

Mile Oak is currently on an important journey to becoming an anti racist school. We are working with Brighton and Hove council and our local community to challenge all forms of racism. Alongside this, we are supporting our children to learn about and celebrate the cultures within our school and across the world.

Sadly, we saw a significant rise in the number of racist incidents taking place within the school last term. Every incident is a moment of trauma for our children of colour. Every reported incident is dealt with following an agreed procedure to listen, act, record and review.

This term, all children will be learning about heritages around the world through the PSHE curriculum. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to be curious and to celebrate the diversity within our own school.

Children start to notice racial differences as young as six months old, they are never too young for an age appropriate discussion about race.

Some simple ways that children can learn about race and difference at home would be:

- Regularly talk to your child about differences in a positive way. For example, whilst reading a book – “this little girl has beautiful dark skin, while you have beautiful light skin” “all skin colours are beautiful and we are all different and unique.”
- If your child points to someone in the street and says something about their appearance being different to their own, for example their hair texture. You can have a chat with them about how all people have different hair textures, hair styles, hair colours. No two people are the same.
- Review the toys your children has. Do they have dolls that look like them and some that don't. If they don't play with the dolls that don't look like them, encourage this play. Does your child only have access to books featuring white main characters? Do they watch programmes featuring a range of ethnicities and cultures?

This half term saw the start of our weekly group for children of colour in Year 5 and 6. This is a safe space which allows children to share their experiences of school and allows us to hear their voice in the work that we are carrying out.

In our first session, some of the children learnt for the first time that there are more people of colour globally (85%) than white people and a term we sometimes use is ‘global majority’.

Following this, the children chose their own group name which reflected this learning.

The Mile Oak Majority



Think
Big!

MILE OAK NEWSLETTER



FRIDAY 09TH FEBRUARY 2024

Spring 1 Newsletter



Dear families,

We have already reached the end of a very busy half term. As always, our children have been the stars and there has been so much progress and achievement to celebrate.

Our children continue to be immersed in a creative and personalised curriculum offer. This is supplemented with our wide-ranging educational visits programme for all year groups. Just this term we have had visits to the Mandir, the Mosque, Fishbourne Palace and the toy museum. In addition, we have held dragon and circus skills workshops at the school and had several local area walks. Our children have been incredible ambassadors for the school and we have received glowing feedback from members of the community. Thank you to parents who have volunteered for these visits.

Over the last six weeks, we have had a number of Brighton and West Sussex schools visit Mile Oak to learn from our work across the curriculum and our whole school approaches. We have shared our work on Maths, Reading, Writing, Phonics and behaviour. It is a privilege to support other schools and demonstrates the exceptional work that continues to take place at Mile Oak.

We would like to welcome back Mrs Down from maternity leave. She has very much been missed by the school community and has now returned to her role as Assistant Headteacher.

Thank you to all the parents who have attended the year group topic shares. It has been wonderful to celebrate your child's learning and progress with you and we saw so many proud faces.

We hope you all enjoyed a well deserved half term break with the chance to recharge the batteries and spend time together as families.

Mr. Lording



AMBITION



RESPECT



PRIDE



COURAGE



LITTLE OAKS NURSERY



We returned after the festive break ready for another action packed half-term in the nursery. We have been enjoying new equipment purchased to develop physical skills for climbing and balancing and using Fox Room - a new space created for small group work, music sessions and as somewhere quiet for our youngest children to rest or sleep.

We have been enjoying lots of walks to Forest School and using this time to make collections of leaves and sticks to make patterns and comparisons. The children love going on walks around the school site, having chats about nature and their environment and it has been great to have some lovely students from Varndean College helping in the nursery while they study for their qualifications.

We have been exploring Emotions and Feelings using the books 'Sometimes I Feel Sunny' and 'Wiggle'. Singing 'If You're Happy and you Know it', copying the movements made by the dog in Wiggle and enjoying the humour of the book. The children have been talking to each other about what makes them happy and sad and why they sometimes feel a bit cross.

The snow that fell in early January created a great deal of excitement and fun! Some of the children had never seen snow before and it was lovely for the nursery team to be with them to share this experience.

Maths is everywhere and we have been developing our skills by comparing and matching and singing numbers songs: One finger, one thumb, keep moving and One, two, buckle my shoe.

Our final story for this half term, 'One Ted falls out of bed' promotes more opportunities to sing together - Teddy bear, teddy Bear, turn around has been a real favourite! We have also been making beds for our nursery teddies and looking after them in the home corner.

Lots of lovely friendships are being formed in the nursery and the new children that started with us at the beginning of January are settling in beautifully. We are all looking forward to more adventures during the rest of the spring term and we hope you all have a great half-term holiday.

... The Little Oaks Nursery Team

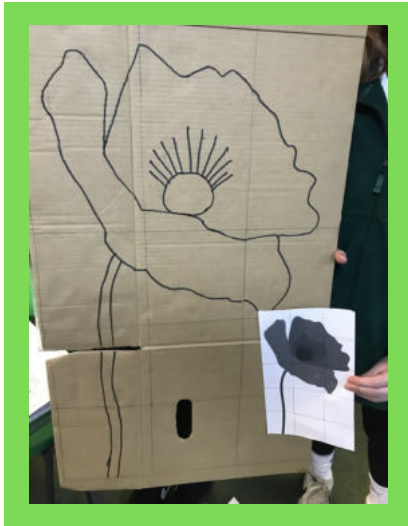
LEARNING MENTORS

The Learning Mentors are delighted to share the news that the school garden won second place in a national competition to find the best community garden; we entered last term and were recently informed by the organisers of the 'Cultivation Street' competition that we won £500!

The prize money will go a long way towards the purchase of much needed gardening resources, equipment, plants, seed and compost. A big thank you to all the eager gardeners from across year groups who have helped with digging, sowing, weeding, watering and harvesting; our living classroom is officially one of the best in the UK and we are looking forward to warmer spring weather bringing green shoots and new growth in 2024.



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX



Year 6 have had a great start to the New Year. They have got into the 'Year 6' routine and know that we have high expectations of their learning which they are rising to as they have a thirst for knowledge.

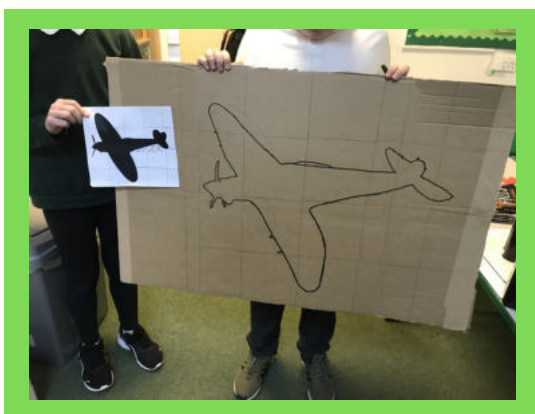
English - For writing we took inspiration from the first line of our new reading book and wrote a story about an evacuee leaving London for the countryside. The children's focus was to ensure there was plenty of description of the scenes and the emotional turmoil the characters faced at this time, in the form of similes, metaphors and personification.

The next writing was based on a short film clip called Beyond the Lines which depicts the D-Day landings. From this, the children wrote letters, as soldiers, to loved ones back home about their D-Day experience and the subsequent events that followed. To gain a better understanding we have listened to real D-Day survivors' memories.

Maths - We have been delving into fractions, decimals and percentages over the last five weeks. This has included lots of new learning which the children have been extremely resilient with. They have shown excellent reasoning skills in making links between the three different areas.

They have particularly enjoyed learning about percentages and seeing how it is important in everyday life. Impressively, they have developed lots of different efficient strategies for finding different percentages of amounts. We are very proud of both the progress they have made this term and their attitude to improving themselves.

Art - For the spring term, the children have been looking at the work of Lubaina Himid who is known for her 2D sculpture installations. She is a contemporary artist who uses her art to convey important messages. From the pictures, you can see that our theme is Remembrance of those brave people who have protected us during wars.



Reading - Our new book focus is called When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle. It follows the story of an angry boy from Yorkshire who has been thrust into the care of a stern Mrs F. who runs a zoo in London during the Blitz. The zoo still has many animals but one in particular is an aging silver-back gorilla whom our boy takes a strong dislike to. We will continue this book into next term.

We would like to say thank you for your continued support at home.

... The Year 6 Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FIVE



Throughout this short half term, the children in Year 5 have been filled with excitement and learning as they delved into the wonders of space! We launched our Space topic by finding out what the children already knew about our world and beyond. We were amazed by their knowledge and the interesting facts they shared. Did you know that it takes Saturn 29 years to orbit the sun?

Our class reader - *The Story of the Blue Planet* - has allowed us to explore issues such as climate change and equality. We've extended the children's learning in these areas by researching inspirational characters such as Greta Thunberg and Maya Angelou.

The book has also influenced our writing; including a wonderful narrative story about an alien landing on Mars, and most recently, a persuasive letter. Ask your child why the nail should be removed from the sun. They are very passionate about this!

We have also embarked on an enriching expedition to PACA library. Armed with curiosity and a hunger for knowledge, the children explored the treasure trove of books that lined the shelves.



Students from PACA were on hand to guide them through the vast collection, helping our young learners discover fascinating stories, historical adventures, and scientific wonders. They also took a moment to read together and share that love of a good book!



Within maths we have been developing our multiplication skills with enthusiasm and determination. From factors, multiples, square and prime numbers our children are developing a strong foundation in this fundamental operation which is supporting these young mathematicians with their ability to solve real world mathematical problems. We even have some Rock Legends in our midst. Please encourage your child to keep practising this essential mathematical skill at home by playing TTRS for 30 minutes a week.

Motivated by the sculptor Alexander Calder, who created the first mobile incorporating movement and space, our budding artists unleashed their imagination by crafting mesmerising space mobiles using recycled materials. The classrooms now boast a celestial display of creativity and sustainability!



... The Year 5 Team

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FOUR



It has been a great start to 2024 in Year 4. We embraced the New Year with our new topic The Romans. This is a really interesting topic which always gets the children excited about their learning. On the first day back, children were 'conscripted' into the Roman army, they had to learn all about a Roman soldier's equipment and clothing, including their Latin names! We then practised marching around the playground while following Latin marching orders. In the afternoon, we learned that it was the Romans who gave us the calendar we use today. To celebrate this fact and the New Year, we made these pop-up calendars which also show a famous Roman landmark – the colosseum.

We have gone on to learn about where the Romans fit in with other periods of history already covered. We have also found out how their empire expanded to include Britain and how many attempts it took before they successfully invaded this country.

In our Reading lessons, we have been reading Iliona, The Diary of a Roman Slave. This book has given us lots of information about what life was like to live in Roman times and we have also explored the issue of slavery.

We based one of our writing units on this book and wrote diary entries from the perspective of Iliona's brother, Apollo. We have also been enjoying writing non-chronological reports about Roman gods.

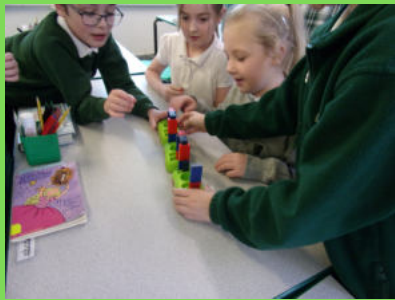
In Science, we have been applying our learning about states of matter to help us understand the Water Cycle. We set up these water cycle in-a-bag experiments, which let us see the processes of evaporation, condensation and precipitation in our classrooms.

After that, the children got very excited to learn about electrical circuits. We enjoyed making bulbs light up for the first time. We were presented with the problem of Maddy's grandad who wanted to make a model railway but did not know which materials to use. The children used the circuits to test which materials would conduct electricity and which would insulate and wrote letters to Maddy explaining their results.

... The Year 4 Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR THREE



This term we have been thinking about and studying our locality. We have thought about how privileged we are to be so close to The Downs and to the seaside. We have particularly studied Mile Oak and Portslade and looked at how buildings change their use and how they look over time. We were lucky enough to have a walk and talk from the local historical society at the end of term. We looked carefully at buildings that we might pass-by regularly and considered the stories they might tell.

The topic about 'Our Locality' has inspired us to sketch and make collages of our surrounding areas. Taking inspiration from other artists, including Matisse, we thought carefully about the composition of our finished piece. We then used magazines to carefully choose colours and textures to complete our collage picture.

Year 3 have produced their best writing yet. We have been using a short film called 'Home Sweet Home' to inspire the retelling of part of the story. We have consolidated the use of expanded noun phrases and are beginning to think about the use of speech between two characters.

We have also been enjoying studying 'Tilly and the Time Machine'. Tilly goes on an adventure in her father's time machine and meets all sorts of historical characters. It has been fun to meet Admiral Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar and have tea with Queen Victoria.

To keep ourselves healthy and fit we are learning how to play Netball and the skills needed for Gymnastics. In netball we are focusing on different passes; recognising that it is an invasion game and how to work as a team. In gymnastics we have been developing our skills in balancing and jumping.

In Science this term, we have been learning about forces. We have investigated whether it makes a difference whether a magnet is large or small. We have learnt that magnets have a North and South and that they can attract and repel each other. During one lesson, we used magnets to discover what type of materials were magnetic or non-magnetic. During our forces lessons, we also measured force using a Newton meter and investigated whether a bumpy surface makes a difference to how many Newtons were needed to move a shoe. We found out that a bumpy surface causes more resistance and that this is called friction.

... The Year 3 Team

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR TWO



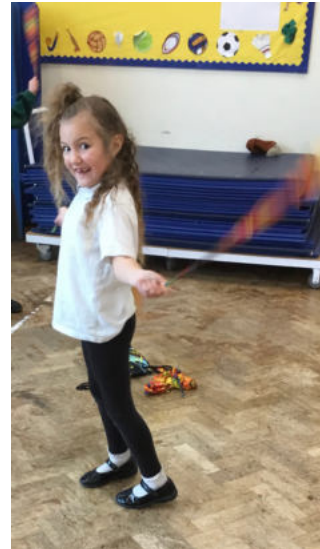
Year 2 have had a fantastic start to 2024 and all the adults are so proud of them! We have thoroughly enjoyed our 'Ice, Ice, Baby!' topic.

Our Guided Reading texts this half term have been The Snow Dragon and Winter's Child.

All children have been so engaged in most of these stories and have drawn some brilliant vocabulary linking to fire and ice from them. We have even seen lots of this vocabulary in their writing in other lessons. We have also been using our inference skills to read between the lines of the text and come up with some brilliant ideas on the thoughts and feelings of the characters.

In DT this half term we have created some amazing penguin puppets which include a pivot point and push lever. The children loved making these and were very impressed with how realistic they looked! We are sure all parents were very impressed when they brought them home.

We started off our English in 2024 by writing some poetry using our fantastic ice description skills, including using similes and expanded noun phrases. We then used our Snow Dragon knowledge to retell the part of the story that we know and then we made up our own resolutions and endings! The children had some fantastic ideas and were very creative with how the story ended. Finally, this week we have written some detailed instructions on how to create a penguin puppet.



In maths we began by consolidating our addition and subtraction skills. We then moved on to multiplication and have now become experts in the 2s, 5s and 10 times tables. It would be amazing if they could practise this at home on TTRS or hit the button to further improve this.

We have looked at different representations and using known facts to work out unknown questions.



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR TWO



In RE we have introduced the religion of Islam. We consolidated the idea of commitment to praying 5 times a day by visiting a Mosque in Hove. We got to observe the washing routine before prayer and some of us even got to have a go ourselves! We had so much fun and even loved the bus journeys there and back too!

We also had a fun workshop learning circus skills. We got to experiment with lots of different circus equipment and practise balance and movement.

In Geography we learnt about hot and cold areas of the world and which animals live in them. This linked to our Science learning where we learnt about how animals adapt to their habitats. We also learnt about the food chain of a penguin and British habitats.



Finally, in PSHE we have learnt all about keeping healthy. We discussed what it means to be healthy and how we can change our routines. We also discussed medicines and managing risks. Our last lessons have been on mental health and wellbeing and creating sleep routines. Why not ask your child what makes a good bedtime?

We are so excited about our next topic 'The Great Outdoors' where we will begin with our new text The Snail and the Whale. We hope that all of Year 2 have a well-deserved, relaxing half term!

... The Year 2 Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR ONE



What a great start to 2024! Starling and Goldfinch classes have loved immersing themselves into our 'Toys' topic.

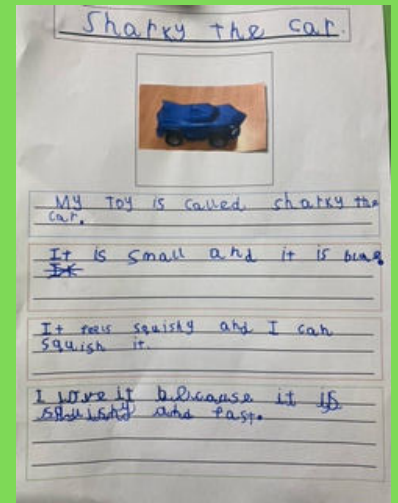
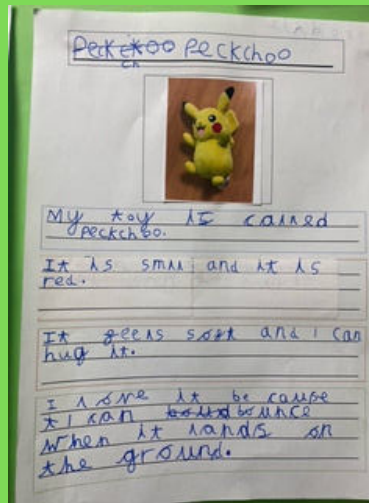
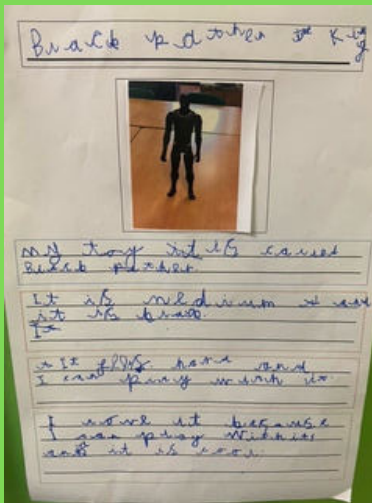
In Guided Reading we have been reading the texts 'Something Else' and 'Nothing'. We have been using our VIPERS reading skills to predict what will happen in the text, infer how the characters are feeling and sequence the stories. We have also been retrieving lots of adjectives from the stories that we can use to help us describe our own toys in our English lessons.

This half term we have continued working on our Year 1 "writing rules" within English, especially our capital letters. We have also been learning lots about adjectives. We have been practising putting adjectives into our fact file writing so that the reader can visualise what we are writing about. We have even tried to up level our vocab changing words like 'big' to 'huge', 'massive' or 'giant'! We have really enjoyed both writing a fact file about our own toys, and a set of instructions on how to make a new toy.

To consolidate the learning of our 'Toys' topic we visited Hove Toy Museum. We were so lucky to learn all about the old toys and even had a chance to play with them too. Aswell as visiting the Toy Museum we also got a chance to bring in our own toys! Our teachers loved meeting our toys from home and the toys enjoyed their day in school too!

We have also linked in our learning about toys into our History lessons. We have been identifying what makes a toy old and what makes it new; we have discovered that old toys are made of different materials and are often made by hand instead of in factories. After our trip to the Hove Toy Museum we spent time considering what bedrooms in the past looked like compared to the present and even drew what toys we have in our bedroom!

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR ONE



In Maths we have been practising using 'part, part whole' models, cherry models and bar models. We have looked at how we can add multiple parts together and we have begun to look at what happens to a whole number when we take something away. We have also been looking at odd and even numbers. Ask us what happens when we add two odd numbers together? What about two even numbers? What about if we add an odd and an even number together? We are becoming real experts.

We have also enjoyed our PSHE topics this half term! We have been learning all medicines and how to make sure they are taken and stored safely. We turned our classroom in a doctors and we prescribed medicines to all of our patients. It was children's mental health week from the 5th to 11th of February, the theme was "My Voice Matters" so we spent time thinking about our mental health and wellbeing. We have discussed what things we can do to make sure we look after our mental health and we have discussed what we can do if we are feeling strong emotions.

Thank you to all the adults that came to our BIG MAKE event- what fantastic puppets the children were able to make! The children really enjoyed having a grown up join them to help with their DT project. We have really enjoyed seeing the process of the children design their split pin puppet, create their puppet and then evaluate what it was like to play with!

We hope you all have a relaxing half term and are excited for our next topic 'Around the World!'.
 ... The Year 1 Team

A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION



'There's no business like show business!' What a great half term! We have had such an exciting, sparkly and magical time exploring the world of show business. We kicked off the term with an amazing session being wowed by Crouchy the magician. We used his memorable show to produce our first piece of extended writing, and what great writers we are! We have learnt some tricks too and have been magicians ourselves in our classroom stage areas.

The term continued with another element of performing-the circus. Juggling, balancing, twisting and turning our way with a mesmerising circus workshop inspiring our developing physical skills and further feeding our imaginations. We have been rehearsing our circus skills in our outdoor area.

'I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down!' growled the big bad wolf. Storytelling was our next theme. Using the traditional tale of three brave pigs we became narrative experts with wonderful dramatic phrases coming through our small world play.



We even became authors of our very first books. We can't wait to share them with you!



The Mile Oak Talent show allowed us to be impressed by the many talents of the staff and children in the older classes. All of these wonderful experiences have helped us to develop our self-confidence and imaginations, allowing us to express ourselves on our indoor and outdoor stages. There have been many great performances, and plenty of encouragement, cheers and applause for our friends.



A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION



Our term draws to a close with a cultural twist as we learnt about the customs of Lunar New Year. Drawing our knowledge of other celebrations together, we were able to talk about the similarities and differences of this colourful festival to others we have explored. Our dragon and lion dancing added further performances to our stage areas.

We loved our dragon dancing experience at the end of term. It allowed us to see a real-life performer in action and gave us the experience needed to be drummers and dancers ourselves. We even wrote class poems about the way the dragons moved.

All our performing arts experiences have been supported by so many wonderful stories. Circus Girl, Wolf Won't Bite, The Diddle That Dumbled, Flyaway Katie and Life is Magic were all enjoyed together and explored through our learning environments.

Our next topic is called 'Near and Far'. We will be learning through the excitement of travel to new places and via various forms of transport. It's going to be an adventure into many new places, through languages, food and animals native to the places we will virtually visit.

Thank you for your continued support. Remember to name everything your child brings into school and keep going with all the wonderful reading support at home. It's making a huge impact on your child's reading development.








Have a wonderful, restful break.

... The Reception Team












RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Spring 2 Religious festival calendar

February			
13 th 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'.
14 th February	Ash Wednesday	Christian 	This first day of Lent recalls the temptations Jesus faced for forty days in the wilderness.
14 th February	Sarasvati Puja	Hindu 	Widely celebrated in North India, this festival marks the beginning of spring. For Hindus it is usually linked with Saraswati, the goddess of learning and the arts. Yellow is her associated colour.
15 th 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.
14 th February - 28 th March	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.
24 th February	Chinese Lantern Festival		The Lantern Festival marks the first full moon of the year and the lengthening of the days. Strings of lanterns in various designs are hung up indoors and outside as decoration.
24 th February	Magha Puja	Buddhist 	This is a celebration in honour of the Buddhist community. It remembers when Buddha taught the main principles of the Dharma and set out his teachings. The day is observed with meditation, chanting and the reaffirmation of people's commitment to Buddhist practice.
24 th February	Lailat-UI- 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Spring 2 Religious festival calendar

March			
1 st March	St David's Day	Christian National 	This is the anniversary of the death of St David, the 6th Century patron saint of Wales.
8 th March	Maha Shivratri	Hindu 	This festival is dedicated to Shiva, one of the deities of the Hindu Trinity. Devotees of Shiva observe a fast during Maha Shivratri and stay up all night at a place of worship.
11 th 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.
17 th March	St Patrick's Day	Christian / National 	The patron saint of Ireland, who lived in Britain in the 4th century CE, became a priest and set out to evangelise the Irish. His symbol is the shamrock, sprigs of which are worn on this day.
24 th March	Palm Sunday	Christian 	This is the first day of Holy Week, when Christians remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. In many churches the entry is commemorated by processions, with the congregation carrying symbolic branches of trees, or palm leaves folded in the form of a cross.
24 th March	Holy Week	Christian 	The most solemn week of the Christian year, in which Christians recall the events of the week in which Jesus was crucified.
28 th March	Maundy Thursday	Christian 	Christians remember the Last Supper when Jesus blessed bread and wine and commanded his disciples to remember him whenever they did this.
29 th March	Good Friday	Christian 	This day commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus. Meditative services are held in church to mark the time that Jesus spent on the cross.
31 st March	Easter Day	Christian 	Easter Day is the most important festival of the Christian year, as it is when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Many Easter traditions, such as the giving of chocolate Easter eggs symbolise the gift of new life.



OUR CITY, OUR WORLD

We are delighted that this term we have begun the process of making our curriculum, campus and community more sustainable. This term our focus is **Energy**.

So far, we have:

Carried out an audit of what we do as a school in our premises and agreed actions to improve this.

Arranged for the installation of new solar panels – see below

Begun to ‘green’ our curriculum.

Held assemblies about Energy, where it comes from and how this process can contribute to climate change.

Taken part in Switch Off Fortnight – more information below.

Run a logo competition to remind people to switch off.

During Switch Off Fortnight, we asked the children to remind us to:

Switch off lights when they are not being used.

Turn off devices fully so they are not running on ‘standby’.

Turn the heating down by a degree or two (think about putting on a jumper or grabbing a blanket!)



New Solar Panels

To help make our buildings more sustainable, we will soon be installing 165 solar panels on the school roof, adding to the solar panels that we already have.

By combining our solar panels with a battery, the school will be able to meet 90% of our electricity needs each year with renewable energy from the sun!

Brighton & Hove Energy Services Co-operative (BHESCo) are arranging for the solar panels to be installed and paid for. The new solar panels are being financed by the local community as part of a wider ‘Solar for Schools’ programme.

We hope that our solar panels will be a great inspiration to our students, demonstrating that a sustainable world is not only possible, but it is happening.

After Easter, our focus for the term will be biodiversity.

... Mr Harris

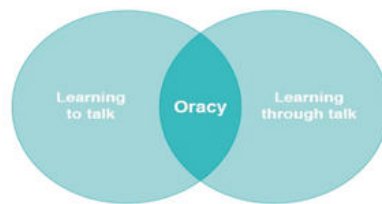


ORACY EDUCATION: MILE OAKS JOURNEY SO FAR

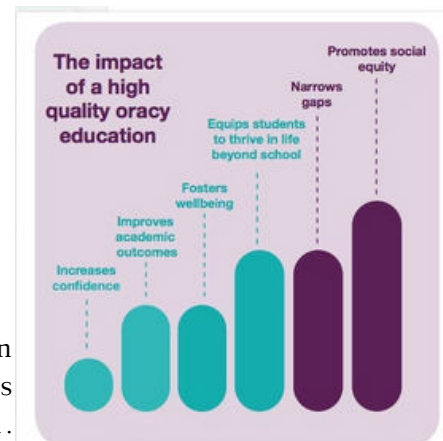
Developing our children's communication and language skills has long been a priority at Mile Oak Primary School. Our whole school Oracy project, builds on our existing developments, to ensure our children learn to see their voice as important, now and in the future, and have the confidence to articulate themselves and be heard.

Not only is language comprehension an essential skill for learning to read, and then reading to learn, strong communication and language skills are the key to emotional literacy, social interactions and the entire curriculum. Oracy promotes social equity leading to a fairer society where everyone, regardless of social background, finds their voice for success in school and life.

What is Oracy?



The best oracy teaching and learning takes place at the centre of this Venn, when students have opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding through talk, but when they are also taught the skills to do this effectively.



Voice 21

Working with the expertise of Voice 21 - the UK's Oracy education charity- we are now part of a movement of over 900 schools across the UK who are transforming teaching and learning through talk. Voice 21's mission is to transform the learning and life chances of young people - especially those that need it the most - through talk, so that children can use their voice for success in school and life.

The charity also actively campaigns for Oracy to gain a higher status in the education system. Comprehensive training and support is being provided for teachers and school leaders to embed Oracy deliberately and explicitly into our teaching practices and across our curriculum.

What will we be doing?

- Talk will be valued and teachers will have high expectations for talk and listening
- We will ensure our children experience quality interactions daily
- We will encourage children to use talk and communication strategies to regulate their feelings and emotions
- Children will be learning about the different strands of Oracy to understand how to be effective speakers and listeners
- Children will be given tools and scaffolds to ensure they feel confident to contribute effectively to discussions
- Teachers will be planning for talk and ensuring we provide quality opportunities for talk across contexts
- We will be engaging in continuing professional development in order to develop our knowledge and practice
- We will continue to ensure developing communication and language skills across the Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception), is front and centre of our practice
- We will be seeking the support of families and developing the opportunities you have in school, to talk for different purposes with your children
- We will be developing a positive culture for talk, outside of the classroom - think assemblies, lunch/ play time and special events

We want all our children to be autonomous talkers that are truly heard every day and know the value in their voice. If you would like to support our aims, be involved with the project or would just like to know more, please contact Holly Taylor, through the school office.

... Miss Taylor

NEXT HALF TERM

Topics for Spring 2

Reception - Near and Far

Year 1 - Around the World

Year 2 - The Great Outdoors

Year 3 - European Countries - The UK and France

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 2

Reception The Queen's Hat: Steve Anthony, Everybody Bonjours: Leslie Kimmelman, I Want My Hat Back: John Klassen

Year 1: The Way Back Home: Oliver Jeffers, Night Pirates: Peter Harris

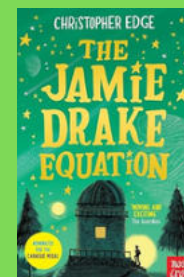
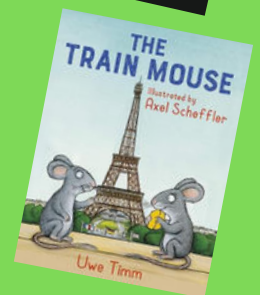
Year 2: The Snail and the Whale: Julia Donaldson, One Plastic Bag: Miranda Paul

Year 3: The Train Mouse: Uwe Timm

Year 4: Revolt Against the Romans: Tony Bradman

Year 5: The Jaime Drake Experience: Christopher Edge

Year 6: When Sky Falls: Phil Earle



February

Mon 19.02.24 Children return to School

Tues 20.02.24 Year 6 Take Shelter Trip

Wed 21.02.24 Year 5 Swimming - Rowan Class

Wed 28.02.24 Year 5 Swimming - Rowan Class

Thurs 29.02.24 Year 5 visit Herstmonceux

March

Mon 04.03.24 Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 African Drumming Workshop

Wed 06.03.24 Reception - Breakfast and Book Event

Wed 06.03.24 Year 5 Swimming - Rowan Class Last session

Thurs 07.03.24 World Book Day

Mon 11.03.24 to Tues 19.03.24 Year 5 Bikeability

Tues 12.03.24 Year 3 visit PACA Library - Class to be confirmed

Tues 12.03.24 Year 5 Swimming - Elder Class

Thurs 14.03.24 Year 3 visit PACA Library - Class to be confirmed

Fri 15.03.24 Year 4 - Hazel Class visit PACA Library

Tues 19.03.24 Reception - Reptylers Visit

Tues 19.03.24 Year 5 Swimming - Elder Class

Tues 19.03.24 Parent Consultations

Wed 20.03.24 Let's Dance Performance at The Dome

Thurs 21.03.24 Reception - Dental Nurse Visit

Thurs 21.03.24 Parent Consultations

Fri 22.03.24 Rocksteady Concert

Tues 26.03.24 Year 4 visit Church of the Good Shepherd

Tues 26.03.24 Year 5 Swimming - Elder Class

Thurs 28.03.24 Last Day of Term



MILE OAK SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Mile Oak Primary School

"THINK BIG"

Safeguarding Team



*Mr Lording
Headteacher*

*Designated Safeguarding Lead
Teacher for Children in Care
and previously in Care*



*Mrs Larter
Family Champion
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead*



*Ms Wilks
Assistant Headteacher
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead*



*Mrs Foster
Learning Mentor*



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

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

Front Doors for Families

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

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

Email: FrontDoorforFamilies@brighton-hove.gov.uk

COMMUNICATION

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

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

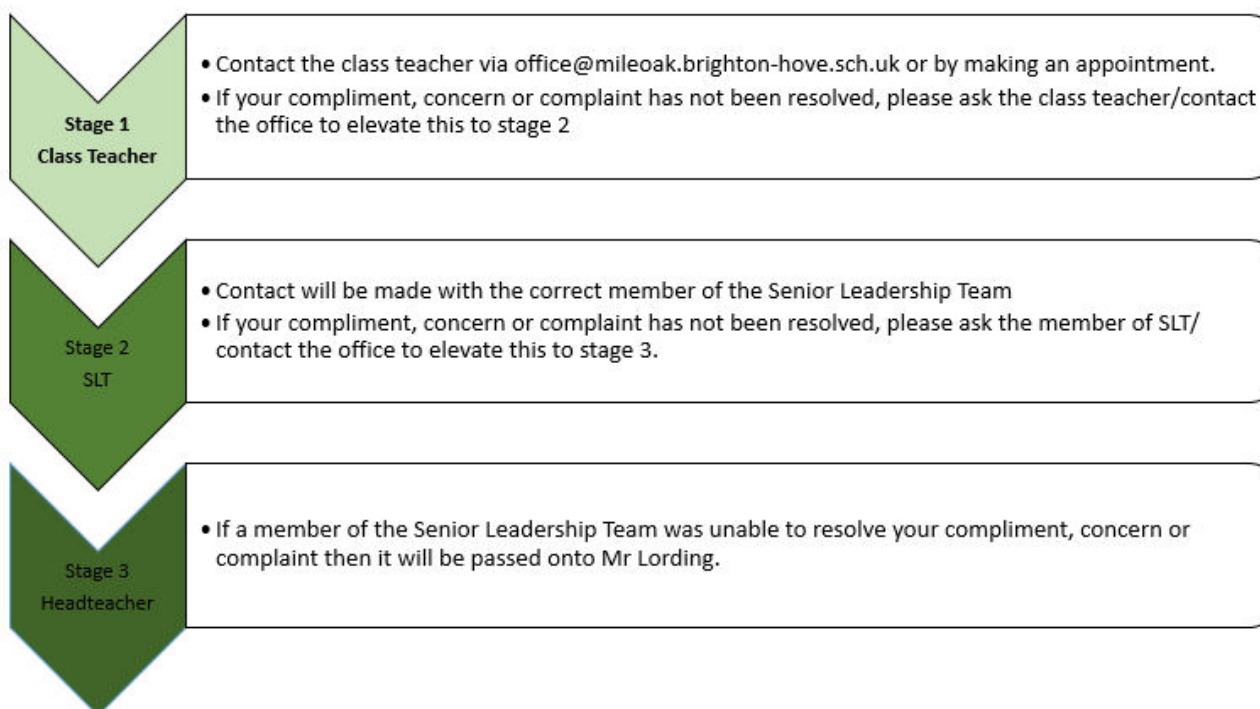
Once initial communication has been made, staff will respond within 2 working days. If a face-to-face meeting is required, the relevant member of staff will make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

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

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

Communications Protocol

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



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



01273 077114



office@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk



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