



MILE OAK NEWSLETTER

TUESDAY 22ND JULY 2025
SUMMER 2 NEWSLETTER



Dear Families,

As we approach the end of another school year, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and partnership throughout this journey.

This year has been filled with remarkable achievements, exciting challenges and countless moments of growth. Our children have demonstrated incredible resilience, curiosity and creativity. It has been a joy to witness their progress and development.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and bid farewell to several deeply valued members of our school staff who will be moving on to new adventures. Miss Foster, Miss Demetriou, Miss Capps, Miss Kassem and Iona will be leaving us at the end of this school year having made significant contributions to the school, our children and our families.

Miss Foster has been a constant source of support, compassion and encouragement for children who have needed a safe space to talk, reflect and be heard. She has built strong, trusting relationships with key children; helping them to understand and manage their feelings in a nurturing and consistent way. Her calm presence and ability to connect meaningfully with children have made a lasting difference. For many, her sessions have been a highlight of the week — a time where they have felt truly seen and supported.

Miss Demetriou has played a pivotal role in supporting children with social, emotional, and mental health needs. Her flexible, responsive approach and consistent presence have made a real and lasting difference to many. She has been a reassuring and reliable figure for children navigating difficult emotions or circumstances, always meeting them with empathy and understanding. Her contribution has gone far beyond individual sessions — she has helped shape a culture of care across the school.

Mr Capps, who has been a valued member of our Year 2 teaching team, will be moving on to a new and exciting chapter in her life and career. Her commitment to fostering a love for learning and her ability to inspire and challenge children will be deeply missed by the whole school. She has been an exceptional teacher who has demonstrated a passion for teaching, creativity in the classroom and unwavering support for our children.



Miss Kassem, joined us after Christmas in Year 3. She has fitted seamlessly into the team and the wider school. She has inspired curiosity, nurtured confidence and helped the children in her class to thrive both academically and personally. Her care for the pupils has been unwavering and she has had a significant impact on their positive journey and progress this year. Thank you.

Iona has been a dedicated member of our support team for the last two years, providing exceptional individual support for our children. Her commitment to addressing each child's unique needs and ensuring that every pupil receives the support necessary to thrive has had a significant impact on their education and well-being.

We wish all these staff the best in their future endeavours and thank them for their significant contributions. Their dedication, hard work, kindness and passion have made a lasting impact on our school community. We send them on with warmth and positivity for whatever comes next and with our heartfelt thanks for all they have given to the children, staff and families here at Mile Oak.

I am immensely proud of our entire school community. Our incredible staff and, of course, our wonderful children. Our team has worked tirelessly to provide a nurturing and stimulating environment. The collaboration among our leaders, teachers, administrators, support staff and premises team has been exceptional. Their commitment to innovative teaching, thoughtful support for each child's individual needs and care for our school grounds has been unwavering. Our staff have, as always, gone above and beyond to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed. Their efforts have truly shaped the positive and dynamic learning environment that makes our school so special. They are a truly brilliant and inspiring team to work with, thank you to each and every one of them.

As we prepare for a truly well-deserved summer break, I encourage you to reflect on the many successes of this year and to celebrate the individual accomplishments of your wonderful children. Let's take this time to recharge, enjoy family moments, and look forward to the opportunities and adventures that the new school year will bring for us all.

Children will return to school on Friday, September 5th, 2025. We look forward to welcoming you and your children back for another exciting and successful year at Mile Oak.

Thank you once again for being such an integral part of our school community. I wish you and your family a joyful, relaxing summer and I look forward to seeing you in the new school year where we can once again, Think BIG.

Mr. Lording



AMBITION



RESPECT



PRIDE



COURAGE

A GOODBYE MESSAGE TO OUR YEAR 6 PUPILS



Dear Year 6,

As you prepare to leave Mile Oak and take your next big step into secondary school, I want to say how incredibly proud we are of each and every one of you. You have been such an important part of our school community. We've watched you grow from curious, eager little learners into confident and capable young people ready to take on new challenges. You've made us laugh, made us proud and made us excited for the contribution you are going to have to our society.

Whether it was the way you supported younger pupils, showed resilience in your learning, or gave your all in your final performances and sports events — you've truly left your mark on our school.

As you move on to this exciting new chapter, remember that you carry with you not just what you've learned but also the values you've learnt and lived at Mile Oak. Be respectful, be courageous, be ambitious, be proud and Think BIG! Always believe in yourself because we certainly do.

We will miss you greatly but we can't wait to hear about all the wonderful things you will go on to achieve.

Good luck Year 6.

With warmest wishes,

... Mr Lording and the Mile Oak Team



and



ANTI-RACISM AND EQUALITIES



A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY ON CULTURE DAY!

Last week, we celebrated our second annual Culture Day. Throughout the day, each class had the opportunity to learn about different cultures around the world. Children dressed in traditional clothing, shared stories and created art.

Pupils from Varndean High School visited and danced for all children in assembly showcasing traditional dances and clothing from India and Thailand.

Momma Cherri ran workshops throughout the morning with children learning the different types and origins of breads from around the world.

Culture Day was not only fun and educational but also a meaningful opportunity for children to celebrate their differences, develop empathy and gain a deeper understanding of the world around them.

We are so proud of our children for their curiosity and respect and we extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our families who helped to make the day so special.

VARNDEAN MENTORING

Some of our pupils of colour in Year 5 and 6 have now completed a 5 week mentoring programme with pupils from Varndean. This has been a lovely experience for all and we would like to thank Angela Simmonds at Vardean for leading and hosting. We are now in the early stages of creating something similar with PACA and look forward to sharing this with you at a later date.





LITTLE OAKS NURSERY



All the children at Little Oaks have had a busy but fun summer term! We started the term celebrating the fantastic outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection. We are all very pleased with our 'Good' Ofsted rating.

We have been learning all about the emergency services and have especially enjoyed playing doctors in our role play area.

The children had fun matching our new wooden figures to the different jobs they do and discovering all the ways these important people help us. I wonder if the children can remember the number to call in an emergency?

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been helping our oldest children get ready for school. Our school role play area has been very popular; children have loved taking turns being the teacher, helping their friends write their names and practising letter sounds. They have also been dressing up in school uniforms and working on their fine motor skills by doing up zips and buttons.



We have even been practising carrying lunch trays around the room; carefully balancing cups of water—many of the children have become quite skilled at this!

Our Summer Games were a great success. Thank you to all the home adults who came along to support us. The children loved cheering on their friends during the running races, launching rockets into the sky and scoring goals with the football nets.

We finished off the term with a lovely teddy bears' picnic, all the children brought their teddies in and shared stories and snacks with their grown-ups. We sang our 'See you later Alligator' song and said goodbye to all our older friends as they get ready to leave for their onward journey to Reception!



... 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 planted lots of seeds and 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 teacher, Hannah, was so kind. She helped us to explore the farm and find out about the animals and the type of steading Mile Oak farm is. Back at school we made maps of our trip. 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 and the police. We had a great time in the police car! It was great to think about all the people who help us in our community.

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 final trip to the I360, was a fun-filled adventure in the sky. We loved seeing our city from a different perspective. We had the best day, travelling by bus, going on the I360, playing on the beach and in the playground and even enjoying a tasty ice cream!

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! Have a fabulous summer and good luck in Year One- we will miss you.



The Reception Team

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR ONE



What a year! Year One 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 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 practise 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. Science week was a real success we are pleased so many of you could join us to celebrate the week and the activities we did. On Culture Day, we learnt all about Scottish and Icelandic cultures as well as about the different cultures of children in our classes.



Finally we finished the term with Sports Day! A massive well done to all of the children for their hard work in all the races. 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 would like to wish them all the best moving into Year 2 and hope every family has a restful summer!



The Year One Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR TWO



Year Two have had a great time this half term learning all about 'Beautiful Brighton'. We started off our topic by researching the history of Brighton, including The Royal Pavilion, The Prince Regent and Martha Gunn. We then got to compare this to Brighton now by going on an amazing trip. We visited the museum and saw the sights of Brighton from the Volk's Railway.

After our trip, we loved making a map of the route we took and illustrating these with great pictures. We have also made some amazing pictures of Brighton beach using polystyrene printing and collage skills. We then wrote some interesting fact files all about Brighton in the past and compared it to Brighton today.



We loved science week and getting to show off all that we had learnt to our adults at the science fair. We spent the week designing and making our own boats to test our big question 'Why do some materials float and others sink?' We ended the term by learning all about measure in Maths, including time, length and height, mass and temperature. We have also written some creative Acrostic Poems all about the seaside! We had a fantastic sports day showcasing our skills and also thoroughly enjoyed our culture day learning all about Africa and Afghanistan.

The Year Two Team are so proud of the children's hard work, not just this term but throughout the year! We cannot believe it is time for them to go to Year Three and will miss them very much. We hope they enjoy a well-deserved, relaxing summer holiday!



The Year Two Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR THREE



We have enjoyed 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.

Also in writing, we explored the features of diary texts and used the Tadeo Jones, which is a short film to develop and inspire our understanding of writing about thought and feelings, informal language and chronological order, which are all the necessary features of a diary.

Our Guided Reading text, 'Varjak Paw', was rich with plot and descriptive language. The children have become very adept at looking for evidence in the text to answer questions. This has been a lengthy text but we have been impressed with the concentration they have sustained throughout and we enjoyed the plot twists.

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

Learning in Science was about naming reproductive parts of the flower, seed production and dispersal. We looked closely at the flowers and seed heads in our grounds, talked about the parts that we could see, their functions and how the seeds might be dispersed. We really enjoyed hosting our Science Fair, with a range of some of our Science learning from across the year.

We are so proud with how the children have developed and progressed. They have enjoyed meeting their Year Four teachers. We wish them continued success next year.



The Year Three Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FOUR

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

Our adventures began with a fantastic trip to Brighton, where we enjoyed an inspiring Art Walk along the seafront before heading to the Rampion Visitor Centre. There, we discovered how the offshore wind turbines were installed and how they help power our local area. The centre is free to visit and open throughout the holidays, so it's well worth a trip if you're nearby!

Science Week was a big highlight, especially as we linked 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 rockets!

This term, it was Hazel Class' turn to take part in skateboarding sessions—which they absolutely loved. PE lessons have also been filled with excitement as Year Four geared up for their upcoming sports day.

The children have really enjoyed finding out which class they'll be in next year and have taken part in several transition events. It's been lovely to see their excitement and growing confidence as they look ahead to Year 5!

Throughout the year, the children have shown fantastic commitment to improving their times tables, especially through Times Tables Rock Stars. Their hard work really paid off—they tackled the national Multiplication Tables Check with confidence and achieved amazing re



The Year Four Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FIVE



That's a wrap! What a pleasure it has been to teach the children in Elder and Rowan class this year. We are extremely proud of them all for showcasing their courage and ambition this half term, which has led to some fantastic learning.

Our class reader – *The Boy At The Back Of The Class* – has really engaged the children's love of reading. The book provides plenty of cross-curricular links to PSHE, covering themes such as refugees and migrants, media misrepresentation and friendship. The text further supported the children's writing as we jumped into 'Storyland' and immersed ourselves in the narrator's quest to find a ruby, red pomegranate for Ahmet. Afterwards, the children wrote a beautifully descriptive market scene, using all their senses and plenty of figurative language. We also took the opportunity to study the Palindrome Poem 'Refugee' by Brian Bilston which really captivated the children.

Children explored the relationships between fractions, decimals and percentages in maths; learning how to convert and compare them. They also took a closer look at the properties of shapes, including angles, perimeter and area and how these mathematical concepts are used in real-life situations.

Science Week was a highlight of the half term with children learning about the importance of flood-defences. They worked collaboratively, using brilliant oracy skills, to design and build their own flood defence system and there was great excitement when they were tested!

Following our learning of OS maps, we created a route and then took a fantastic field trip across The Downs where we identified both human and physical features of our local area. While surrounded by the beauty of the National Park, we took the opportunity to sketch different views which we then used as a stimulus for our lino printing.

A successful Sports Day, finished the half term, with every child giving their all.

Enjoy a well-deserved summer!



The Year Five Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX



What a fantastic last term the Year Six 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 monologue and their best piece has been sent to their new secondary school. With transition in mind, our PSHE 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 Six 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, Blackthorn and Chestnut 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 £508.69. Thank you to parents and carers for helping the children to prepare their games and donate their old toys.

There were some fabulous prizes!



Chestnut and Blackthorn had their postponed class trips: a 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 debated whether it was art or crime.

Finally, we celebrated all of their achievements this year with the Leavers' 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 Six. 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.



The Year Six Team



YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL

*Residential 2025**Residential 2025**Residential 2025**Residential 2025*

Blackland Farm Adventures!

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 Mega SUP (imagine a giant paddleboard with a life of its own) provided plenty of wobbly moments and unexpected splashes, while abseiling tested our nerves (and the teachers' nerves too!). In the evenings, we gathered around the campfire for songs and some questionable dance moves—turns out Year Six 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 Six Team

*Residential 2025**Residential 2025**Residential 2025**Residential 2025*

YEAR 6 ACTIVITY WEEK



Adventures at Home!

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 kicked things off in style with a trip to the cinema, followed by some competitive fun at the bowling alley (with some very “creative” bowling techniques on display!).

We laced up our walking boots for a beautiful (and slightly exhausting) 6-mile hike over the Downs to Devil’s Dyke, where the views, were well worth the effort. 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 Six Team



A MESSAGE FROM SAPLING CLASS



Our topic of 'Summertime' has been a great opportunity to learn about the beach and the weather! We have loved taking part in water play activities, fine motor ice cream building, exploring a wide variety of sensory and messy play and different texture and scents.

We have loved coming together to go for a daily walk and spending time taking part in mindfulness colouring and learning how to draw sessions.

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

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

We are enjoying playing guess who and taking part in various art activities and cooking.

Sapling class are looking forward to our next topic after half term 'all about me'. We are on the lookout for large scale construction for our outdoor space and any junk modelling resources.

We hope you have a lovely summer and we look forward to seeing you all in September.



The Sapling Class Team



PE UPDATE



What a jam-packed half-term it has been! Many of our children had an array of sporting opportunities that they were able to participate in during the summer term. It was fantastic to see so many of them enjoying new activities that they would not normally be able to partake in as well as our usual school sporting events. These have included:

Rackets Festival – The children were able to learn about tennis, table tennis and squash at Withdean with specialist coaches. Our children thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Schools Day Cricket Match – Fifty children had the chance to watch the England men's U19s at Hove Cricket Ground. Not many children had ever been to a cricket match before and only a couple more knew any of the rules! It was a glorious day with and all of the children created an amazing atmosphere during the game.

Withdean Athletics Competition – Some children from year four, five and six were selected to compete in an athletics competition against many other schools. When competing, the children performed admirably in sprinting, throwing, long jump and relay races. Mile Oak finished ninth in our division. We hope to do even better next year!

Sports Day – What a fantastic two days we had this year! Thank you to all of the adults who came to support their children and did so emphatically. Amazingly, lots of the children were able to thrive across many different events this year.

Sports Awards – This year, we decided to expand the sports awards and have even more awards for children's attitude and application towards physical education and school sport. It was so rewarding to see all of the children be recognised for all of their hard-work and enthusiasm. Courtney Orange (our guest speaker) was really inspiring for the children, sharing his experiences of coaching and life as a professional gymnast.

Thank you for all of your support with school sport this year, we really could not make it work without your support with spectating games, travel to fixtures and most importantly – washing of the kits! It has been a fantastic year and as always we are forever looking for even more opportunities and experiences for the children.



Mr McCusker and Mr Crellin



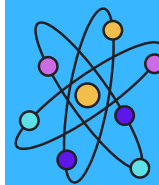
SCIENCE UPDATE



This year's Science Week took place in June and was a fantastic success! With water as our central theme, students, teachers and our community came together to dive deep into the science that shapes our world.



Throughout the week, classrooms and corridors buzzed with curiosity as we explored water from every angle—its role in ecosystems, the water cycle, flood defences, and its importance in solving global challenges like climate change and clean water access.



In Guided Reading, each class studied the work of a significant scientist whose work links to water. Teachers were given a free reign on which scientists to learn more about and it was great to see the diverse backgrounds the scientists came from and, as a bonus, they were all female scientists!



Our Science Fairs were a true highlight of the week and we really appreciated those who were able to come along. We used these events as a chance to develop our Oracy skills and this really paid off. Thank you asking children the displayed questions and allowing them to speak like scientists.

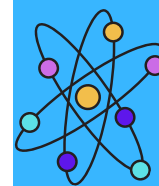


Thank you to everyone who contributed to making Science Week such a memorable success.

Here's to the next wave of young scientists making a difference!



... Mr Harris





PUPIL PARLIAMENT

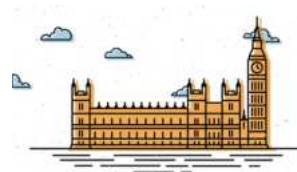


This term we are thrilled to announce that the children of Mile Oak have created our first Pupil Parliament. As a school, we spent time learning about citizenship and democracy and how these are a vital part of the UK parliament. We learnt about manifestos and how they can help you choose an MP. The children- from Year Two to Year Five- then wrote their own manifestos and from these an MP was democratically elected for each class.

Our vision is to ensure that each and every child's voice in the school is heard.

Through regular class discussions and Parliament meetings, we aim to use the power of pupil voice to raise issues that will make positive changes to our whole school community.

Look out on social media and the website for updates on what our Parliament and the pupils of Mile Oak achieve over the coming year!









Mrs Hills

**Watch
this space!**



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.
22 nd – 24 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			
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).
6 th October	Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Festival)	Chinese	It is an evening celebration where families gather together to light lanterns, eat moon cakes and appreciate the round moon. The full moon is a symbol for family reunion.
1 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.
6 th – 13 th 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.
20 th October	Diwali	Hindu 	For Hindus this is a New Year festival lasting from one to five days, during which fireworks are set off and lights are hung out. It is a festival of light, coinciding with the darkest night of the lunar month. It is generally associated with Lakshmi, goddess of wealth and prosperity, or with the victorious return of Rama and Sita after their exile. Sikhs also celebrate Diwali since Guru Hargobind, the sixth Guru, was released from Gwalior prison on this day. The Golden Temple in Amritsar is illuminated and firework displays take place there. It is a time for new clothes, presents and sweets.

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



September

Wed 03.09.25 INSET Day

Thurs 04.09.25 INSET Day

Fri 05.09.25 Little Oaks Nursery Closed

Fri 05.09.25 Children return to school

Fri 05.09.25 Reception 2025/26 new starters parent consultations

Mon 08.09.25 Year 6 - Blackland Farm Trip 3:30pm

Tues 09.09.25 Year 5 Greek workshop

Mon 15.09.25 World Afro Day - Year 6 world record attempt

Wed 17.09.25 Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop

Thurs 18.09.25 Year 6 Viking workshop

Thurs 18.09.25 to 23.10.25 Year 5 - Rowan class swimming

Wed 24.09.25 Year 1 - Parent presentation 'Welcome to Year 1'

Thurs 25.09.25 Year 3 visit forest school

Fri 26.09.25 Year 4 visit Hampton Court Palace

October

Fri 24.10.25 Last day of term



TERM DATES 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term:

September 5th 2025 - December 19th 2025

(Half term Week: October 27th - October 31st)

INSET Days (school closed to children) September 3rd/4th

Spring Term:

January 7th 2026 - March 27th 2026

(Half Term Week: February 16th - February 20th)

INSET Days (school closed to children) January 5th/6th

Summer Term:

April 14th 2026 - July 22nd 2026

(Half Term Week: May 25th - May 29th)

INSET Days (school closed to children) April 13th



MILE OAK SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Mile Oak Primary School

"THINK BIG"

Safeguarding Team



*Mr Loring,
Headteacher (DSL)*



*Mr Cosgrove,
Deputy Headteacher (DSL)*



*Mrs Larter,
Family Champion (DSL)*



*Ms Wilks,
Assistant Headteacher
(DDSL)*

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

Front Doors for Families

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

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

Email: FrontDoorforFamilies@brighton-hove.gov.uk

COMMUNICATION

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

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

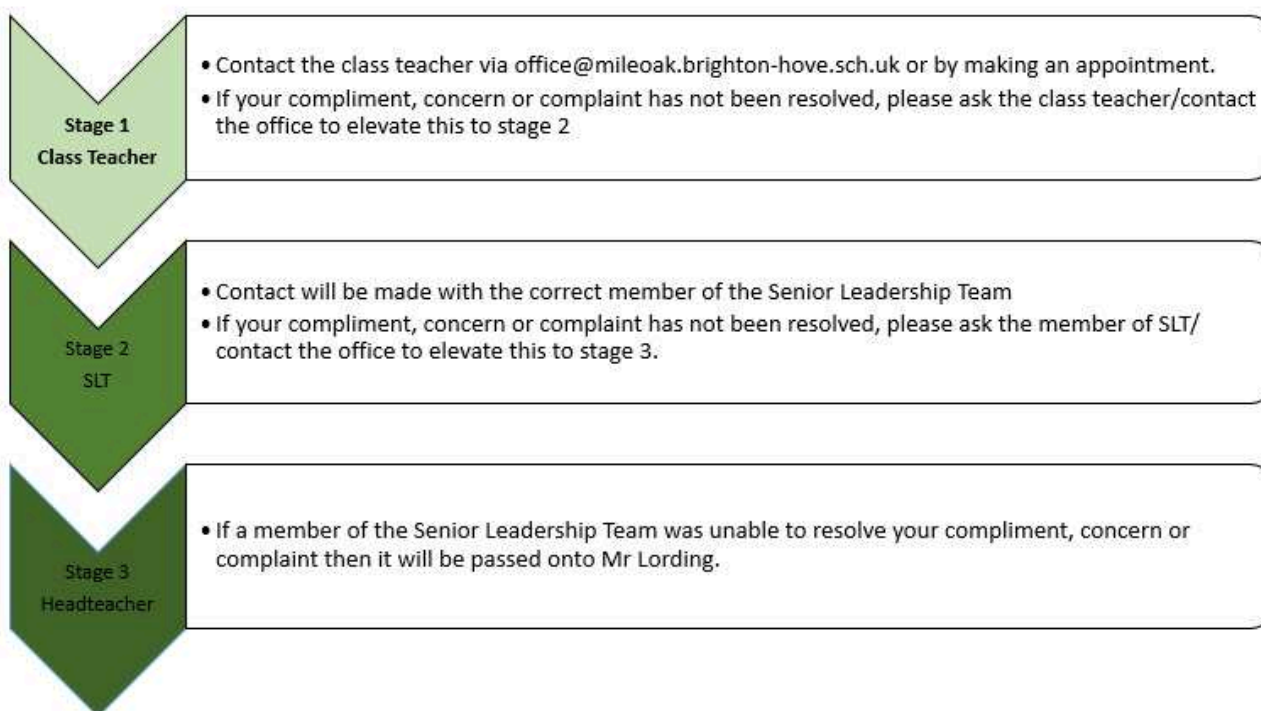
Once initial communication has been made, staff will respond within 2 working days. If a face-to-face meeting is required, the relevant member of staff will make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

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

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

Communications Protocol

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



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



01273 077114



office@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk



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