balance of friendships,
  - A range of attainment
  - A range of social and personal needs,
  - House system representation
  - A range of academic needs
- Year group teams meet to discuss and finalise groupings
- The Senior Leadership Team meet to agree new class lists
- New Classes are shared with parents and children in July - prior to meet the teacher days



# THE LIVING CLASSROOM

It has been a busy term in the Living Classroom. We have been pruning, mulching, sowing, raking and watering. Lots of our seeds are slowly leaving the greenhouse into their summer beds.



Lunchtimes have been busy with lots of children getting involved with various projects, Year 6 have planted their own potato farm, Year 5 have dug up some horrible rocky ground, built a new bed and filled it with compost ready for runner beans and sweet peas!

The Meadow is now sown with all the Wild flower seeds, we cannot wait to see what wildlife it will attract during the summer.

Year 2 were inspired by this animation from the South Downs trust - The Night We ReNatured: Help nature #ReNature

They wrote some incredible ideas of how they would like to renature our grounds. Mrs. Thomas was really moved reading their work which has now been sent off, fingers crossed, we should hear back soon on whether we win the grant so that we can action some of their plans.





# THE LIVING CLASSROOM

Local Artist, Louise McCurdy visited our school to give us some of her Starling boxes from a recent exhibition – This Inspired year 4 to design and make their own nesting boxes we can add to our grounds.



It was really lovely to welcome some parents to the garden during this month's 'Time to Talk'. I felt really proud to show how hard the children have worked this term. All the gardeners should feel super proud.





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# OUR LEARNING MENTORS

In the Well Being Hub we have welcomed the Spring and continue to explore and encourage the children's creativity, expression, resilience and friendship building. The Spring buds pushing through the earth reflect how the children continue to build on their strengths and sew the seeds of their learning and sharing together as we look forward to the bright warm days of the Summer terms.

We had our first Time to Talk and it was lovely to meet parents. We hope to meet more of you at the next one!!!

Have a restful and fun Easter break, from Emma Foster and Kay Beach



# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX



## Take Shelter

This half term, all three year six classes visited Downs Junior School, where there is an air raid shelter. All of the children were able to experience what it was like for a primary school child during World War 2. They particularly liked the simulations of an air raid in the bunker.

Throughout the day, the volunteers imparted various facts and invaluable knowledge that the children have been able to use in their writing units for this half term. Their favourite insight was that Walt Disney created a gas mask for children in the style of Mickey Mouse.

This was an incredibly immersive experience that the children did not want to leave.





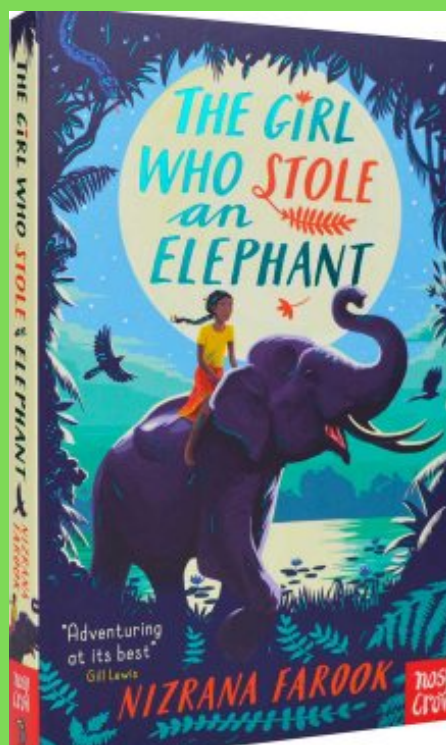
# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX

## Reading Carousel

Throughout the spring term, children in year six have taken part in a reading challenge. It's been wonderful to see so many children engage with reading, in a way they may not have in the past. Excitingly, each class has voted for their favourite book and whilst it was a very close contest, the winners can be seen below. We have now swapped books between classes, and have four new texts to read in the coming weeks.



**Chestnut**  
Evie's Ghost by  
Helen Peters



**Blackthorn**  
The Girl Who  
Stole the Elephant  
by Nizrana Farook



**Sycamore**  
Jewelled Jaguar by  
Sharon Tregenza



# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX

Next term, is a busy one for year six and we want to make it as memorable as we can for them. Here are some important dates for your diary:

SATs Week:

Monday 9th May: Grammar and spelling paper.

Tuesday 10th May: Reading paper.

Wednesday 11th May: Arithmetic maths paper 1 and Reasoning maths paper 2

Thursday 12th May: Reasoning maths paper 3

Friday 13th May: SATs picnic (information to follow.)

Monday 16th May: Murder Mystery (more information to follow)

Thursday 26th May: Residential talk (information to follow)

Friday 27th May: Jubilee celebration.

Monday 30th May: - Friday 3rd June: Half Term.

Monday 6th June: Chestnut Crime walk around Brighton

Tuesday 7th June: Blackthorn Crime walk around Brighton

Wednesday 8th June: Sycamore Crime walk around Brighton.

Wednesday 15th June: Residential and Activity week.

Friday 8th July: Brighton and Hove secondary school taster day. Your child's secondary school will contact you with the arrangements. Please note these dates will be different for West Sussex schools.

Thursday 14th July: Year 6 Summer Fair (information to follow)

Friday 15th July: Dinner and Disco 6pm- 9pm (information to follow)

Thursday 21st July: Leavers' Assembly.

Friday 22nd July: Last day at primary school.

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# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FIVE

Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about Space this term. We had a really exciting journey through our solar system in a Virtual Reality workshop and learned lots of new facts about planets.





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# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FIVE

We were blessed with amazing weather for our trip to The Observatory in Herstmonceux. This fascinating venue gave the children the chance to learn whilst playing and interacting with the many exhibits there and many people commented on what a wonderful visit it was.



Our Space topic has provided the stimulus for lots of amazing writing this term and the children have engaged well with memorising and performing various text maps.

Next term, we are looking forward to learning all about The Mayans. Please look out for the homework grid if you want to get started on this interesting topic. We also have another interesting trip planned for June. We intend to carry out a local Art walk on Brighton seafront and then build our own sculpture using recycled materials with a theme of raising awareness of plastic pollution.



# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FOUR

Over the last term, the children have had some fantastic 'hands-on' experiences. The highlight of the term was our field trip to Shoreham-by-Sea to observe different habitats for science and the physical and human features of the River Adur. We were particularly lucky to have a talk on the sea defences from Mrs McHugh who had previously worked for the Environmental Agency and was part of the team protecting Shoreham from flooding. At the beach, we got very excited about all the shells and mermaid's purses we found. On further investigation, back at school, we discovered that the egg sacks were most likely to belong to a dogfish because they are prevalent in our waters.



## Design & Technology

For DT, Rowan Class had a great time in the Living Classroom making birdhouses with Mrs Thomas. The children observed a made example and discussed how to create their own. We then set about measuring, sawing and piecing together the parts. Next term, Hazel Class will be making bee houses.

## Times Tables

Next term is the Government's times table check. Please ensure your child are regularly practising their times tables and using Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) – we will ensure every child has their login this week. In the new term, Miss Witts will be running a TTRS lunchtime club for children who need that extra practise and for those who do not have access to the internet. Times tables are such an integral part of the maths we teach so having a focus on this will help in so many other areas of the maths curriculum.



Our next topic is Explorers! We will continue developing our geography skills by becoming explorers ourselves, using maps and orienteering to locate hidden treasures! We will study early explorers from the past and those that continue to explore our world and space today.



# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR THREE

We are so proud of how hard the children in Year 3 have worked this half-term. Their ambition to learn is wonderful to see.

In our study of the local area, we had an exciting trip to Portslade Village. We explored a variety of the older buildings asking 'What can this tell us about the past?' Once back at school the children spent some time researching their favourite historical building in the village. We also learnt about the different geographical features around us and how they are either 'Human Features' or Physical Features'.

We used our local area as inspiration for our collage project. We investigated colour and texture and different ways of using these to create collages of the environment around us.





# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR THREE



In science we explored 'Humans and other animals!' We spent time looking at skeletons and especially the human skeleton. Did you know that humans have over 200 bones in their bodies? We made model skeletons and identified which parts protect us and which help us to move.

We have loved reading 'Tilly and the Time Machine' and wish we could use her Dad's time machine to go back to Ancient Egypt which will be our topic for the Summer Term. We can't wait!



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# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR TWO



This half term Year 2 have been learning about The Great Outdoors. We started it off with a fabulous trip to Tilgate Park where we saw some amazing animals and handled some marvellous minibeasts such as cockroaches and an African Land Snail.

We have really enjoyed reading the story of the Snail and the Whale. We retold the story beautifully in our own words and wrote a postcard imagining that we were the character of the snail. We also read Avocado Baby during book week and followed a recipe to make guacomole.

This week we have been busy writing snail fact files and sewing felt snails. We are so proud of all of the children's hard work and are really looking forward to next term's topic Marvellous Medicine!



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# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR ONE

We have had the BEST term! Well done to all of our year 1 learners! Rainbow Theatre came and we listened and joined in with the four key stories: Goldilocks, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, Little Red Riding Hood and The Three Little Pigs. The visit inspired our story writing and retelling, with Puppet Spoons based on our stories being part of our World Book day Celebrations!

Children have also made maths track games based on Little Red Riding Hood and these are coming home with the children.

Daniel came with his African Drums and each class had a great time with echo and call and response games and rhythms.

The children have made super progress in their phonics and reading. We are so proud of them all.

Well done.

We look forward to our new topic: 'If I were a minibeast...!'  
Have a lovely rest, children and families!  
The Year 1 Team





# A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION

Another wonderful half term draws to a close here in Reception. This term we have been on a geographical adventure as part of our topic 'Near and Far'.

When we arrived back from our holidays, we discovered an alien space ship had landed in our hallway! Much excitement ensued and we discovered two friendly aliens had joined us to take us on an exciting adventure to places near and far. Hank and Mitch, our alien visitors, were thoroughly welcomed by the children with an abundance of letters and drawings.

The following weeks saw the aliens help us to discover all about London and Paris landmarks and buildings. We had 'fry-ups' in our London café and thoroughly enjoyed making delicious crepes to support our learning about Paris. We went on bus tours and aeroplane flights in our outdoor learning area.

Next Hank and Mitch told us of their adventures to the Arctic countries. We explored ice and learnt about the animals that live in the Polar Regions.

After that our alien friends shared their trip to the continent of Africa. Again, we learnt about African animals and we had a wonderful drumming session with Daniel, a real-life musician. Everyone had a drum and he took us on a 'banging' journey into the jungle.



# A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION

The alien's final stop was Australia. Here they told us we could find some amazing, yet dangerous, creatures. We explored this further in class using our selection of non-fiction texts. We explored our big science question of 'What makes animals dangerous?'

Our half term culminated in a brilliant hands-on animal encounter when the company RepTyler's visited us. The children were amazed and intrigued by the animals they met, including the albino python who is over 3 metres long, and Charlotte, the ever so gentle Chilean Rose Tarantula.

So many wonderful stories supported our learning throughout this topic. The Queen's Hat, Everybody Bonjour, The Leopard's Drum and Alan's Scary Teeth to name but a few.

Our next topic is sure to be another fun-filled escapade as we disappear into a world of make-believe. 'Fantasy' is the title and 'Storyland' is our destination. The topic includes giants, fairies, unicorns, dragons, knights, castles, magic, wonder, imagination and fun!

We will meet new characters, discover new plots and settings and welcome the return of some familiar traditional tale characters that we know and love. This will all be supporting our communication and language skills, our reading comprehension and our story writing abilities.





# A MESSAGE FROM, HIEDI, OUR FAMILY CHAMPION

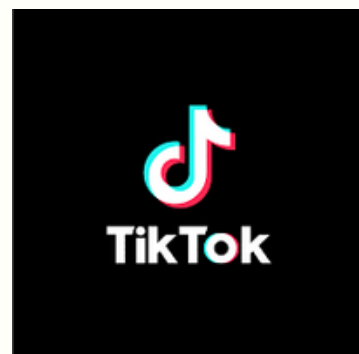
Thank you to everyone who has attended this half term's Time-to-Talk sessions. We hope parents are finding these useful. If you have been unable to attend a session please take a look at the Time-to-Talk page on the school website where presentations and handouts have been uploaded to:

<http://www.mileoakschool.co.uk/brighton-hove/primary/mileoak/site/pages/thedayatmileoak/familychampion/timetotalkinformation>

Our first Time-to-Talk for next term will be 'Cake and a Catch Up' on Friday 6th May 2:30pm. During this session, parents can share ideas about what they would like to see in future Time-to-Talks. What support would you like? What would you like to learn more about?

## TikTok

The minimum age to have a TikTok account is 13 years old and as a school, for safeguarding and wellbeing reasons, we do not recommend that children have access to this platform.



TikTok accounts have a private messaging feature and accounts set up with a date of birth that makes a child over 18 are automatically set to public viewing. If you do allow your child to have underage access to TikTok then you can help to keep them safe by setting up your own account and having family pairing.

Family pairing allows you to

- Set your child's account to private
- Comment on videos
- Restrict or turn off direct messages
- Search
- Control how much time is spent on TikTok
- Restrict the videos that your child is exposed to.

To find out more about family pairing please visit [www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/](http://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/)

# PE AND SPORT

'There have been many positives for PE and school sport at Mile Oak during the spring term, one of these has been the clubs that the school have offered.

For this term, there have been over 150 children across the school that have been involved in an extra- curricular club at our school, which is the highest that it has ever been.

Clubs will continue to be offered going forward such as the Y5 & 6 football club, Y3 & 4 athletics club and Y1 & 2 Tag Rugby club. As well as this, a group of Y5 girls and boys had the chance to experience a tag rugby festival at Hove rugby club, the children really enjoyed being immersed in a new sport for the morning and the children did not want to leave!

There will be more exciting opportunities offered in the Summer term including a girl's cricket tournament, Y3 & 4 rackets festival, a girl's football tournament, amongst other enrichment opportunities.

The summer term looks very exciting, especially with sports day fast approaching on 11th July (KS1) and 12th July (KS2).'



# MILE OAK SAFEGUARDING TEAM



***Mile Oak Primary School***

***"THINK BIG"***

***Safeguarding Team***

Mile Oak Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. We expect all members of our school community to share this commitment.

We are all alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow agreed procedures to ensure that all pupils and families feel supported, protected and kept safe.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or would like to request further support yourself, please contact one of the safeguarding leads, detailed below.



*Mr Lording  
Headteacher*



*Mrs Gale  
Deputy Headteacher*



*Ms Bennett  
SENDCo*



*Mrs Foster,  
Learning Mentor (DDSL)*

*If you need to contact one of the safeguarding team, please call us on 01273 077114 or email [office@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:office@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk) and mark it 'FAO the safeguarding team'.*



# NEXT HALF-TERM

## Topics for Summer 1

Reception - Fantasy

Year 1 - If I were a minibeast!

Year 2 - Marvellous Medicine

Year 3 - Who were the Ancient Egyptians?

Year 4 - Flying Beasts

Year 5 - Mayans

Year 6 - Crime and Punishment

Please visit the school website and select your child's year group to view the curriculum overview for their year group. This details what children will be learning in each subject.

In addition to which concepts and time periods children will cover, the curriculum maps show the language which will be taught.

As a school we focus on the development of children's capacity and confidence to use speech to express their thoughts and communicate with other.

Please discuss the language used on the curriculum maps with your children at home.

## Core Reading Texts for Summer 1

Reception How to grow a unicorn - Rachel Morrisoe, Jack and the beanstalk - various, Story Path - Kate Baker, There is no dragon in this story - Lou Carter, The Knight who wouldn't fight - Helen Docherty

Year 1: You're called what?

Year 2: Mary Seacole Non-Fiction

Year 3: The Egyption Cinderella

Year 4: Kensuke's Kingdom

Year 5: The Explorer

Year 6: A kind of Spark



# COMMUNICATION



We have been working on a communication protocol for staff and parents. This is to ensure that all communication is logged by the admin team and tracked for a response.

While 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 the 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.

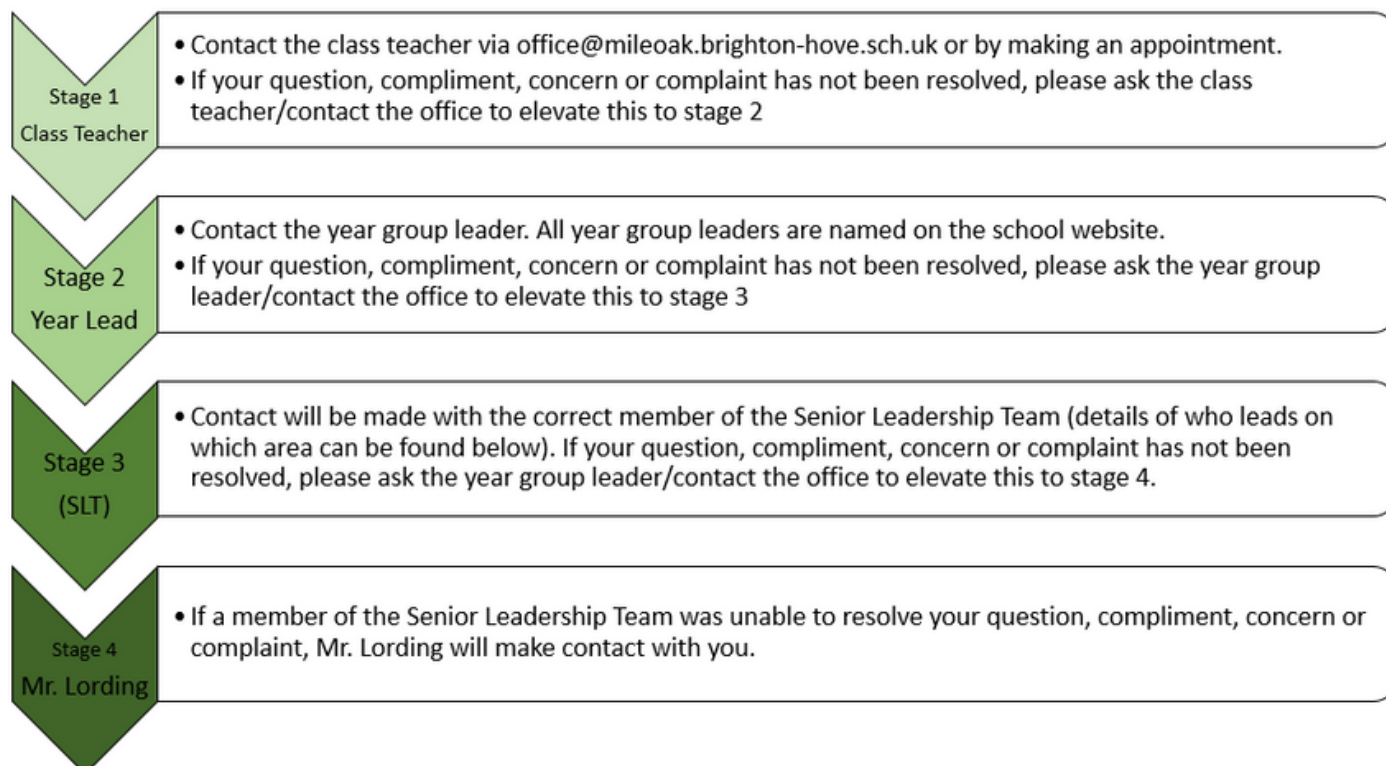
The admin team are very happy to take calls, emails or even messages in the postbox out side of the reception area and will ensure your query, concern or compliment is passed on to the correct members of staff.

Thank you for your cooperation.



## School 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 and a response will be provided within 2 working days.



**Mr. Lording**  
Safeguarding, staffing, policies, Risk Assessments



**Mrs. Gale**  
Teaching and learning, educational visits, curriculum, assessment, extra curricular activities



**Mrs. Szkolar**  
Health and Safety, premises, finance, communication, dates and whole school events



**Ms. Wilks**  
Behaviour, pupil relationships, bullying



**Mrs. Bennett**  
Special Educational Needs, Medical



# WANTED



**CLOSING DATE**  
**25 April 2022**

## KEY STAGE 2 WW2 ARTWORK

Be part of the Take Shelter art competition and have a chance to win a prize!  
Entries need to be A4 size, and inspired by one of these wartime themes:

**The Blitz - Evacuees - The Home Front - Women in Wartime**

Come and see your work on display at Downs Junior School for our  
Art Open House weekends on 14/15 and 21/22 May.

## JUDGING & PRIZES

Take Shelter judges will choose one winner from each of the four categories in advance of the Art Open House weekends. Winners will be notified via their school. Each winner will be awarded a **£25 Gift Voucher**. During our open weekends all visitors will be asked to help choose one overall winning entry in our 'People's Vote'. So bring your families and friends and vote for your favourite artwork. The overall winner will be announced at 4pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May and the winner will receive a **£50 Gift Voucher**.



## Eligible year groups

The competition is open to pupils in years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

## About the competition

We hope that you will be inspired to enter our exciting art competition, either in class time or as part of your pupils' home learning activities. It will be a great opportunity for your pupils to have their work displayed as part of the Art Open House scheme during the Brighton Fringe Festival. The Art Open House event at Downs Junior School will be part of our annual WW2 themed Take Shelter open weekends. Over the two weekends we welcome over 1,000 people to the school and air raid shelter so there will be a fantastic audience for your pupils' artwork. To find out more about Take Shelter please see our website: [www.takeshelter.org.uk](http://www.takeshelter.org.uk)

## How to enter

All entries need to be no larger A4 and we can only accept 2D artwork. Artwork can use any medium (pencil crayon, paint, felt tip collage etc) and we encourage your pupils to be as creative as they can! Please ensure that all entries have the following information written on the back:

- Name of child
- Year group
- School
- Competition theme (The Blitz / Evacuees / The Home Front / Women at War)

## Submitting your entries

All entries are to be submitted via your school. Please gather all the entries from your pupils, mark your envelope 'Art Competition' and send them to Downs Junior School, Rugby Road, BN1 6ED via the Brighton & Hove inter-school courier. **All entries are to be received during week commencing 25 April 2022. Entries received after this date will not be included in the judging but may still be included in the displays.**

## Return of work

All work will be returned to school via the Brighton & Hove inter school courier in the weeks after the 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

## Looking for inspiration?

There are lots of WW2 resources available on the internet but if you are looking for inspiration for your pupils' artwork you may want to look at these links from the Imperial War Museum collections:

London Blitz: [Imperial War Museum - London Blitz listings](#)

Wartime Brighton: [Imperial War Museum - Wartime Brighton listings](#)

Evacuees: [Imperial War Museum - Evacuee listings](#)

Home Front: [Imperial War Museum - Home Front listings](#)

Land Girls: [Imperial War Museum - Land Girl listings](#)

Women at war: [Imperial War Museum - Women at war listings](#)

Wartime propaganda posters - [Imperial War Museum - poster listings](#)

## Questions?

If you have any questions please email: [TakeShelter@downsjun.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:TakeShelter@downsjun.brighton-hove.sch.uk)