



MILE OAK NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER
AUTUMN 2 NEWSLETTER



Dear Families,

As we come to the end of an incredibly busy autumn term, we would like to take a moment to reflect on all that has been achieved. There has been so much to celebrate over the past weeks and we are immensely proud of the progress and development we have seen across the school. Children continue to make excellent progress in their learning and we remain committed to providing a broad and ambitious curriculum, enriched with a wide range of opportunities to enhance their experiences.

Our pupils remain wonderful role models, consistently demonstrating the values we hold so dear and truly thinking BIG in all that they do. They have worked exceptionally hard this term and now deserve a well-earned rest over the holiday period, ready to return refreshed and energised for the new term in January.

The children's performances in the Christmas concerts were inspiring, joyful and full of festive cheer. We are incredibly proud of every single child and know how much these performances were enjoyed by families. It has been wonderful to see how inclusive each show has been with all children feeling a strong sense of belonging with their class.

It was a pleasure to welcome parents and carers into school for our recent winter craft fair, where families were able to spend time together making Christmas crafts. These moments of shared creativity and community are so special and really capture the spirit of our school.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the re-established PTA, led by Krissy, for the incredibly successful Christmas Fair. The event was a true celebration of our community and would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of volunteers, staff and our families. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, energy and enthusiasm to make it such a memorable occasion and to everyone who came to enjoy the event and offer their support.



We were delighted by the very positive feedback received in our recent parent and carer survey. Your responses highlighted the strong relationships, sense of community, feeling of belonging and high expectations for learning that exist across the school. We are extremely grateful to everyone who took the time to share their views. The survey also identified some areas for further development and we welcome this feedback. We are already considering how these priorities can be taken forward and will be working on them in the spring term.

We value the strong partnerships we have with our parent groups and continue to work closely with the MOSAIC group to support our SEND children across the school. This collaboration plays an important role in ensuring that all children feel understood, supported and are able to thrive.

Thank you to all of our staff, who continue to work tirelessly every day to support the children across the school. Their commitment, care and determination to secure the very best outcomes for our pupils shines through in all that they do and we are extremely fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated team.

Finally, thank you to all our families for your ongoing support. Everything we do is strengthened by the partnership we share with you and we are very grateful for all that you contribute to school life.

We wish you all a wonderful festive break and look forward to continuing our journey together in the New Year. The school has two inset days at the start of the term and we will be welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 7th January 2026.

Mr. Lording

Merry
Christmas



AMBITION



RESPECT



PRIDE



COURAGE



LITTLE OAKS NURSERY



What a busy and happy half term we've had at Little Oaks! The children have thrown themselves into everything—from autumn adventures to story-inspired play—and we've loved every minute of it.

We've spent lots of time outside spotting all the beautiful autumn colours on the school field. The pumpkins were a big hit too! The children explored pumpkins of all shapes, sizes and colours, feeling their bumpy skins and comparing what they looked like. Cutting them open was definitely the favourite part.



There were lots of "wow!" moments as the children scooped out the squishy, stringy insides and discovered just how many seeds were hiding inside. After reading *The Roll Away Pumpkin* by Junia Wonders, we took them out to the playground to see how far they would roll—some of them zoomed off just like in the story!

We popped the pumpkins in the nursery garden so the wildlife can enjoy them. The children remembered the squirrel from *Stop That Squirrel* by Smriti Halls and Lucy Fleming and loved the idea of sharing the seeds and pumpkins with our real-life outdoor visitors.

Our stories took us even further when we went on a pretend journey to the moon in a cardboard box, just like *Baby Bear in Whatever Next* by Jill Murphy. The children have also been imagining how they might catch a star after enjoying Oliver Jeffers' *How to Catch a Star*—lots of creative ideas!

There's been plenty of mark making too. Our new easel has been brilliant for working together and long sheets of paper encouraged the children to make big movements to help strengthen their arms and hands.

In the hall, they've been building on their balancing skills and jumping safely. At first there were some wobbles but the children have made fantastic progress and can now balance confidently and land their jumps with lovely bent knees.

As Christmas approached, We're Going on an Elf Chase by Martha Mumford and Laura Hughes got everyone excited and of course we had our own cheeky elves hiding around nursery. We also shared the Christmas story. After watching Reception's nativity, the children retold it themselves using our little playset.

We finished the year with our Christmas Stay and Play sessions, which were such a joy. Thank you to all the families who joined us to make reindeer food, decorate biscuits and get stuck into some festive mark making. The children were so proud to sing their Christmas songs at the end.

We hope you all have a wonderful break, and we can't wait to see you in the New Year.

... The Little Oaks Nursey Team



A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION



Our theme this term, 'It's getting darker', has been an exciting journey into festivals, cultural celebrations and seasonal changes and exploring light and dark within them. We have linked our learning to experiences of lights and fireworks being part of cultural events such as Halloween, Bonfire Night, Diwali; the Hindu and Sikh festival of light, and building excitement for upcoming Christmas and New Year celebrations.

As the seasons have changed, we have talked about the weather daily and loved noticing how it changes through each day and each week. We have been 'camping' in our role play areas and visited the Forest School area finding out the answer to our big science question 'Why do leaves crunch?' The family event was such fun and gave us a chance to share our forest school skills with our grown-ups.

Recently, we had a very special visitor in school, Henry the hedgehog. He dropped by with his owner, Graham, to support our learning about woodland animals and we learnt the meaning of the words 'nocturnal' and 'hibernate'.

As if that wasn't enough fun for one term, we have used the fantastic story of The Gingerbread Man to develop our story sequencing and comprehension skills. We were visited by the little old woman whose gingerbread boy ran away. Fortunately, the Bumblebee Bakery had opened its doors again and we were able to make her a new one. We also got to make some for ourselves too and they were yummy!

Our term concluded with the eagerly anticipated Christmas show. The children have worked so hard to learn and perform a range of songs. We have been so excited to perform it for you. We hope you loved it as much as we have getting it all ready. We have also continued our learning of festivals by Father David visiting us from The Church of The Good Shepherd. He told us all about The First Christmas.

Thank you for your continued support with phonics and reading at home. We are always keen to hear how your child is doing at home. Please share by commenting in the reading journal. We also love to see activities from home, including developing writing, and the children love sharing their Learning Journal updates so please take some time to add a few pieces if you are able to.



... The Reception Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR ONE

What a busy end to 2025 Starling and Goldfinch class have had! The children have continued to impress us with how quickly they have settled into the Year 1 routine.

This term, we have enjoyed getting stuck into our topic 'Tell us a Tale...'. In Guided Reading, we have been reading the texts 'The Deep Dark Woods' and 'Fairy Tale Pets'. We have been learning about the VIPERS reading skills and applying these to the texts in small groups and during our self-initiated learning time.

To consolidate the learning of our 'Traditional Tales' topic we had a visit from The Rainbow Theatre company. We were so lucky to have four of the Traditional Tales acted out for us – some of us even performed in the show! As well as The Rainbow Theatre coming to visit, we had some of the characters from the traditional tales come to visit and read us a story!

This half term, we have continued working on our Year 1 writing rules within English. We can all tell you what a good sentence needs and we put this in to practise when writing a recount of The Rainbow Theatre visit and when writing our own traditional tale stories.

In Maths, we have been practising our counting and subitising skills as well as learning what parts form a whole. We have also been working really hard on our numerals formation! Here is the song we have been learning if your child would like to keep on practising at home:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DzKqCmjVXLI>

We have also enjoyed our PSHE topics this half term! We have been learning all about children who are part of the Gypsy, Roma Traveller Community and how our lives are both similar and different to theirs. We also took part in Anti-bullying week where we were proud to wear odd clothes to celebrate our differences!

A final highlight of the half term was the Christmas Show! We feel very proud of all the children for learning the words and actions to the songs and singing them so beautifully to a big audience!

We hope you all have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday! We look forward to lots more fun learning experiences in 2026!



... The Year 1 Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR TWO

What another brilliant half term we have had in Year 2. Robin and Wren classes have loved immersing ourselves into our 'Once Upon a Time' topic and exploring different versions of traditional tales.

The children have created some amazing self-portraits. We started by sketching ourselves very carefully one step at a time, then mixed our skin tones using primary colours. We also created a background for our portraits by drawing pictures that represent us.

In English and Geography, we have produced lots of amazing pieces of writing. We created some incredible fact files all about Ghana and learned a lot about the food and culture. Our food tasting of traditional Ghanaian food really helped the children with their amazing vocabulary. They loved going up to the Forest School for this experience. They then worked in groups to create a diorama, comparing the similarities and differences of physical and human features in the U.K. and Ghana.

We also spent a lot of time reading and re-telling the story of 'Prince Cinders'. We enjoyed writing character descriptions which gave us the skills we needed to add lots of descriptions to our stories. The adults were so impressed with the fantastic vocabulary that the children used.

Finally, we rounded off an amazing half term with a brilliant Christmas performance. We have been practising these songs in our Music lessons and in assemblies for weeks and everyone was so proud when it all came together. We also loved learning our 'Remember the Reindeer' poem.

Well done for a fantastic half term Year 2. We hope everyone has an amazing, well-earned rest over the Christmas holidays and look forward to more amazing learning in 2026.



... The Year 2 Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR THREE



Well done, Year 3. What a terrific term. We are so proud of you all!

The book that we have been enjoying this term is about the plight of dolphins and wildlife in our oceans and the effects that rubbish can have on them. 'The Song of the Dolphin Boy' has elicited lots of discussion and deep thinking. We have enjoyed this book based on Scottish folk law. We have written reports about rubbish and have devised our own litter surveys from and around school.

Our Science topic on Lights has developed our understanding of sources of light, reflective surfaces and shadows in Science. We have really enjoyed exploring the power of light using our mini 'bear caves' in class.

In Religious Education, we are asking the BIG question 'Has Christmas lost its true meaning for Christians?' This led to lots of discussion about what Christmas means for each of us, and how our meanings and values can be different, but still be very special. Father David came into school and the children listened to the key points of this celebration, including the Nativity. The children have a very good understanding of how Christmas is important to Christians.

In Music, the children have been practicing their singing and performance skills.

We are pairing up with year 5 and look forward to our performances in the last week of term.

The children are putting the finishing touches to their sewing and are looking forward to taking their efforts home to share! They have decorated and made felt trees, using over stitching and running stitches to fasten and secure the different materials.

What has been most impressive, is their willingness to share their skills with their friends!



... The Year 3 Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FOUR



This has been a fantastic term in Year 4 and the children have really settled down into being responsible, grown-up learners.

We have continued our topic of The Tudors and taken it further by learning about explorers and other important Tudor figures. This has included Sir Frances Drake and the renowned playwright, William Shakespeare! We also became explorers ourselves when we went on an expedition up Southwick Hill with a National Trust ranger. We learned that the area is protected so when they built the A27, they had to dig through the hill to make the Southwick Tunnel instead of cutting through it. We also learned about the natural habitats of the local birds.

We have read two books this term, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'My Other Life.' Both stories inspired some fabulous writing. The magical fairy kingdom of A Midsummer Night's Dream was the setting of our own mystical journey through the woods and discovering a place full of magic and wonder. 'My Other Life' explores an alternative life through a swirling portal. The children planned out their very own portal story! The children thought carefully about how to make their writing exciting and descriptive. We were really impressed with the stories they produced and enjoyed reading them.

In science, the children started to observe ice poles closely and predicted what might happen to them during the day. Every two hours, we checked them by weighing them and measuring their temperature. By home time, our ice hands had all melted and there was nothing but a puddle of liquid! This investigation was our starting point for learning about solids, liquids and gases. Perhaps your children could find example of solids, liquids and gases in their home?



For RE, the children enjoyed the assembly where Father David visited us and explained the Nativity Story further for us. We also learned that there are many connections to the Old Testament followed in Judaism.

The children have continued to amaze us with their times table dedication. They all join in brilliantly with the class counting stick and it has been really impressive to see their progress on TTRS. The children are beginning to work up the levels and we have seen many awarded with 'Rock Hero' this half term. Keep up the hard work, Year 4!



... The Year 4 Team

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FIVE



This half term, Year 5 have continued to settle in well and are beginning to apply the school values each and every day consistently.

Within reading, we have continued with Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief, which the children have said is their favourite book ever! Not only does it truly capture their imagination, their prediction skills are inspired as Rick Riordan often leaves the chapters on a cliff-hanger.

In writing, the children have focused on the Olympic games and we even competed in our very own version of them. During the games, as you can imagine, all of our children were fiercely competitive and had an unwavering hunger for success. Well done to Bramber, who just prevailed.

We have been mathematically ambitious to identify the most efficient mental and written strategies when solving addition and subtraction problems understanding that skills such as number bonds, doubling and times tables are key for our success.

Our Big Questions in Science concentrated on the human life cycle and how our bodies change both physically and mentally as we age. The children were fascinated with the many milestones they have achieved in their lives physically and mentally!

Whilst Elder have been active with dance and basketball skills in the PE curriculum, Rowan continued with their swimming lessons. It has been fantastic to see the children's confidence grow in the water over the ten weeks and they have made so much progress! Both classes have taken time to regularly complete the daily mile and the improvement in their motivation and fitness levels can clearly be seen.

Next term, we will be starting our new topic: SPACE and our DT and art focus will be 3D sculpture where the children will be challenged with designing their own solar system... Watch out world! The wider curriculum focus will switch from history to geography with our class story 'The Story of the Blue Planet' supporting our learning.



... The Year 5 Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX



Year 6 have worked incredibly hard this term. We are very proud of the maturity they have shown in their learning and as leaders around the school. It has been clear that they are relishing the opportunity to be role models and they are enjoying supporting children in younger year groups. In some cases, our children have been giving up their lunchtimes to help out other children in the school; such as, those who have been helping children in Reception and Key Stage One with their lunches. Our Librarians have also been superstars, ensuring our library books are cared for and the space is useable for all. Well done Year 6!

We started the half term, writing a non-chronological report about The Colorado River. Before we could write anything, we used iPads, laptops, information books and atlases to research current facts about the river. The writing started with the physical geography of the river and ended discussing the impact of humans on the river and how they are tackling these problems to ensure the preservation of the major waterway. Our class reader - Boy in the Tower - has inspired us to write a newspaper report due to the dramatic events that unfold in the story. Firstly, we learnt about the features of a newspaper by analysing an example text and then use those features to write our own with the support of our teacher. Our class newspaper reports, are about a highly destructive flood that tore through the village of Boscastle in North Cornwall. Because newspapers need to be dramatic, we dug deep to find many ways to convey the awful scenes that unfolded that day. Once it was finished, we published them on the laptops using our word processing skills.

In Geography, the children learned all about rivers. They are now armoured with new vocabulary such as: meander, source, erosion and tributary. We also taught rivers through other subjects, such as Reading, where children used information texts to expand their knowledge of the Colorado River and The Thames. Furthermore, we used our knowledge of environmental art to make natural collages about the key characteristics of rivers. The children also enjoyed a fantastic trip to Cuckmere Haven, where they were able to put their knowledge to the test! Because rivers flow, we have chosen Vincent Van Gogh as our focus artist as his brushstrokes can show movement. We started the term looking at his (and others') paintings, life and the movement associated with him – Impressionism. The children explored with a variety of mediums so see how best they could recreate movement through the manipulation of line. Their outcomes were fantastic!

We have thoroughly enjoyed our main reading book for this term, The Boy In The Tower. A story about a boy named Ade, who loves living at the top of a tower block. From his window, he feels like he can see the whole world stretching out beneath him. His mum doesn't really like looking outside - but it's going outside that she hates. She prefers to sleep all day inside their tower, where it's safe. Except it isn't for long. Strange plants start to take over and tower blocks fall down around them. It is left with Ade to try and find a way out... It is a very suspenseful novel with plenty of PSHE links about relationships and resilience.

Overall, the Autumn term has been a great success with lots of progress being made, alongside having lots of fun! We would like to say thank you for your continued support at home, as well as wishing you a Merry Christmas. Let's make 2026 as much of a success as the start of year 6 has been



... The Year 6 Team

A MESSAGE FROM FOREST CLASS



Our topic of 'Autumn and Animals' has been a great opportunity to learn about the seasons and changes in the weather. We have started our day by looking at the weather and predicting the next days weather. We have identified how we look after ourselves and what things we need with changing seasons.

We have been lucky to have Mrs Garoghan's dog Luna in to Forest class, she has loved listening to our phonics and reading skills and has loved a long walk on the field. Forest class have shown respect when learning the rules about touching animals and how we look after dogs.

We have loved coming together to go for a daily walk and spending time taking part in mindfulness colouring and learning how to draw sessions. We are getting very good! We have explored a variety of materials such as shaving foam, cloud dough, salt dough, rice and ice.

We have been working hard to strengthen our fine motor skills through threading, using tweezers to sort and identify objects and cutting skills. This has had a great impact on our handwriting and our ability to hold a pen!

We have been looking at odd and even numbers with the help of our Numberblocks friends and we have enjoyed using our counting stick and subitizing skills to embed our learning.

We have enjoyed looking at different images for our animal topic and we have been able to describe these images and our teachers are very impressed with our ideas and our handwriting.

We have enjoyed practicing our gross motor skills on the bikes and on a obstacle course, we have been focusing on safe behaviours on the equipment and taking turns.

Well done Forest Class, we are proud of you.



... Forest Class Team



PE UPDATE



Children have shown fantastic enthusiasm and commitment in PE lessons this term and it has been great to see such high levels of engagement across all year groups. They have approached lessons with a positive attitude, demonstrating teamwork, resilience and a real willingness to challenge themselves and improve their skills.

Throughout the term, lessons have focused not only on developing physical skills but also on important values such as cooperation, communication and sporting spirit. Children have worked hard to apply tactics, reflect on their performances and support one another, creating a positive and inclusive learning environment in PE.

In addition to our curriculum lessons, pupils have had several opportunities to represent the school at local sporting events, all of which they approached with pride and maturity.

Our Year 5 and 6 basketball team attended a festival at BHASVIC, competing against a number of local schools. The team performed extremely well, showing excellent teamwork and determination and finished in an impressive 4th place, representing the school brilliantly both on and off the court.



We also took part in a Year 4–6 inclusion festival, which provided a valuable opportunity for children who do not normally get the chance to represent the school in sport. This event was a real highlight, enabling pupils to experience competitive sport in a supportive and inclusive environment. The children showed great confidence, effort and enjoyment throughout.

A group of pupils also represented the school in the Year 5–6 cross country competition. All runners demonstrated resilience and determination on a challenging course. A special mention must go to Louie Jenkins, who delivered a standout performance by finishing inside the top 20. This excellent result means Louie has progressed to the next stage of the competition, which will take place in March, where he will represent Brighton and Hove — a fantastic achievement.

We are also incredibly proud to share that the school were announced as runners-up in the Active School of the Year Award. This is a huge achievement, particularly given the large number of primary schools across Sussex, and reflects the consistent commitment to physical activity, participation and wellbeing shown by both pupils and staff.

Overall, it has been a very successful and enjoyable term for PE. Thank you to all the children for their hard work and positive attitudes and to parents and staff for their continued support. We look forward to building on this success in the coming term.



... Mr Crellin



ORACY UPDATE



Oracy at Mile Oak is going from strength to strength. Not only are our children understanding how important talk is to learning, even the Department of Education announced this month that Oracy will stand alongside Reading, Writing and Arithmetic as a fourth 'R'.

It is imperative our children are able to use their voices, collaborate and grow their own confidence. Being able to talk with purpose, opens doors and provides opportunities that might otherwise be inaccessible. We are working hard at Mile Oak to ensure that all children develop this skill.

This half term saw children from Key Stage 2 compete in the Inspiring Voices competition. Think X-Factor, but for talk. We were so impressed with the commitment that many showed to write and rehearse a speech over their half-term holiday before delivering in front of a panel of judges and their peers. The winners were announced and those from Year 5 and Year 6 competed in a city-wide competition at Varndean Secondary School. Naomi, Louie and Logan were phenomenal. The panel commented how each child had learnt their speeches by heart, not relying on notes. We were extremely proud of them. The winning speeches will soon appear on the school website, so do go and have a listen.



In lessons, teachers are working hard to incorporate Oracy into everything we do. Each class has its own set of 'Discussion Guidelines' and we use 'Talk Tactics' to help structure our talk for learning. It is clear this is having a positive impact on confidence, as even our quieter voices are growing in stature.

Every Monday, I lead an Oracy assembly to support children in growing their voice. Through games and low stakes topics, we practise how to talk for effectiveness and use different groups sizes from pairs to a traverse. Year 3 and Year 4 have really embraced this new style of assembly.

Lastly, there has been the introduction of our weekly Oracy Champions announced in our celebration assembly on Friday.

Have a well-deserved Christmas when it arrives.



... Miss Moore



THE DOME CAROL CONCERT



Our wonderful choir performed at the Dome on Tuesday, 2nd December, following a busy rehearsal with many other schools from across Brighton and Hove. These children have shown real commitment, attending regular weekly — and often twice-weekly — practices at school, and they sing with such enthusiasm and confidence.

A big thank-you to the families who came to watch (and join in!). We truly appreciate your support as the children have also been practising at home.

We are ALL so proud of you!

... Ms McArdle



FESTIVALS OF LIGHT

DIWALI

At the end of last term, year 3 concluded their Diwali topic by taking part in some exciting activities around this festival of light.

One of these activities was decorating plain biscuits with Rangoli patterns using decorating icing, marshmallows and sprinkles. Then the best part - eating them!

As well as this, we made lamps; learnt the story of Rama and Sita; made paper plate Rangoli patterns; learnt some dance moves. We also wrote some questions to a Hindu in our local community, who replied with answers about how her family celebrates Diwali.

It was a fantastic day! Afterwards, in order to pass on some of our learning to the rest of the school, we presented some of the things we had learnt and created in an assembly.



Throughout the year, each year group will have an opportunity to celebrate the religious festival that they learn about through a range of engaging activities.



CHRISTMAS

On Thursday the 11th December, we held our first whole school Christmas craft event with parents/carers/family members.

The teachers organised really enjoyable craft activities and as always, the children wowed us with what they made! It was made extra special with all the adults that came and joined in.

Afterwards, we had some interesting discussions in our classes around our RE topics: mainly what Christmas means to Christians and also what it means to us.

Thank you for your support in making the craft event so memorable, fun and magical for the children! We hope to run more events like this in future.

... Mrs Croghan



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Spring 1 Religious Festival Calendar

January			
6th January	Epiphany	Christian	<p>This is the ‘twelfth day of Christmas’, which, according to Christian belief was when the three kings visited the infant Jesus in Bethlehem, bearing symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh; and when John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the River Jordan.</p> <p>Epiphany is the day when some say that all Christmas decorations should be taken down, since otherwise bad luck will follow.</p>
14th/15th January	Makar Sankranti	Hindu	<p>Sankranti is the start of a new zodiac sign. This is the date based on the solar rather than the lunar calendar. For many Hindus it is a day for giving and patching up quarrels and disagreements. Fires are lit outside and peanuts and sesame sweets are eaten round them. The traditional Punjabi meal consists of cornmeal chapatis and a mustard leaf dish.</p>
18th January	World Religion Day	All Faiths	<p>This day promotes interfaith understanding by emphasising factors common to all faiths.</p>
16th January	Al-Isra’ wal-Mi’raj (The Night Journey & Ascension)	Muslim	<p>This marks the night journey of the Prophet Muhammad through the heavens to the presence of God. It is when the command that Muslims should pray five times a day was given to the Prophet. The rock from which the Prophet ascended is now in Jerusalem’s ‘Dome of the Rock’. Muslims mark this night by reading the <i>Qur’an</i> and saying additional prayers.</p>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Spring 1 Religious Festival Calendar

February			
3rd February	Lailat-Ul-Bara'ah (The Night Of Forgiveness)	Muslim	Muslims seek forgiveness for their sins at this time. Many believe that on this night, a person's destiny is fixed by Allah for the coming year. The night is spent in prayer, asking for forgiveness and God's guidance. Some fast during the daytime in preparation. In certain parts of the world Muslims visit the graves of relatives, and the giving of charity is also traditional. In many places the night is marked with firework displays.
15th February	Par nirvana	Buddhist	This is a festival that marks the death of the Buddha. It is also known as Nirvana Day. Buddhists celebrate the death of the Buddha, because they believe that having attained Enlightenment he achieved freedom from physical existence and its sufferings.
17th February	Lunar New Year	Chinese	New Year's Day is the most important event in the traditional Chinese calendar and marks the beginning of the first lunar month. The festival is colourfully celebrated with fireworks, dances (such as the famous Lion Dance) and the giving of gifts, flowers and sweets. <u>2026</u> is the year of the Horse
17th February – 18th March	Ramadan	Muslim	Ramadan is the 9th month of the Islamic Calendar, when the Prophet received the first revelation of verses of the Qur'an. It is the holiest month for Muslims, and they dedicate themselves to spiritual renewal, prayer and intensive devotional reading of the Qur'an. During the month of Ramadan Muslims are required to fast from daybreak until after sunset. No food or drink may be consumed during the hours of fasting, and those fasting must also abstain from smoking and from sexual relations. After the custom of the Prophet, the fast is traditionally broken each evening by taking dates and water.
17th February	Shrove Tuesday	Christian	This festival is often called 'Pancake Day', as pancakes use up all the rich foods before Lent. The name comes from the old word 'shriving', which means to listen to someone's sins and forgive them. In Anglo-Saxon England, Christians would go to church on Shrove Tuesday to confess their sins and clean their soul. In other words, they would be 'shriven'.
18th February	Ash Wednesday	Christian	This first day of Lent recalls the temptations Jesus faced for forty days in the wilderness.
18th February - 2nd April	Lent	Christian	This is a period of forty days of fasting and self-discipline that leads up to Easter. Traditionally, Christians give up something during this time to mark the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness. Many Christians feel it is a time for study groups, prayer and Bible reading.

NEXT HALF TERM

Topics for Spring 1

Reception - That's Showbusiness

Year 1 - Toys

Year 2 - Ice, Ice Baby!

Year 3 - Where do we live?

Year 4 - Romans

Year 5 - Space

Year 6 - Battle of Britain

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 Spring 1

Reception: Life is Magic: Meg McLaren, Wolf Won't Bite: Emily Gravett and Flyaway Katie: Polly Dunbar

Year 1: Nothing: Mick Inkpen and Something Else: Kathryn Cave

Year 2: The Snow Dragon: Vivian French and Winter's Child: Angela McAllister

Year 3: Tilly and the Time Machine: Ade Edmondson

Year 4: Roman Diary: The Journal of Iliona and Young Slave: Richard Platt

Year 5: The Story of the Blue Planet: Andri Magnussen

Year 6: When the Sky Falls: Phil Earl



January



Mon 05.01.26 Inset Day

Tues 06.01.26 Inset Day

Wed 07.01.26 Children return to School

Wed 07.01.26 Little Oaks Nursery remains closed

Thurs 08.01.26 Little Oaks Nursery opens

Thurs 08.01.26 to 12.02.26 Year 5 Elder Class swimming

Fri 09.01.26 Year 1 - Goldfinch class visit the Toy Museum

Mon 12.01.26 Reception Topic Share 3:30pm

Tues 13.01.26 Reception Magician visit (onsite)

Tues 13.01.26 Year 4 Synagogue visit

Wed 14.01.26 Individual and Sibling photos - Mop up session for those who were absent in November

Wed 14.01.26 Year 4 Topic Share 3:30pm

Thurs 15.01.26 Year 6 Take Shelter Trip

Thurs 15.01.26 Year 2 Topic Share 3:30pm

Fri 16.01.26 Year 1 - Starling class visit the Toy Museum

Mon 19.01.26 Year 3 Topic Share 3:30pm

Tues 20.01.26 Year 4 visit Brighton Museum

Wed 21.01.26 Year 5 Topic Share 3:30pm

Thurs 22.01.26 Year 1 Topic Share 3:30pm

Thurs 29.01.26 Year 6 Topic Share 3:30pm

February

Mon 02.02.26 Year 1 - Starling Class Big Make 2pm

Tues 03.02.26 Year 1 - Goldfinch Class Big Make 2pm

Thurs 05.02.26 Indoor Athletics at BACA - Pings to sent to those attending

Mon 09.02.26 Reception, Year 1 & 2 - Chinese Dragon Workshop (onsite)

Tues 10.02.26 Year 5 visit The Observatory Science Centre

Tues 10.02.26 Year 3 - Cherry class Reading Café 9:00am

Thurs 12.02.26 Year 3 - Beech class Reading Café 9:00am

Thurs 12.02.26 Mile Oak Book Swap

Fri 13.02.26 Year 4 RE Day

Fri 13.02.26 Last day of term

MILE OAK SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Mile Oak Primary School

"THINK BIG"

Safeguarding Team



*Mr Lording,
Headteacher (DSL)*



*Mr Cosgrove,
Deputy Headteacher (DSL)*



*Mrs Larter,
Family Champion (DSL)*



*Ms Wilks,
Assistant Headteacher
(DDSL)*

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.

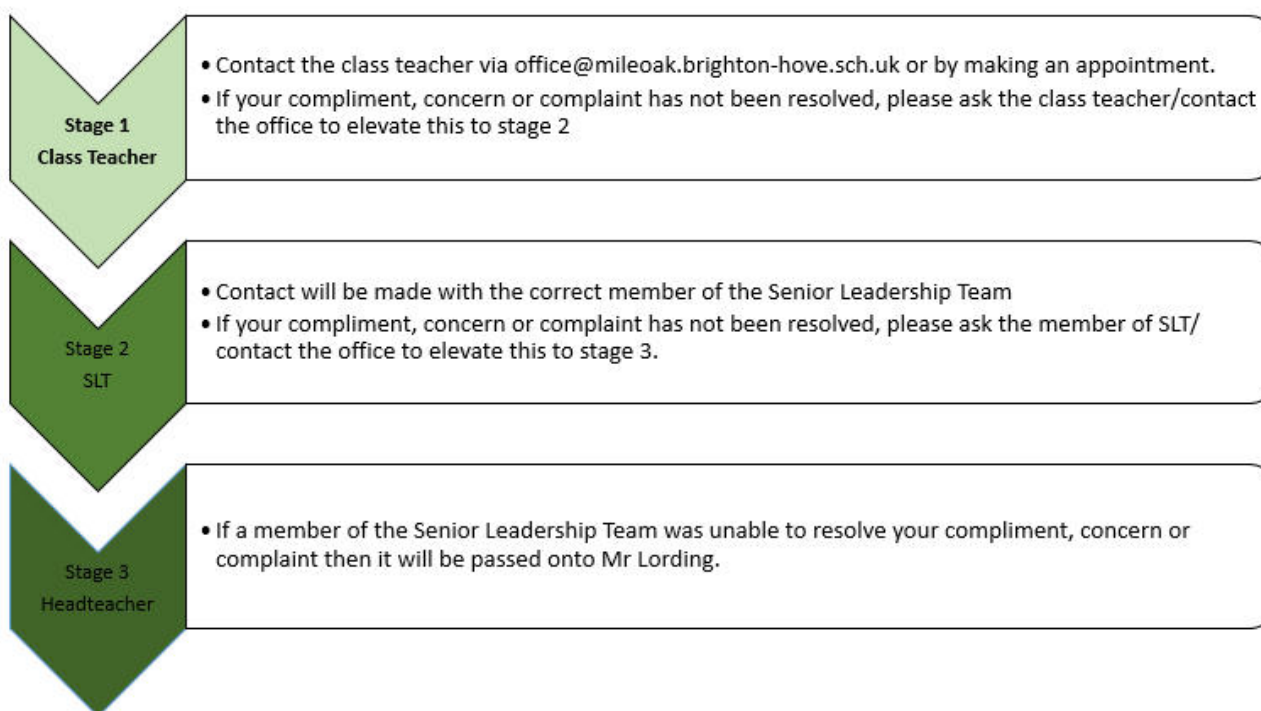
Once initial communication has been made, staff will respond within 2 working days. If a face-to-face meeting is required, the relevant member of staff will make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

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>