



MILE OAK NEWSLETTER

WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY 2026
SUMMER 2 NEWSLETTER



Dear Families,

As another wonderful year at Mile Oak draws to a close, I have found myself reflecting on just how much our children have achieved. From the excitement of the first day in September to the final weeks of this term, they have amazed us with their kindness, resilience, determination and enthusiasm for learning. It has been a privilege to watch them grow, not only academically but also as caring, confident and ambitious young people.

None of this would be possible without the incredible partnership we share with you, our families. Thank you for your continued encouragement, trust and support throughout the year. Whether you have attended school events, supported learning at home, volunteered your time or simply encouraged your child each day, you have played an invaluable role in their success.

This year has been filled with memorable moments that have brought our school community together. From performances and sporting events to educational visits, celebrations of learning and the many everyday achievements that happen in our classrooms, there has been so much to celebrate. Every success, whether big or small, has reflected the enthusiasm, curiosity and determination that make our children so special.

While we celebrate another successful year, we also say farewell to some much-loved members of our staff who will be moving on to new adventures. Mrs May, Miss Shlomo, Mr Hawkins and Miss Mason will be leaving us at the end of this school year, having each made an enormous contribution to our school, our children and our families.

Mrs May, who has been a highly valued member of our teaching team, will be retiring at the end of this school year. Throughout her time at Mile Oak, she has shown an unwavering love and dedication to the children, the school and the families she has served. Her care, kindness and commitment have made a lasting difference to countless children, and she has always gone above and beyond to ensure that every child felt valued, supported and capable of success. She is an exceptional teacher whose passion for education has been evident in everything she has done. Her high expectations, combined with her nurturing approach, have enabled her pupils to achieve exceptional progress year after year, leaving her classroom not only as confident learners but also as kind, resilient and ambitious young people.



AMBITION



RESPECT



PRIDE



COURAGE



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Her professionalism, wisdom and generosity have also been a tremendous source of support to colleagues, making her an integral part of our school community. While we will greatly miss her warmth, expertise and friendship, we are incredibly grateful for everything she has given to Mile Oak over the years and wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

Miss Shlomo will be leaving Mile Oak to embark on an exciting new adventure, taking her teaching talents abroad. Since joining our school, she has brought an infectious positivity and enthusiasm that has brightened our classrooms and enriched our school community. Her unwavering commitment to the children in her care, alongside her high expectations and engaging teaching, has enabled her pupils to make excellent progress both academically and personally. Miss Shlomo has built wonderful relationships with children, colleagues and families alike and is held in great affection by all who know her. While we will miss her warmth, energy and dedication, we are incredibly excited for the opportunities that lie ahead and wish her every success as she begins this exciting new chapter.

Mr Hawkins, who has worked as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant this year, will be leaving to take on a new challenge. He has fitted seamlessly into both the team and the wider school community. He has supported many classes across the school and inspired curiosity, nurtured confidence and helped children thrive both academically and personally. His flexibility, positivity and willingness to support wherever needed have made him a valued member of our team, and we thank him for the positive difference he has made during his time at Mile Oak.

Miss Mason has been a dedicated member of our support team for the past two years, providing exceptional individual support for our children. Her commitment to addressing each child's unique needs and ensuring every pupil receives the support necessary to thrive has had a significant impact on both their education and wellbeing. Her kindness, patience and unwavering care have made a real difference to the children she has supported, and she leaves with our sincere thanks and very best wishes.

We thank each of these colleagues for the commitment, compassion and professionalism they have shown during their time at Mile Oak. They have enriched the lives of our children, supported our families and helped shape the warm, nurturing community that we are all so proud of. We wish them every happiness and success in the next chapter of their journeys—they will always remain part of the Mile Oak family.



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As I reflect on the year, I am also reminded just how fortunate I am to work alongside such an exceptional team of people. One of the greatest privileges of being Headteacher is seeing first-hand the dedication, talent and care that our staff bring to school every single day. They continually place children at the heart of every decision, support one another through every challenge and give so much of themselves to make Mile Oak the special place that it is.

From our teachers and teaching assistants to our administrative staff, premises team, lunchtime supervisors and leaders, every member of staff plays an important role in ensuring our children feel safe, valued and inspired to learn. Their commitment to providing the very best opportunities for every child never wavers, and I am incredibly grateful for everything they do. They are a truly brilliant team, and it is a privilege to work alongside them.

Above all, I am immensely proud of our children. They continue to amaze us with their enthusiasm, kindness and determination to do their very best. They embody our values every day and remind us why working in education is such a privilege.

As the summer holidays begin, I hope you all take the opportunity to rest, recharge and spend precious time together as a family. I hope there is time for adventure, laughter and creating special memories, and I encourage our children to keep reading, exploring and asking questions about the world around them.

Children will return to school on **Thursday 3rd September 2026**, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting year at Mile Oak.

Thank you once again for being such an important part of our school community. Every day I am reminded that schools are about people, and I feel incredibly fortunate that the people who make up the Mile Oak community are so kind, supportive and ambitious for our children.

Together, we continue to make Mile Oak a place where children are encouraged to dream big, work hard, care for others and believe in themselves. I cannot wait to see what next year brings as we continue to Think BIG together.

Have a wonderful, safe and restful summer.

With warmest wishes,

Mr. Lording



AMBITION



RESPECT



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COURAGE

LITTLE OAKS NURSERY



We started the term by sharing the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, using it to explore the number 3 and talk about size. Many of the Little Oaks children can now recognise and say they can see 3 in different representations without counting. They are super subitisers! We also used the story to discuss the importance of staying safe, staying with our grown-ups and not wandering off like Goldilocks!

Next, we enjoyed Lunchtime by Rebecca Cobb, a beautifully illustrated story about a little girl and her imaginary animal friends at lunchtime. To help prepare our oldest children for Reception, we practised carrying lunch trays with plates, bowls and cutlery. The children have become very skilled at this, even if there has been the occasional spillage!

We then had great fun learning all about the emergency services. We read Emergency! written by Margaret Mayo and Alex Ayliffe. The children enthusiastically joined in with the repeated refrain: "Call 999- emergency!" and "Help is coming- it's on the way!" Help certainly was on the way, as we welcomed special visits from the Police and Fire Service.



There was great excitement as the children explored the uniforms, police cars and fire engines. Their favourite activity was using the heavy hose to spray a pretend fire. It is safe to say they had a brilliant time!



Our next focus was the Busy People book Doctor. The children loved dressing up and playing doctors in the role play area. We have lots of budding doctors, nurses and paramedics for the future!



LITTLE OAKS NURSERY



Over the past couple of weeks, we have been helping our oldest children get ready for school. Our school role play area has been extremely popular, with children taking turns to be the teacher, helping their friends write their names and practising their letter sounds. They have also enjoyed dressing up in school uniforms and developing their fine motor skills by fastening zips and buttons.

There was great excitement on Reception Information Fair Day when the children found out whether they would be in Ladybird or Dragonfly class! Although they will be in different classes, they will still see lots of each other as they begin their Reception journey.

We finished the term with a lovely teddy bears' picnic, where all the children brought along their favourite teddy. They enjoyed sharing stories and snacks with their home adults before singing our "See You Later, Alligator" farewell song. We then gathered together to say goodbye to our leavers as they graduated, celebrating the beginning of their exciting new adventure in Reception.



We hope all of our children moving on to Reception have a fantastic time and we look forward to welcoming our younger children back to Little Oaks in September.



It has been another fantastic year at Little Oaks and we would like to thank all our families for their continued support. We wish you all a wonderful, safe and happy summer holiday!

... The Little Oaks Nursery Team



A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION

What a wonderful term we have had here in Reception. We have been learning about where we live through our topic 'Here's Looking Around Me'.

Our first stop was Mile Oak itself. We looked at habitats within school, searching for mini-beasts in our garden and at Forest School. We visited the living classroom to see what is growing and living there. Our last adventure around Mile Oak was a visit to Mile Oak Farm. The farm teacher, Hannah, was so kind. She helped us to explore the farm and find out about the animals and the type of farm Mile Oak farm is. Back at school we made maps of our trip around the farm. We shared the story 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson which also has a map of a farm in it.

Next we started to think further afield. We shared a story about all the people who help us in our town during the night, 'All Through the Night' by Polly Faber. This led to many role play adventures of firefighters, police officers, medical staff, construction workers and refuse collectors. We even had visits from the RNLI, the fire and rescue service and the police. We had a great time in the police car and using the fire engine's hose! It was great to think about all the people who help us in our community. We produced wonderful written recounts of the police officer's visit.

Our half term culminated in thinking about our lovely city of Brighton and Hove. We have learnt about ocean pollution using the story 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley' by Sarah Roberts and can talk about how we love our city and want to look after it. We had some fun thinking about pirates and their sea-based adventures, using our imaginations to be pirates ourselves. We also thought about our real seaside and what people like to do when visiting the beach. Our role play areas have turned in to incredibly popular ice cream parlours!

Our final few days brought more fun-filled times. We have taken part in our very first sports day. All the children participated so well, much fun was had by all! Then finally we had the BEST beach party ever! Lots of splashing, games, dancing, fruit tasting, 'mocktails' and an ice cream or two!

We have had a wonderful year. The children have started their learning adventures at Mile Oak School with such enthusiasm and have shown great perseverance and courage. Well done Reception!



... The Reception Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR ONE

What a year! Year 1 have had a very busy year learning about many topics; from animals to explorers, to toys and fairy tales. This term we have wrapped up the year with our topic 'Go Green!' where we have learnt all about plants, growing and the natural world around us.

In Science, we have been learning about different types of flowers and trees as well as naming types of evergreen and deciduous trees. We had great fun collecting, naming and drawing flowers that we found growing around our school and enjoyed using them to make natural art. We also enjoyed taking a trip to Forest School and our Mile Oak garden where we were able to plant our own sunflower seeds! Hopefully these will continue to grow and blossom at home!

In Music we have contained our 'Go Green' topic by learning to sing a growing song: 'Find a little seed!' The children have enjoyed echoing the lines to each other as well as learning what the different sections of the song are called; perhaps the children can sing the chorus to you at home.

In DT, we were able to design and create our own fruit salads! After reading 'Avocado Baby' and 'Oliver's Vegetables' we tasted a range of fruits and chose which ones we liked the most for our fruit salads. We were then able to practice our cutting skills by preparing the fruit ourselves before we got to taste it!

We have also had a busy term of trips and experiences. We were very lucky to visit our local synagogue to develop our understanding of the Jewish religion.

Finally we finished the term with a successful sports day! A massive well done to all of the children for their hard work on sports day. They were all showcasing our school value of ambition and sharing the skills they have been developing in PE.

We have found it a real pleasure to teach all the children in Goldfinch and Starling Class this year and we are very proud of all their achievements. We have seen all the children make great progress and become independent individuals who have a love of learning. We hope every family has a restful summer and we're looking forward to seeing everyone in September!



... The Year 1 Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR TWO



Year 2 have had a lovely half term learning all about 'Beautiful Brighton'! We began our topic by creating some amazing artwork to reflect Brighton beach, including a collage of the pebbles and press printing of both the waves and the West Pier. The children worked so hard on these and were very proud of how fantastically they turned out - there was lots of 'Wow's when they pulled their tiles off and saw their creations come to life!

In Guided Reading, we started by reading 'Seaside Holidays in the Past'. This then helped with our history lessons and therefore meant we could write some brilliant non-chronological reports all about Brighton in the past and present. We also enjoyed reading Cavegirl and Rabbit and Bear, strengthening all of our VIPERs skills. In Maths the children have been learning all about money, 2D and 3D shapes, as well as telling the time. We loved Science Week and getting to test chemical reactions by making our own lava lamps. We also learnt all about the force of gravity by making parachutes. Finally, we tested out how the sun moves around throughout the day and how we can tell this by the position of our shadows. We had the best time showing off our amazing science learning to our parents when they visited for our Science Fair.

We've ended our amazing topic by going on a trip to see our topic in action! We loved our ride on the Volks' Railway and getting to see the famous landmarks we have been learning about in real life. The children represented our school beautifully and all the adults were so proud of them. Everyone coped brilliantly in the 30 degree heat on the scorching seafront!

We are so proud of all of Year 2 and cannot believe it is time to say goodbye to them. We wish them all the best for Year 3 and will miss them very much. Well done Year 2!



... The Year 2 Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR THREE



We have continued with our topic about Ancient Egypt.

We have mummified oranges, to understand - in part! - the intricacies and difficulties of the mummification process. We then used this to develop our understanding of instruction writing.



In Art and DT we are looking at 3D structures - making canopic jars, using the coil pot and pinch pot methods, and making a special box to house a precious Ancient Egyptian artefact, looking at 3D shape and nets, and exploring folding, scoring and joining methods. This will making your way home at the end of term!



Our Guided Reading text, 'Varjak Paw', is rich with plot and descriptive language. The children are becoming very adept at looking for evidence in the text to answer questions. This has been a lengthy text which they have sustained such concentration with and have really enjoyed the plot twists.

In PSHE we continue to reinforce our knowledge of vocabulary for parts of the body, and identifying feelings and expressions of safety. We have discussed relationships, and how to be kind to ourselves.



In PE, the children have all developed their cycling skills, and have impressed us all with their turn taking with partners, and being so encouraging with their peers. They have all excelled in their balance and speed control. In Athletics, we have practiced timings and targets, working in teams.

Learning in Science is about naming reproductive parts of the flower, and seed production and dispersal. We are looking closely at the flowers and seed heads in our grounds, talking about the parts that we can see, their functions, and how the seeds might be dispersed. As part of Science Week, we explored a variety of tasks - Body Maths and Measuring, What mixture makes a Good Bubble, observation drawing of plants, floating and sinking - what is the best shape. We really enjoyed hosting our Science Assembly, and the children impressed us all with their knowledge, singing and presentation skills!



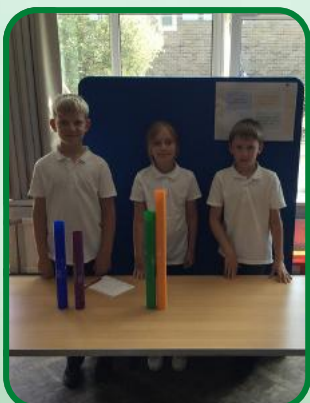
We are talking about our new classes and meeting Year 4 teachers. The children have taken part in transition activities with their new teachers, in the year 4 classrooms.

We are so proud of the children. Thank you, families, so much for supporting our learning this year.



... The Year 3 Team





A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FOUR

We've had a fun-filled and action-packed final term in Year 4!

Our adventures began with an exciting Science Week, which was a real highlight. Linking our learning to the theme Our City, Our World, the children showed great enthusiasm as they carried out experiments exploring the greenhouse effect and even launched their own rockets!

Later in the term, we enjoyed a fantastic trip to Brighton. We started with an inspiring Art Walk along the seafront before visiting the Rampion Visitor Centre, where we learned how the offshore wind turbines were installed and how they help generate clean energy for our local area. The visitor centre is free to visit and open throughout the holidays, so it's well worth a trip if you're nearby.

This term, it was Hazel Class' turn to take part in skateboarding sessions, and they absolutely loved every minute! PE lessons have also been full of energy as the children prepared for Sports Day. Ash Class have enjoyed a huge run of Dance lessons. At the beginning of the term it was great to see so many parents join in a dance lesson with their children - you were all amazing!

Year 4 represented the school brilliantly at Sports Day, demonstrating fantastic teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout. A special congratulations goes to the Year 4 girls' relay team, who won gold at Withdean—a fantastic achievement!

The children have also enjoyed finding out which classes they will be in next year and have taken part in their first transition event. It has been wonderful to see their excitement and growing confidence as they begin looking forward to Year 5.

Throughout the year, the children have shown incredible commitment to improving their times tables, particularly through Times Tables Rock Stars. Their hard work truly paid off as they approached the national Multiplication Tables Check with confidence and achieved some outstanding results. Across all assessments we have seen tremendous progress - Year 4, we are so impressed with all the hard work you have put into your studies this year!

It has been a fantastic year, and we are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved. We hope you all have a wonderful, safe and relaxing summer break, and we wish the children every success as they begin their Year 5 journey in September.



... The Year 4 Team

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FIVE



That's a wrap! What a wonderful year it has been, and what a pleasure it has been to teach the children in Elder and Rowan Class. We are incredibly proud of every single one of them for the courage, ambition and enthusiasm they have shown this term, leading to some truly fantastic learning and memorable experiences.



Our class reader, *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, completely captured the children's imagination and love of reading. The story sparked thoughtful discussions through its links to PSHE, exploring themes such as refugees and migrants and the importance of friendship. Inspired by the narrator's quest to find a ruby-red pomegranate for Ahmet, the children wrote beautifully descriptive market scenes, using rich vocabulary, figurative language and all five senses. We also enjoyed studying Brian Bilston's palindrome poem *Refugee*, which fascinated the children and encouraged some meaningful conversations.



In maths, the children explored the links between fractions, decimals and percentages, developing confidence in converting and comparing them. They also investigated the properties of shape, including angles, perimeter and area, and discovered how these mathematical ideas are used in everyday life.



Science Week was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the half term! The children learned about the importance of flood defences before working brilliantly in teams to design and build their own flood defence systems. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, creativity and Oracy skills and there was plenty of excitement when it came time to put their designs to the test.



After developing their map-reading skills using OS maps, we planned a walking route before heading out on a fantastic field trip across the Downs. Surrounded by the beautiful scenery of the National Park, the children sketched a variety of landscapes while identifying both the human and physical features of our local area. It was a wonderful way to bring our learning to life.

Thank you for all of your support throughout the year. We hope you all have a relaxing, fun-filled and well-deserved summer break. We wish all of our wonderful Year 5 children the very best as they move on to their next adventure—we know they will continue to shine!



... The Year 5 Team

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX



What a fantastic last term the Year 6 children have had! We've spent time in lessons completing our writing transition learning inspired by short stories by various authors from the book 'Happy Here'. This unit saw all children write in two different styles: a poem and a diary and their best piece has been sent to their new secondary school. With transition in mind, our PSHE and Oracy assemblies focused on supporting the children's next step in education, along with RSE lessons on body changes as they go through puberty.

We had an amazing time at The Murder Mystery at the Paramount Casino! The children really looked the part, fully embracing the theme with their outfits. There was plenty of entertainment throughout the event—from card games, singing and dancing to role-playing—and the atmosphere was full of excitement. We were especially impressed with their sleuthing skills; they were truly exceptional little detectives!

The Year 6 summer fair is often a highlight for many of the children in the summer term and this year was no exception. Working together as a whole year group, the children of Sycamore and Blackthorn and created games and stalls for others to take part in. They designed posters, collected prizes, finalised rules and took on the responsibility of running the event. Many adults across the school commented on how calm and inclusive the fair was. We are all really proud of them and they raised a very impressive £508.21. Thank you to parents and carers for helping the children to prepare their games and donate their old toys. The money raised will be donated to Make a Wish Foundation.

Sycamore and Blackthorn had their class trips: Crime Walk around Brighton Laines. The children loved hearing about all the mysteries and gory stories and did fantastically in the quiz at the end, with the winning team receiving medals. We then looked at some graffiti and discussed whether it was art or crime.

Finally, we celebrated all of their achievements this year with the Leaver's Disco. The children danced and sang the night away to their favourite songs and enjoyed some pizza and ice cream.

It is always hard to say goodbye to a group of children, especially at the end of Year 6. There have been so many fond memories. The children worked tirelessly towards their SATs, laughed hard and faced their fears during Residential and Activity Week and challenged themselves to be their best, even when it was tough. We wish them all the best on their next journey and hope they pop in and see us in the future.

GOOD LUCK

... The Year 6 Team



YEAR SIX RESIDENTIAL



Year 6 returned from their epic residential to Blackland Farm full of stories, laughter and perhaps just a tiny bit muddy! From the moment we arrived, the excitement was sky-high—and not just because we were climbing walls, scaling Jacob's Ladder and stacking crates higher than some of us ever thought possible.

The kayaking was great fun—splashing our teachers and falling in! While abseiling tested our nerves, we reached high heights and walked back down to earth in style. In the evenings, we gathered around the campfire for songs and some questionable dance moves—turns out Year 6 can hit the high notes and the heights! Sleeping under canvas brought out our inner adventurers (and expert bug-spotters) and the food kept us fuelled for every challenge—no one went hungry, that's for sure!

It was an unforgettable trip filled with teamwork, courage and a lot of laughter. A huge well done to all the children for throwing themselves (not literally, thankfully) into every activity with such enthusiasm!

... The Year 6 Team



YEAR SIX ACTIVITY WEEK



While some of Year 6 were off braving the wilds of Blackland Farm, the rest of us had our very own action-packed Activity Week—and what a week it was!

We had a day in the forest school using our communication skills to guide our partner blind folded- it was very funny. In the afternoon we chilled with a film and popcorn. We kicked the second day off in style with by some competitive fun at the bowling alley (with some very “creative” bowling techniques on display!). On the third day there was even time for some foot golf, where many discovered that kicking a football into a tiny hole is harder than it looks... but just as hilarious as you'd imagine!

From start to finish, there were smiles, laughter, tired legs and plenty of ice cream—making it a fantastic week of fun, friendship and fresh air.

... The Year 6 Team



A MESSAGE FROM FOREST CLASS



We have loved our topic of animals and have enjoyed learning about habitats.

In our PSHE lessons we have been looking at what keeps us safe and things that help our bodies and minds grow. We started our topic of RSHE and the children have been very mature when learning about bodies.

We have loved coming together to go for a daily walk and spending time together learning games and completing puzzles, we are getting great at these!

In Maths, we have been learning about teen numbers and learning about numbers up to 20. We are looking at how many tens a number has and how many ones.

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 begun up levelling our work by adding adjectives and creating our own sentences! We have been describing our own story scene.

In guided reading we have been reading Alans big scary teeth and looking at sequencing.

We are so incredibly proud of Forest Class, they have works so hard and achieved so much! We say a big goodbye and good luck to two special children who are flying the nest and starting secondary school! You will be amazing and we are so very proud of you! We hope you all have a restful Summer and we will kick start September with our topic out and about.



... The Forest Class Team



PE UPDATE

What a jam-packed half-term it has been! Our children have enjoyed a fantastic range of sporting opportunities throughout the summer term. It has been wonderful to see so many of them trying new activities that they may not usually have the chance to experience, alongside our regular school sporting events.

Some of the highlights have included:

Rackets Festival – Children had the opportunity to learn and develop their skills in tennis, table tennis and squash at Withdean, led by specialist coaches. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and embraced every activity with enthusiasm.

Jolf Experience Day – The children took part in a carousel of exciting golf-based activities and loved every minute. It was a brilliant opportunity to try something new while developing coordination and teamwork.

Withdean Athletics Competition – Selected children from Years 4, 5 and 6 represented Mile Oak in an athletics competition against a number of local schools. They competed brilliantly across sprinting, throwing, long jump and relay events, demonstrating excellent determination, teamwork and sportsmanship. We are incredibly proud to announce that Mile Oak finished third in our division –our highest-ever finish!

Sports Day – What a fantastic two days we had! A huge thank you to all the parents, carers and family members who came along to support the children. Your encouragement created a wonderful atmosphere, and it was fantastic to see so many children succeed and shine across a wide variety of events.

Sports Awards – This year, we expanded our Sports Awards to recognise even more children for their attitude, effort and commitment to physical education and school sport. It was incredibly rewarding to celebrate the hard work, enthusiasm and progress of so many pupils throughout the year.

Finally, thank you for all of your continued support with school sport this year. We simply couldn't provide these fantastic opportunities without your help—whether that's cheering on the children at competitions, transporting them to fixtures, or making sure the kits are washed and ready to go!

It has been another fantastic year of sport at Mile Oak, and we are already looking forward to creating even more exciting opportunities and experiences for our children next year.

Thank you once again, and have a wonderful summer.



... Mr Crellin



PUPIL PARLIAMENT

What a fantastic term it has been for our Pupil Parliament!

Election Week was a real highlight, with children across the school voting for their new Members of Parliament for the coming year. We were so impressed by the thoughtful, passionate and creative manifestos our candidates wrote. It was wonderful to see so many children sharing their ideas about how they could make a positive difference to our school community.

Congratulations to all of our newly elected MPs! We can't wait to see them grow in confidence as they take on their new roles. We know they will embrace our Think Big values by listening carefully to their classmates, sharing their ideas and ensuring that every child's voice is heard.

Another unforgettable highlight this term was our exciting trip to London. The children loved exploring some of the city's most famous landmarks, including Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square, before heading to the incredible Palace of Westminster for the final part of our adventure. Our guided tour of the Houses of Parliament was a truly memorable experience. The children visited both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, learning more about how decisions are made and how democracy works in the UK. The excitement reached another level when we were lucky enough to witness Parliament in session, seeing democracy in action right before our eyes! It was an inspiring experience that brought our learning to life and sparked some fantastic discussions on the journey home.

We are incredibly proud of all the children across the school for the enthusiasm and maturity they have shown in engaging with Pupil Parliament this year. Whether standing as candidates, voting in Election Week or sharing ideas through their class representatives, every child has played an important part in helping to shape our school community. Their confidence, thoughtfulness and commitment to making our school an even better place have been wonderful to see. We are excited to see what our new team of MPs will achieve next year as they continue to represent their classmates and bring forward the fantastic ideas of children across the school.



UK
Parliament



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Autumn 1 Religious Festival Calendar

September			
September & October	Harvest Festival	Christian 	Displays of various foods are made in churches and Sunday schools and services are held to give thanks for the goodness of God's gifts in nature.
11 th -13 th September	Rosh Hashanah	Jewish 	5783 years from the creation of the world, this festival begins ten days of self-examination. The ram's horn (<i>shofar</i>) blown in the synagogue recalls Abraham's sacrifice of a ram instead of his son, Isaac. Apples dipped in honey are eaten in the hope of a 'sweet' new year. The greeting is ' <i>Leshanah Tovah Tikatev</i> ' (may you be inscribed for a good year).
October			
20 th -21 st October	Yom Kippur	Jewish 	The last of the ten days of repentance, this 'Sabbath of Sabbaths' is the holiest day of the Jewish year. It is marked by 'afflicting the soul' – expressed through a total fast 25 hours long. Jews spend the eve and most of the day in prayer, asking for forgiveness for past wrongs and resolving to improve in the future. The Book of Jonah is read.
2 nd 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).
25 th Sept – 2 nd October	Sukkot	Jewish 	This harvest festival recalls the 40 years the Jews spent in the wilderness on the way from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. A temporary hut or booth – called a <i>sukkah</i> – is used for eating meals and for visits and socialising. The roof, which has to be open in part to the elements, is covered with branches and decorated with fruit.

NEXT HALF TERM

Topics for Autumn 1

Reception - Here's Looking Around Me

Year 1 - Out and About

Year 2 - London's Burning

Year 3 - The Stone Age

Year 4 - The Tudors and Explorers

Year 5 - Ancient Greeks

Year 6 - Vikings

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 1

Reception: Monkey and Me and Owl Babies: Oh Dear

Year 1: On Sudden Hill, Ruby's Worry and Town Mouse Country Mouse

Year 2: The Great Fire of London- 350th Anniversary Edition and Vlad and the Great Fire of London

Year 3: The Stone Age Hunters Gatherers and Woolly Mammoths

Year 4: Kings, Queens, Scribes and Ferrets

Year 5: Percy Jackson and the Lightning thief

Year 6: Beowulf and Viking Boy



IMPORTANT DATES

September

Tues 01.09.26 INSET Day
 Wed 02.09.26 INSET Day
 Thurs 03.09.26 Children return to school
 Thurs 03.09.26 Little Oaks remains closed
 Thurs 03.09.26 Reception starters Parent/Teacher consultations
 Fri 04.09.26 Little Oaks children return to nursery
 Fri 04.09.26 Year 6 - Blacklands parent talk 3:30pm
 Wed 09.09.26 Year 5 Greek workshop - onsite
 Fri 18.09.26 Year 6 Viking workshop - onsite
 Thurs 24.09.26 Year 4 Hampton Court Palace Trip
 Thurs 24.09.26 Year 1 & 2 Great Fire of London workshop - onsite
 Thurs 24.09.26 Welcome to Year 1 & 2 - Parent Presentation
 Fri 25.09.26 Year 3 Forest School
 Fri 25.09.26 PACA to visit Year 6 - onsite
 Fri 25.09.26 Year 3 Parent Reading Meeting - Time TBC
 Tues 29.09.26 Reception Reading Talk - 9:00am

October

Thurs 01.10.26 Reception Reading Talk - 2:30pm
 Wed 07.10.26 Flu Nasal Spray - Whole school
 Wed 07.10.26 Reception Starters 27/28 School Tour 6:00pm-7:00pm
 Thurs 08.10.26 Little Oaks Welcome to Nursery Event 3:00pm-4:00pm
 Thurs 23.10.26 Mile Oak Book Swap
 Fri 23.10.26 Last Day of Term

2026-2027 Term Dates

Autumn Term: September 3rd 2026 - December 18th 2026
 (Half term Week: October 26th - October 30th)
 INSET Days (school closed to children) September 01st/02nd

Spring Term: January 6th 2027 - March 25th 2027
 (Half Term Week: February 15th - February 19th)
 INSET Days (school closed to children) January 4th/5th

Summer Term: April 13th 2027 - July 21st 2027
 (Half Term Week: May 31st - 04th June)
 INSET Days (school closed to children) April 12th



MILE OAK SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Mile Oak Primary School

"THINK BIG"

Safeguarding Team



*Mr Lording,
Headteacher (DSL)*



*Mr Cosgrove,
Deputy Headteacher (DSL)
Designated Teacher for Children
in Care/Previously in Care*



*Mrs Larter,
Family Champion (DSL)*



*Mrs Turner,
Governor for Safeguarding and
Designated Teacher for Children
in Care/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.

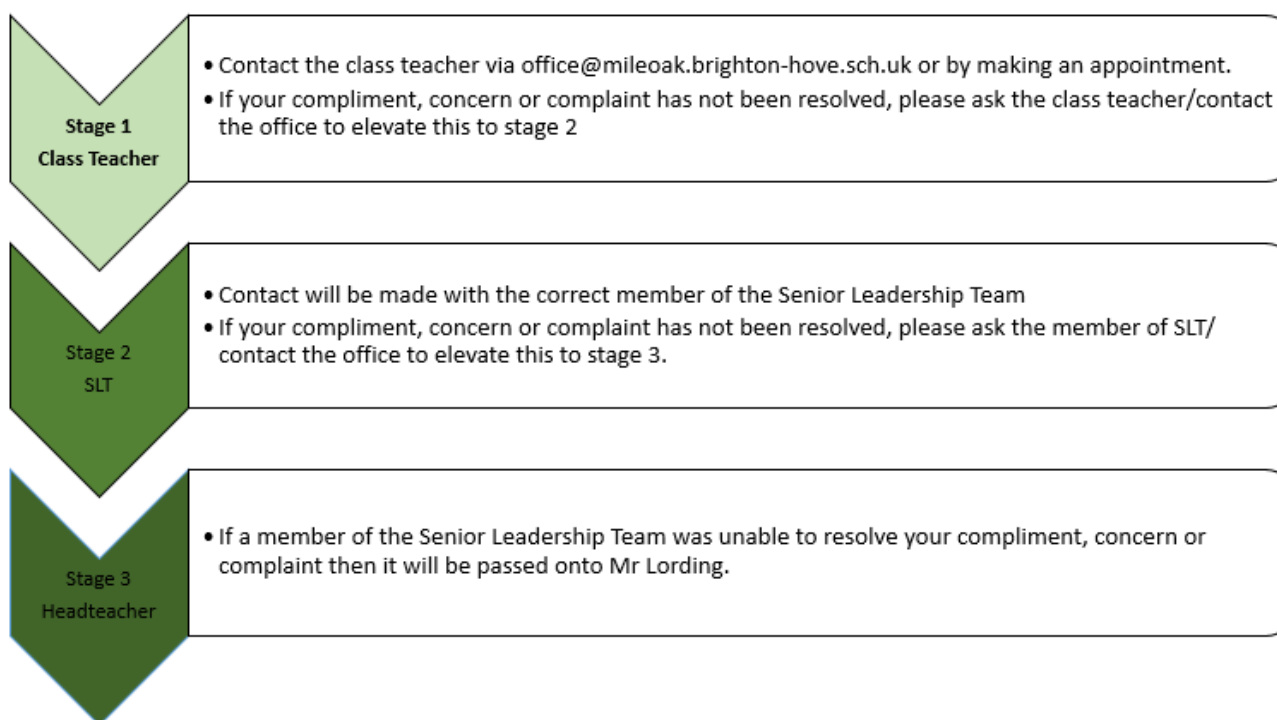
Once initial communication has been made, staff will respond within 2 working days. If a face-to-face meeting is required, the relevant member of staff will make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

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>