



# MILE OAK NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 28TH MARCH 2024

*Spring 2 Newsletter*



Dear Families,

As we come to the end of the spring term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the past few months and extend my gratitude to you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education at Mile Oak.

First and foremost, I want to commend our pupils for their hard work, positivity and dedication throughout this term. They have demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination, both in the classroom and beyond. Their enthusiasm for learning and their desire to live the school values have been truly inspiring. As we look ahead to the remainder of the school year, I encourage our children to continue setting high standards for themselves and to positively approach each day and the opportunities provided. There are still many exciting events, trips and challenges awaiting us in the summer term along with a bit of sunshine... hopefully!

I would also like to express my appreciation to our dedicated staff team who have worked tirelessly to ensure that our students receive the best possible education. Their unwavering commitment to the well-being and academic success of every child is inspiring and I am incredibly proud of the passion and professionalism they bring to their roles each day. Last week, we held our termly parents' evenings, providing an invaluable opportunity for you to meet with your child's teachers to discuss their progress, achievements, and any areas for development. Thank you to all who attended these meetings. Your active involvement in your child's education is greatly valued and plays a vital role in their success.

During the Easter break, we are delighted to announce that FOMO have organised an Easter trail. This event will provide students and their families with an excellent opportunity to explore the local community. Can you complete the challenge by using the map to find all the letters in local house windows? There will be a prize given to any child who returns a completed map!

Finally, I want to thank you, our families, for your unwavering support throughout the term. Your partnership is invaluable, and together, we can continue to nurture, support and empower our children.

We have a whole school inset day on Monday 15th April and look forward to welcoming all children back to school on Tuesday 16th April.

We wish you and your families a joyful and restful break with the opportunity to recharge and spend quality time together.

*Mr. Lording*



AMBITION



RESPECT



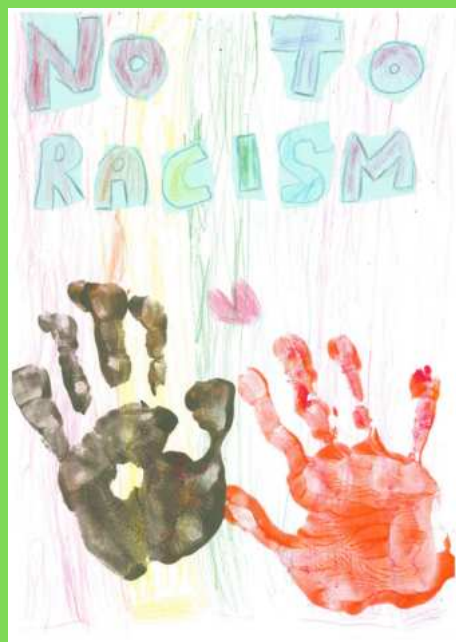
PRIDE



COURAGE

# ANTI-RACISM

Thank you to all children who sent in a poster for our anti-racism poster competition. The Mile Oak Majority chose the two winners, Nala for Key Stage 1 and Amelia for Key Stage 2. Their posters are now proudly displayed at the Early Years and main entrances. All other posters will be displayed around the school after the holiday. If anyone would like to make a poster over the holiday, Mrs Larter would welcome more at any time.



In the coming half term, four members of staff will be attending the Shifting Cultures Conference which has been arranged for educators in the city to hear about decolonising the curriculum. This is another very important step in our anti-racist journey and we look forward to adapting our curriculum further in the coming months.

During the holiday, some of our children will celebrate Easter and some of our children will celebrate Eid. Eid is a Muslim festival which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. During Ramadan, Muslims who are able to, fast from sunrise to sunset each day. It is a time for self-reflection and a time to come together as a community to help others. Many Muslims give money to charity during Ramadan.

Did you know that British Muslims are the most generous group of people in the UK, donating collectively 1 billion pounds to charities each year!

Eid marks the end of Ramadan. Many Muslim people dress up in new clothes, decorate their homes for the party, give money or presents to the children and come together for large meals with friends and family.

Although there are many faiths, we are all people and many people, no matter their beliefs, love coming together with loved ones, giving gifts and eating lots of yummy food.



The greeting used for this celebration is 'Eid Mubarak', but you can also wish your Muslim friends a happy Eid!

To all of our Muslim families, Eid Mubarak. We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Eid.



# LITTLE OAKS NURSERY



The second half of the spring term has flown by, with the children continuing to make progress across all areas of the curriculum. We have recently invested in new resources to enhance play and learning and the children are thoroughly enjoying exploring the purchases!

Equipment for physical development, and tools for sand and water play, are very popular, as are the resources to develop children's imaginative play through role play and small world. We have lots of budding doctors and have been on some great journeys! These play experiences have led to conversations about our bodies, taking turns to be a bus driver and designing tickets.



We have been using the Library for small group activities, to develop a love of books and to show the children how we need to look after our books. The children have enjoyed listening to lots of new stories. 'Tanka, Tanka, Skunk' encouraged us to tap out beats and name the animals in the story, 'Hippo has a Hat' led to discussions about clothes and designing hats; we also learnt the words to 'One two buckle my shoe'.

Little Oaks was very much part of the whole school World Book Day celebrations. The nursery children dressed up as characters from their favourite stories and the nursery staff were all pirates. We shared so many stories over the week. Some of the children bought books in from home and Year 9 students from PACA came to the nursery share their love of reading. We welcomed 20 students with their tutor. Some of the students recalled the time they attended Mile Oak and their happy memories of the school!





# LITTLE OAKS NURSERY



We have been out and around the school grounds looking for signs of the changing seasons. Although we have had lots of rainy play days, we have also enjoyed some lovely sunshine and found daffodils and other flowers starting to make an appearance. The children have made some beautiful paintings and pictures of spring flowers and we have been talking about new life on the farm during spring time, linked to the story 'Mr Gumpy's Outing'. This text also led to lots of activities using farm animals. We are all good at making animal sounds! We are looking forward to many more opportunities to be outside during the spring and summer and for the children to explore the wider school green spaces.



We have enjoyed our bakery role play area - making cakes and biscuits using clay and developing mark making skills by creating their own menus and shopping lists. Our final story of the spring term was 'We're going on an egg hunt'. We have enjoyed lots of activities for gross motor development, bunny hopping races, egg and spoon races and going on egg hunts, as well as using large arm movements to chalk and design large eggs on the playground. It's been a busy and fun filled time in the nursery.

At the end of the term, we said a fond farewell to our lovely students from Varndean. The students have been a genuine asset to the nursery and we have loved having them here. We also sadly said goodbye to Barbara. Barbara is off to explore new adventures and will be greatly missed by the whole team and the many children she has supported and cared for. We hope she will come back and see us when Little Oaks celebrates a year of opening, during the summer term!



We wish you all an enjoyable holiday and a happy Easter!

... The Little Oaks Nursery Team

# A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION



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

When we arrived back from our holidays we discovered we had some visitors. Much excitement ensued as we discovered two friendly aliens had joined us to take us on an exciting adventure to places near and far. Max and Ting, our alien visitors, were thoroughly welcomed by the children with an abundance of letters and drawings.

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



Next Max and Ting wanted advice on exploring the arctic countries. This meant we got to explore ice, talking about freezing and melting, and learnt lots about the animals that live in the Polar Regions. Did you know that children live in the Polar regions too? They love the same things as us, they just need warmer clothes and have a lot more snow to play with!

Our alien friends also wanted to know about some places within the continent of Africa. Again, we learnt about African animals, the habitat of the African Savanna and we had a wonderful drumming session with Daniel, a real-life musician. Everyone had a drum and he took us on a 'banging' journey into the jungle.



The alien's final stop was to Australia. Here they told us we could find some amazing, yet dangerous, creatures. Lots of snake and crocodile themed activities and writing has taken place. Our dangerous animals vet surgeries have been very popular. We found out more about Australia using our selection of non-fiction texts and video clips. We explored our big science question of 'What makes animals dangerous?'

# A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION



Lucy, a dental nurse, also paid us a visit. She knew we had been thinking about animals' teeth and jaws, and also about our own teeth and keeping them healthy. Lucy was very impressed with our knowledge and skills. She just helped us 'brush up' on these! Did you know current advice is to not wet your toothbrush and not to rinse after brushing? Let the toothpaste and the circling brush strokes do their job!

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

We said goodbye to our alien friends as they returned to their planet, Planet Zog. We thought about what is beyond our own Earth by learning a little bit about space and the planets in our solar system.



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

Our next topic is sure to be another fun-filled escapade as we disappear into a world of make-believe. 'Can you imagine?' is the title and 'Storyland' is our destination. The topic includes giants, fairies, unicorns, dragons, knights, castles, magic, wonder, imagination and fun! We will meet new characters, discover new plots and settings and welcome the return of some familiar traditional tale characters that we know and love.

This will all be supporting our communication and language skills, our reading comprehension and our story writing abilities. We're also off on another adventure, where could it be?

... The Reception Team



# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR ONE



We cannot believe we are over half way through Year 1! The progress of both Goldfinch class and Starling class throughout Year 1 has been incredible. Miss Koller and Miss Turnbull are really proud of all they have achieved!

As part of our “Around the World” topic we have been looking at explorers and the journeys that made them famous. In art, we have combined our knowledge of the explorers with the work of Gustav Klimt to create our own collage of our favorite explorer.

If you didn't get a chance to see these collages at parents evening then do ask your child's class teacher and they will be happy to show you – they are great!

We have used our computing and history lessons to further our knowledge of explorers, especially Christopher Columbus, Amelia Earhart and Neil Armstrong. We have been busy discovering exciting facts about each explorer online, whilst learning how to search for something on Google and BBC Bitesize.



In English, we have continued to learn about explorers, creating a fact file about each explorer we have researched. We have been busy writing what they are most famous for, what they travelled in and an interesting ‘Did you know?’ fact. We can't wait to show you our fantastic published fact files where we have applied all of our Year 1 “writing rules”, especially using a range of punctuation.

In our PE lessons with Mr Crellin, we have been focusing on net and ball skills – we have been looking at skills needed to play games, such as tennis and badminton. In our other PE lessons we have been focusing on fitness, exploring how good exercise is for not just our bodies but our minds too! We love being active and are really excited to start learning about invasion games and team building.



In maths, we have been looking at fact families and how we can use these facts to write equations and expressions. We have all learnt lots of really helpful maths rules that we can use for all numbers, even the really big ones! Give us any number and ask: what happens when we take away zero? What about if we take a number away from itself? These number generalisations will be super helpful throughout school and we are mastering them! As well as looking at numbers, we have also explored lots of other areas of maths such as shape, time, measure and money.

In PSHE, we have taken part in a new topic: ‘Growing an Anti-Racist School’. The children have shown great excitement in discussing ‘what makes me, me!’ and what makes us unique on the inside and outside. The adults have been very proud of both classes for being so respectful and kindly curious of each other.

Just a reminder that all the children have their Phonics Screening Check during the next half term. Please remember to listen to your child read their phonics book each night and practice any sounds or flashcards that they have received at parents evening to give them the best chance at succeeding. Thank you for your support.

We hope you all have a relaxing Easter break and are excited for our next topic ‘Animals!’.

# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR TWO



Year 2 have loved learning about 'The Great Outdoors' this half term and have been so immersed in the topic.

Our guided reading texts this half term have been 'The Snail and the Whale' and 'One Plastic Bag'. We linked our English to 'The Snail and the Whale' and wrote some brilliant re-tells of the journey of the characters. The children wrote using some fantastic, detailed vocabulary including expanded noun phrases and similes. We were so proud of them!

While reading 'One Plastic Bag', we learnt about the impact that plastic has on the environment and linked this to the work of Greta Thunberg. We made some great inferences from the story and were able to make some detailed predictions.

We also wrote some amazing fact files on snails. We began by looking at a model text and highlighting what makes a good information text. We then used our conjunction skills to write about the appearance, diet and habitat of snails. Our favourite fact was that snails eat the poo of other animals!



The children loved starting off this topic by looking for the first signs of spring by sketching some daffodils. We used different pencils to create effect and used lines to create the shape. The sketches look fantastic and have been the main part of our topic display.

In maths we have consolidated our knowledge of multiplication and moved on to division. We began by looking at equal groups and then groups with some left over! The children have also worked really hard on multiplication and remember their 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Next term we will be starting our new topic 'Helping Heroes'! The children have worked so brilliantly during the spring term and we look forward to seeing them again at the start of summer term. Happy Easter!

... The Year 2 Team





# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR THREE



Our “Passport to Europe” topic has provided opportunities for writing and research. In writing, we have been reading and writing non-chronological reports about countries in Europe, using our computing and research skills to find information and fun facts about chosen places. In English, we have developed our understanding of features of text, using headings, subheadings and paragraphs to inform our writing of reports. The children have impressed us with their published writing which looks extremely fluent and accomplished- well done!

Through our geography lessons, we have developed our map reading and atlas skills. We have also improved our understanding of the United Kingdom and Europe, as well as continents and oceans. In computing, we have been learning about what digital footprint means, and the importance of staying safe online.

The children are all making progress in their reading. Thank you for supporting your child by listening to them read, and asking questions about what they have read. We read daily with our chosen library books and also in guided reading lessons, where we demonstrate our understanding of the text. There was lots of interest in our poetry competition, and we had great fun hearing the Year 3 children who wanted to take part. Well done to all children who expressed interest in this!

In our PE lessons, the children have developed ball skills, in both large ball activities and golf. As well as focusing on the targets in the activities, such as accurate aiming, tracking, throwing, catching and dribbling, the children are developing their team work and communication skills. The children are great at developing their own activities, by making suggestions for their own games and ways to deepen and challenge!

In maths, alongside number, the children have been working on understanding units of measurement, including time (on analogue and digital clocks), perimeter, units of length and mass. The challenge with this learning is to apply it to word problems, in one- and two-step challenges. We are continuing with our times tables checks, embedding multiplication and division facts for the 2, 3, 4 5 and 10 times tables. Children are checked against fluency targets, knowing facts out of sequence.

In music, we have been working on our understanding of beat, and the musical notation to show different time lengths in beat. All Year 3 children took part in a fabulous drumming workshop, enjoying call and response games and chants! We have been learning the language of crochets and quavers, minims and rests, and then writing beat patterns to practice. We have also played alongside tunes and patterns to practice our listening skills, and keep in time.

In PSHE, we took part in a new topic: ‘Growing an Anti-Racist School’. The children discussed what makes us unique on the inside and outside. We have deepened our understanding by developing language and vocabulary about skin colours, and the importance of how people feel about words being used. We then explored this in portraits, painting and sketching, and describing colour tones.

In Spanish we have been practising Spanish verbs and using ‘se’ and ‘no se’ to say what we know and do not know how to do – painting, dancing, jumping and so on! The children have terrific confidence in repeating Spanish phrases, and writing simple Spanish sentences. Muy bien!

In Design and Technology, we have investigated healthy foods and diets, making links with our science learning. We planned and made delicious, healthy salad dishes which we all enjoyed eating!

We hope you all have a great Easter break and are excited for our next topic ‘Ancient Egypt’.

# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FOUR



This term, Year 4 have continued to learn about the Romans. They have explored the impact of Boudicca and how the Roman Empire came to an end. The children were fascinated to look at ancient Roman coins and imagine who may have been holding them a long time ago! They thoroughly enjoyed the trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace and imagining the impressive Roman building which used to stand there.

We also performed our year group assembly this term, which was a fantastic opportunity to share some of our learning with a big audience. We were extremely proud of all of the children. Thank you for your support with this and for those of you who were able to attend the performance.

In English, the children have written an explanation text explaining how the water cycle works. This has enhanced their English, geography and science learning. Their explanations were very clear and informative. They included all the features we would expect in an explanation text and we were very impressed! The children enjoyed publishing their final pieces and sharing them with younger children in the school. The younger children learnt all about the water cycle and Year 4 enjoyed being the 'teachers'!

In PSHE, we have been taking part in a new topic - 'Growing an Anti-Racist School'. The children have enjoyed discussing what makes them unique. They have shown a lot of respect when exploring the similarities and differences they share with one another. We are proud of the values we are growing within the school.

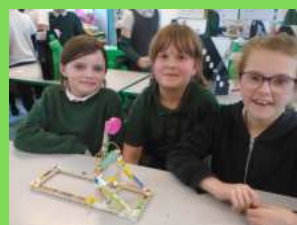
We have been involved in a complex project to make models of Roman catapults this term. These have allowed children to develop their measuring, sawing and gluing skills, as well as the opportunity to work with others towards creating a finished product.

As always, please continue to support your child with learning their times tables. 10 minutes daily playing TTRS on an ipad/phone will make all the difference! Similarly, practising spelling daily will always be really beneficial for their learning too. We're thrilled the children enjoy reading their own bedtime stories to themselves. It is still helpful for them to read out loud as well because it gives them an opportunity to practice reading fluently and with expression.

If you were unable to attend a parents evening session, please do get in contact with us so one can be arranged. It is very important to have the opportunity to hear about your child's progress.

Have a wonderful Easter break! We look forward to welcoming the children back for the summer term in Year 4 for our 'Up, Up and Away' topic.

... The Year 4 Team



# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FIVE



Throughout this half term, the children in Year 5 have continued their exciting topic – exploring the wonders of space! The children have produced some very exciting writing this half term, writing an explanation text around the international space station and a setting description of the alien world, which they created. Some of the phrases and vocabulary that the children have generated are something to be proud of, especially the figurative language around their extra-terrestrial worlds!

Our class reader – The Jamie Drake Equation - has allowed us to learn more about the International Space Station. We have also learned more about certain issues that different families face and also about the dreaded spiral on Jamie's phone! Ask your child about how Jamie has been communicating with the Hi've. The children have really enjoyed the mystery and suspense in this book!



We have also embarked on an exciting trip to the space observatory in Herstmonceux. This was a fantastic experience, where the children were able to obtain vast amounts of knowledge around space in their hands on time; explore two observatory pods and their telescopes inside; use robotic arms like astronauts would in space; and, end with an exciting science show. The children loved the experience and it has ignited a passion in space for so many of them.



Within maths, we have been exploring division. The children have mastered the short division method, including interpreting remainders correctly. Year five have also tackled a variety of word problems linked to the four operations and have acquired strategies to solve them and make the process more straight forward. We even have some Rock Legends in our midst. Please encourage your child to keep practicing this essential mathematical concept at home by playing TTRS for 30 minutes a week.

... The Year 5 Team

# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX



The Year 6 Team would like to start by saying how proud we are of the children for working so hard towards their SATs this year. We would also like to say a big thank you to you for joining us at Parents' Evening so we could celebrate your child's progress so far this year.

**English** - In our writing this term, we continued to look to our topic of World War 2 and our guided reading book, When the Sky Falls.

No World War 2 topic would be complete without learning about Anne Frank and her recount of her experiences during the war. The children did this by researching her life on the internet and in reference books. Their final piece was a well-constructed biography full of all the grammatical features you would expect. After this, we returned to newspaper report writing based on a dramatic event in the reading book. All reports display huge amounts of progress in grammatical features, punctuation and spellings since the Autumn report on the flood at Boscastle.

Please support your children's writing by ensuring they have a quiet space to complete their spellings and revise using their Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation revision guide. Homework will indicate what they need to cover.

**Maths** - The children have made us extremely proud by putting in 100% effort into their maths learning: not only in their regular lessons but their extra ones too, to make up for any missed learning they may have had from previous years due to covid-19 restrictions. They have made huge strides in their understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages, which is a big part of the year 6 curriculum and sets them up well for secondary school. They are able to add/subtract, compare/order and multiply/divide fractions in many different ways. They have also been able to apply their percentages skills to some real life scenarios to help them see the benefit of maths in the real world.



**Reading** - The children really enjoyed the dramatic ending to our guided reading book; however, some may not have been happy with the outcome as it was very sad! We continued to develop our reading skills over the term during our guided reading lessons and to improve our fluency by reading aloud. Reading aloud is an excellent technique to improve reading resilience and comprehension.



To support your child in this, please allow them to read their library book to you on a daily basis as it really does lead to improvements and will also support their test skills.

We were very proud of all the children that took part in the Poetry Competition at Brackenbury as they represented our wonderful school beautifully.

William was the Year 6 winner who returned and competed to be the overall winner – WELL DONE WILLIAM!

**PSHE** - This term's PSHE lessons were focused on Growing an Anti-Racist School (GARS). The three main topics covered were Migration, Multi-culturalism and Diversity. The children had many discussions about what the question 'Where are you from?' can actually mean and looked into their own heritage where many learned that we all have links to different parts of the world and that there is only one race, The Human Race.

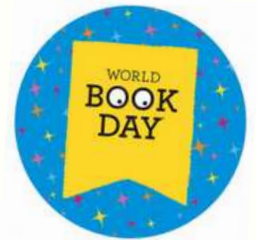


... The Year 6 Team



# READING UPDATE

## WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS



What a fantastic time we had celebrating World Book Day at Mile Oak!

We were amazed by the creativity of costumes we saw across the school and want to say a big thank you to families for putting in so much effort. The children (and the staff!) looked brilliant!

It was a jam-packed day, filled with fun reading activities. During paired reading, different classes across the school were given the opportunity to read with a 'buddy'. The younger children enjoyed sharing their favourite books and this was a great opportunity for the older children to support others with their reading.



The children loved the 'drop everything and read' session, in which a bell rang as a surprise during the day and everyone had to stop what they were doing, get comfortable and spend time enjoying books.

The afternoon was spent with classes creating models from recycling linked to the books they are currently reading in class. Thanks to the huge amount of donated recycled materials by families, this was a real success and a great way for the children to share their creativity around books and reading.

Finally, we thought what better way to end the day than with a Book Swap. As ever, this was a highly successful event and it was fantastic to see the children's enthusiasm for books and reading as they came to choose a book.

Thank you so much to all of the families who donated books- without these continued donations this event would be unable to go ahead. Donations are always greatly appreciated and can be left with the staff in the school office.

... Mrs Down



# POETRY FESTIVAL



Congratulations to all the children that performed at Brackenbury in the Portslade Poetry Festival. We had a fantastic afternoon. All the children performed their poem with energy, enthusiasm and confidence- we were very proud of them all!

Four children were chosen to compete at the next stage of the competition and performed the same poem again. On the 21st March, the four winning children returned to Brackenbury and performed in front of the Mayor along with lots of other schools across Brighton and Hove. The morning was very enjoyable. Unfortunately, this year we were not one of the winning schools but it will be an annual event so who knows who will win next year!



All the children are winners for taking part and performing their poems so confidently. You were Fab-u-lous!

... Ms Wilks

# PE UPDATE



There have been many thrilling sporting opportunities on offer for our children this term. Firstly, there have been a range of clubs provided by ACE, including net club, multi sports and girls football. There will be an opportunity in the summer to attend these clubs and there will be spaces available. Sussex cricket have also been running a cricket club for our Key Stage two children, which they have loved!

One of the most exciting events from this term was the #letgirlsplay football day that took place on the school field. Many of the girls had never played football but all of them loved the experience and have even started playing football at break times or outside of school. This was an important event as it gave lots of the girls an opportunity to shine and feel confident participating in sport.

During this term, the school competed in two tournaments: indoor athletics and stinger netball. For the indoor athletics tournament, we travelled to BACA and the children faced six other schools in a variety of track and field events such as 4x1 relay and vertical jump. The school came 4th out of seven schools, which is a huge improvement on previous years.



For the netball tournament, we went to Brighton University and competed against eight other schools. Considering that our school does not have a netball team, the team that represented Mile Oak did extremely well, coming 6th out of nine schools. It is wonderful to see the progress that the school has made in these inter-school tournaments over the past five years, where we have gone from finishing last to showing determination and a competitive spirit at every event. All of the children who have competed should be immensely proud of their achievements.



In the summer term, there will be many more sporting opportunities, such as: Y3/4 rackets festival, Y3/4 tri-golf tournament, Y4/5/6 athletics at Withdean stadium and a swimming gala. Thank you for your continued support with Mile Oak school sport, we greatly appreciate it.

... Mr McCusker and Mr Crellin

# HISTORY UPDATE



This term the children have enjoyed their history learning that is embedded into their year group topics. To kick start a topic, the children usually travel in a 'time machine' to review their prior History learning before seeing where their new history learning fits in. This helps them to understand the chronology of historical events.

We are keen for the children to grasp the history of Portslade. This helps them feel a connection to their local community and gives them an understanding of how and why this may have changed over time. Currently, the children explore the history of the local area, particularly in Year 3 where they go on a guided tour local walk. We would like to develop the whole schools local area knowledge by creating a 'This day in Portslade History' presentation. This is in working progress and will be ready for the start of the next academic year.

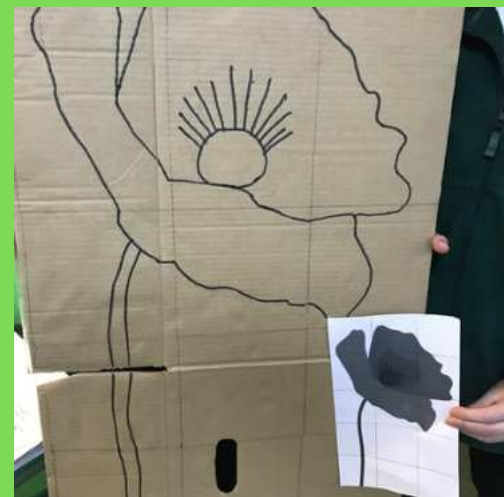
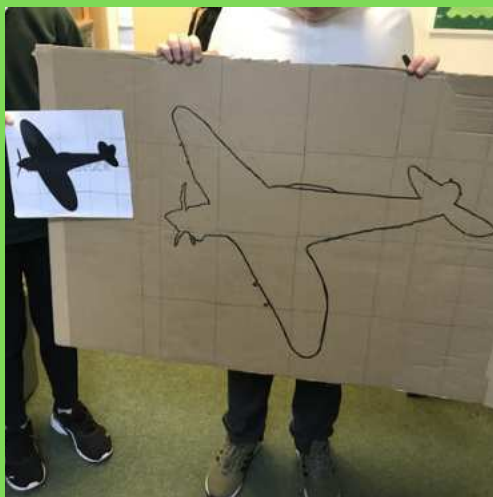


Despite a rainy day, Year 3 enjoyed their local area walk. This was led by a very knowledgeable historian. They enjoyed exploring the ruins of Portslade old manor house which is tucked away next to St Nicolas church. Visit this website if you would like to find out more! Portslade History Trail. 1000 years of history in a one mile walk . The children then produced recounts of their walk.



Year 6 have been engaged in their exciting history learning based on the Battle of Britain. The children loved visiting Take Shelter at Downs Junior School. This is the only school air raid shelter open in the South! Visit this website if you'd like to find out more or book a visit of your own one day. <https://takeshelter.org.uk/> The children really gained a sense of life within this time period and they developed a sense of how people must have felt. This trip also inspired thoughtful writing and art creations as shown below.

... Miss Murray





# LETS DANCE



What a night we had at the Dome! Our children were truly sensational performing their ambitious dance with energy and enthusiasm. The atmosphere was electric! After weeks of choreography, a dance with Miss Turnbull and perfecting the quality of moves, the children were ready.

Nervously, waiting back stage, there was an excited buzz as they positioned themselves on the stage in front of thousands people who had come to enjoy the night. Then the music began...

There was a roar from the crowd and the huge smiles on the faces of our dancers said it all. They enjoyed every moment and the pre-nerves vanished as they performed a sensational sequence of moves. Congratulations to each and every one of you. Your dedication, ideas and performance was amazing.





Thank you to all our families who support the children along the way. There were few bleary eyed children the next day but it was all worth it!




... Ms Wilks



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Summer 1 Religious festival calendar

April			
9th April	Eid-UI-Fitr (Feast Of Fast Breaking)	Muslim 	This is a time - once the fast of Ramadan has been completed - for making gifts to the poor. It is especially a time for new clothes, good food, and presents for children. Families get together and contact friends, especially those who live far away. The community assembles for Eid prayer and a sermon at its mosques. The traditional greeting is 'Eid Mubarak' – 'a happy and blessed Eid'.
13th April	Vaisakhi (The Sikh New Year Festival)	Sikh 	This celebrates the founding of the Sikh community, the Khalsa, in 1699. On Vaisakhi, Sikhs go to the Gurdwara in the morning for a service. Afterwards, they have a procession through the streets with lots of singing, chanting and colourful clothes. The procession is called the Nagar Kirtan. In the evening, Sikhs have a special meal with family and friends.
17th April	Rama Navami	Hindu 	This is the birthday of Rama. It is one of the most important festivals for Hindus.
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Pesach (Passover)	Jewish 	This eight day festival is when Jews commemorate the Exodus from their slavery in Egypt. The Seder meal is held in each family's home at the beginning of the festival, when the story of their deliverance is recounted. Matzah (unleavened bread) is eaten throughout the festival.
23rd April	St George's Day	National	St George is the patron saint of England. He lived and died in the Middle East, but his popularity grew after the Crusades, when his red cross on a white background became the symbol of the English Crusaders.

May			
9th May	Ascension Day	Christian 	This day commemorates the last earthly appearance of the Risen Christ, who, according to Christian belief, ascended into heaven in the presence of many witnesses.
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Pentecost	Christian 	Pentecost is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter and is seen as the 'birthday' of the Church.
23rd May	Wesak (Buddha Day)	Buddhist 	Wesak is the biggest of Buddhist festivals Where the birth, enlightenment and final passing away of Gautama Buddha is celebrated. Houses are decorated with lanterns and garlands, and temples are ringed with little oil lamps. People often send 'Wesak cards' to their friends, and come together at monasteries at this time.

# NEXT HALF TERM

## Topics for Summer 1

Reception - Can you Imagine?

Year 1 - Paws, Claws and Jaws

Year 2 - Helping Heros

Year 3 - Ancient Egyptians

Year 4 - Up Up and Away

Year 5 - Mayans

Year 6 - Crime and Punishment

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

[www.mileoakschool.co.uk/year-groups](http://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 Summer 1

Reception: Jack and the beanstalk, There is no Dragon in this Story, The Knight that wouldn't Fight, How to Grow a Unicorn

Year 1: You're Called What? by Kes Grey, Alan's Big Scary Teeth by Jarvis

Year 2: The Extraordinary Life of Mary Seacole by Naida Redgrave, Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty

Year 3: A Mummy Ate My Homework by Thiago De Moraes

Year 4: Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo

Year 5: The Explorer by Katherine Rundell

Year 6: A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll



# April

**Mon 15.04.24** INSET Day

**Tues 16.04.24** Children Return to School

**Tues 16.04.24** Year 5 Swimming - Elder Class

**Thurs 18.04.24** Year 5 Mayan Workshop - Onsite

**Thurs 18.04.24** FOMO Coffee Morning 9:00am - 11:00am

**Fri 19.04.24** Year 3 - Beech Class visit Mandir

**Mon 22.04.24** to **Thurs 25.04.24** Year 6 - Mock SATS

**Mon 22.04.24** Children's Parade Big Make

**Tues 23.04.24** Year 5 Swimming - Elder Class

**Fri 26.04.24** Year 3 - Cherry Class visit Mandir

**Mon 29.04.24** Children's Parade Big Make

**Tues 30.04.24** Year 3 - Beech Class visit The Brighton Museum

**Tues 30.04.24** Year 5 Swimming - Elder Class

# May

**Thurs 02.05.24** FOMO Coffee Morning 9:00am-11:00am

**Fri 03.05.24** Year 3 - Cherry Class visit The Brighton Museum

**Sat 04.05.24** Children Parade

**Mon 06.05.24** Bank Holiday - School Closed

**Tues 07.05.24** Year 5 Swimming - Elder Class

**Wed 08.05.24** Reception visit Lewes Castle

**Thurs 09.05.24** Year 1 - Starling Class visit Sealife Centre

**Fri 10.05.24** Year 1 - Goldfinch Class visit Sealife Centre

**Mon 13.05.24** to **Thurs 16.05.24** Year 6 SATS

**Tues 14.05.24** Year 5 Swimming - Elder

**Wed 15.05.24** Year 3 Assembly for Families 2:30pm

**Thurs 16.05.24** Year 1 Assembly for Families 2:30pm

**Fri 17.05.24** Year 5 - Elder Class and 1/2 Rowan Class visiting Mandir

**Mon 20.05.24** Year 6 - Chestnut Class Brighton Crime Walk

**Tues 21.05.24** Year 5 Swimming - Elder Class

**Tues 21.05.24** Reception Big Make - Ladybird Class 9:00am

**Wed 22.05.24** Year 6 - Blackthorn Brighton Crime Walk

**Wed 22.05.24** Reception 2024 Starters - Stay and Play

**Thurs 23.05.24** Reception Big Make - Dragonfly Class 9:00am

**Thurs 23.05.24** FOMO Coffee Morning 9:00am-11:00am

**Fri 24.05.24** Class Photos

**Fri 24.05.24** 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](mailto: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.

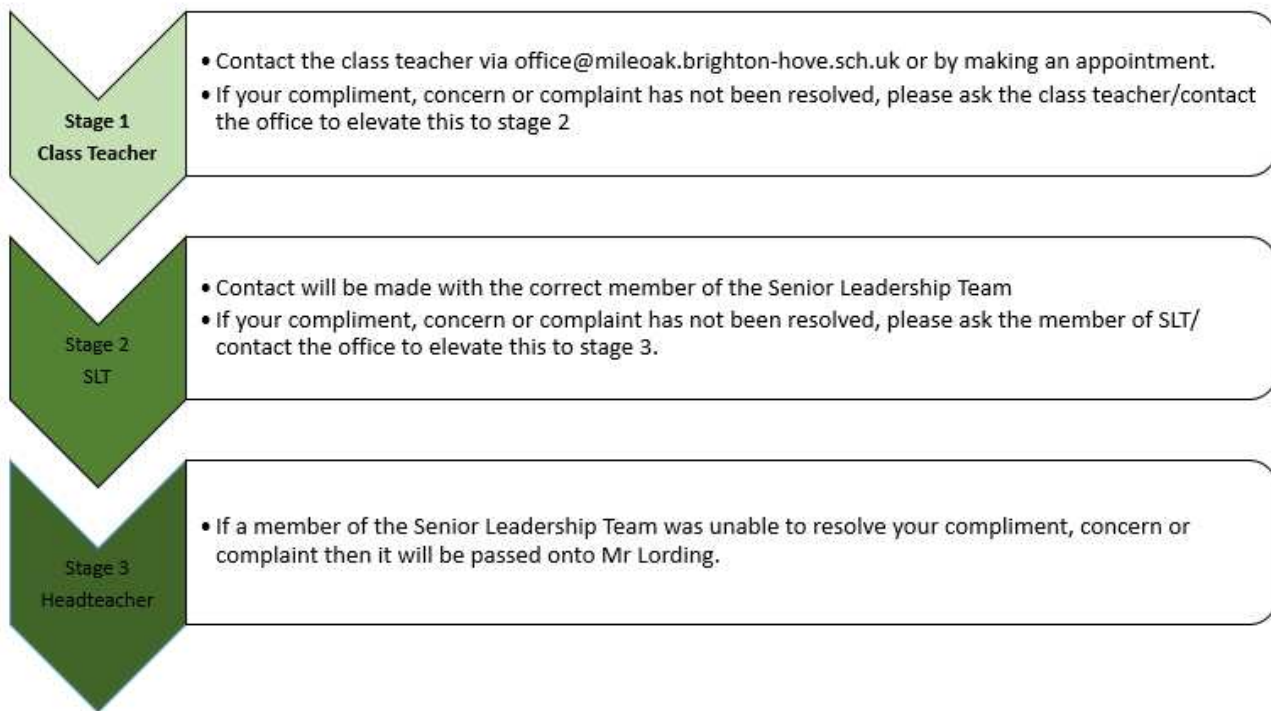
Once initial communication has been made, staff will respond within 2 working days. If a face-to-face meeting is required, the relevant member of staff will make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

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](mailto:office@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk)



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