

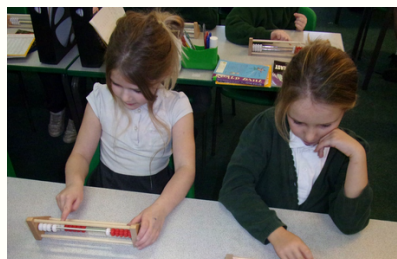


MILE OAK NEWSLETTER



FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2022

Autumn 2 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of a very busy autumn term and what a time it has been for the school. There has been lots to celebrate over the weeks and so much progress and development has happened. Our pupils continue to be the most wonderful ambassadors for the school and represent the values that we all hold so dear. They have worked incredibly hard and deserve a well-earned rest and relaxation ready for January.

The Christmas concerts have been magical and all the children have demonstrated what amazing stars they are! We feel so proud of them and know that you are all too.

A huge thank you to FOMO for the wonderful community events they have run this half term. We had the return of our annual fireworks night and the festive Christmas Fair, both of which brought so much fun and enjoyment back to the school.

Thank you to all the staff who work incredibly hard, every day, to support all the children across the school. Their unwavering commitment shines through in all that they do and we are so lucky to have such a talented and inspiring staff team supporting our children.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who continue to do so much to support the school and their children. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas break as families and look forward to continuing our journey with you in the new year.

Thank you,

Mr. Lording



AMBITION



RESPECT



PRIDE



COURAGE

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNORS



After a very busy and productive school term, the Mile Oak Primary governors wish a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year to all the staff, parents and children.

The Governing Board meets termly to review teaching and learning, finance and all matters concerning the operation of the school. We will also oversee the new Nursery class, Little Oaks at Mile Oak, which will open at the school in April 2023.

We are delighted with the progress the school is making, building on this year's successful Ofsted inspection. It is particularly pleasing to see all the visits into the school and trips out for the children, and the amazing community events organised by FOMO following the long restrictions during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

There are still plenty of challenges ahead, particularly with tight budgets and increasing costs, and we are always looking for new ways to improve. We would welcome some more governors to join us, parents, grandparents, members of the community or from business; individuals who are willing to contribute to Mile Oak Primary school. The Governing Board is a friendly, supportive group with a strong commitment to children's education and welfare, and there is very good training provided by the Local Authority.

If you are interested and want to know more then please email our Chair, Rosalind Turner on rosalindturner@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk or our Clerk, Sara Hinchliffe on sarahinchliffe@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk or you can ask for information from Mrs Szkolar in the school office.

....Best wishes, Mile Oak Governors

THE LIVING CLASSROOM



The thing about working outside all day is that you really are aware of the weather patterns and I can say for certain that this half term has been seriously wet! What I love most of all about our children is that they never complain and they remain enthusiastic about coming outside and getting involved.

Although it has rained continuously, it has been very mild and we have observed spring-like changes happen in the garden already: Strawberries are re-fruiting; Catkins are out in the forest; some trees are budding and some spring bulbs are already peeking through - proving that we are living in a changing climate.

We have spent time in our pond area this half term using the nets to see what we can spot. We have seen mosquito larvae; water snails; caddisfly larvae and hairworms. We cleared the pond of fallen leaves and created wood piles around the pond for our amphibian friends to feel safe over winter.

We received a generous donation of bulbs which have all been planted around the school, including the Infant playground and in the Reception beds. The children have also planted bluebells around the forest and on the retreat providing a great early food source for bees.



We have also spent lots of time practicing our pruning skills while we cut back all the shrubs around the field. We got all festive with the cut foliage and made some Christmas wreaths for the children to take home. Our big bay tree got a Christmas makeover too!!



THE LIVING CLASSROOM



I have had the most incredible time in the garden and will so miss working with all the children. It has been such a joy to witness how caring and passionate they are about their environment. I will also deeply miss everyone at Mile Oak and am so proud to have been part of this team. Just last week, I was showing a visitor around the school accompanied by a group of children who were speaking with great confidence and pride about their projects.

On the tour, we saw kids playing on their bikes, a group working in the forest and a wheelchair basketball game in progress! When the visitor left, they said "I've never seen a school like it." What a wonderful endorsement of the dedication, passion and hard work of everyone involved with the school - reflected as it was in the engagement and development of the children that we are privileged to have in our care.

Best wishes to you all and a very Happy 2023.

.... Mrs Thomas



THANK YOU



FOREST SCHOOL



What a lot of rain there has been in the last few weeks but that has not stopped us getting outside. We have had the opportunity to use our brilliant fleet of bicycles and the track on the field is the perfect place to ride. Several children have now learnt how to cycle for the first time - a big well done to them. Others have really grown in confidence.

We have linked some of our time outdoors to all the different events and celebrations that have been happening such Halloween, fireworks night and now Christmas. Decorating munchkin pumpkins, chalking firework patterns and making mini Christmas trees from twigs and branches from the forest. The children have swept up fallen leaves for mulch which also helps to keep paths clear.



Together we read a story about going on an adventure and talked about what this would feel like. We talked about what we might need to take when exploring outside. We linked the story to games to play on the field and decorated bags to keep supplies in.

The forest area is now looking very wintery and we have enjoyed noticing all the changes that the season brings with crunchy leaves and frost sparkling on the ground. The bulbs we planted a few months back are, starting to bravely break through the soil showing much is going on underground despite the chill.

.... Mrs Wilde



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX



*William the Conqueror
invading Britain.*

Year 6 have worked incredibly hard this term. We are very proud of the maturity they have shown in their learning and as leaders around the school. It has been clear that they are relishing the opportunity to be role models and that they are enjoying supporting children in younger year groups. In some cases, our children have been giving up their lunchtimes to help out other children in the school, such as the year 4 Times Table Rock Stars club, which has been brilliant to see.

The children have been involved in lots of exciting trips and events this half term:

The Battle of Hastings

To end their Vikings topic, the children learnt about and re-enacted the Battle of Hastings.



*Harold's men hear a
rumour that William has
been killed.*



*King Harold's army
are ready to defend!*



*Harold is killed and
William becomes King of
England*

River's Trip to Lewes

Earlier in the term, we thoroughly enjoyed our school trip to Railway Land Wildlife Trust in Lewes, where we learnt about rivers and local geography. The children were fascinated to learn about our local area while also conducting experiments on the flow of river water and on how rain water makes its way through our chalky landscape into rivers.



PACA Art Visit

We have also enjoyed visits to PACA for some bonus art lessons, where the children were introduced to the artist Jean-Michel Basquiat. His style of art is expressionism and he likes to play with mixed media and colour. Whilst at PACA, the children used a printing technique to create a background for their work then, once dry, they drew on skulls using oil pastels. They also embellished their drawings with artistic squiggles and lines

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX



Bikes

We have been active on the bicycles as part of the Bikeability program. Every child in the year group has had training on the bicycles, tailored to their current level of cycling ability. As expected, the children have absolutely loved the opportunity to develop their cycling proficiency and show off their skills. We are looking forward to getting them out again for cycling lessons later in the school year!



Overall, the Autumn term has been a great success with lots of progress being made, alongside having lots of fun! We would like to say thank you for your continued support at home, as well as wishing you a Merry Christmas. Let's make 2023 as much of a success as the start of year 6 has been!

.... The Year 6 Team

A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FIVE

What a busy half term we have had in Year 5! The children have continued to impress us with their positive attitude to learning, applying the school values each and every day. After returning from October half term, we began with an 'Olympics Day' to build on our knowledge of Ancient Greece. The children participated in a variety of events, including: discus, relay and tug of war, competing for house points and the esteemed title of 'Olympic Champions'. This experience was used as a stimulus for their first piece of writing: a recount of 'Olympics Day'. The children were able to write emotively and with accuracy about their successes in the events – what a competitive bunch they are!



We have been reading 'Boy at the Back of the Class' as our guided reading text. 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.

In maths, we have learnt mental strategies to manipulate number and problem solve, before the children move onto more formal written methods in the spring term. Our Big Questions in Science concentrated on the human life cycle and how our bodies change both physically and mentally as we age. The children compared gestation periods of humans to other mammals, making connections between the size and life expectancy of the animal. They were fantastic researchers!



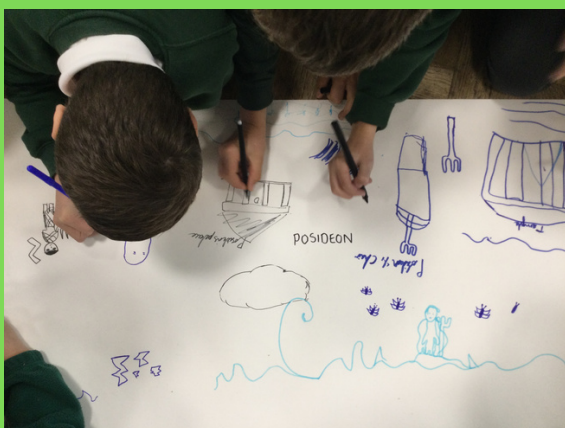
A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FIVE

Wheelchair basketball has been a weekly fixture for Elder class, whilst Walnut have continued to improve their swimming skills. The growing confidence in these new skills is to be commended. Towards the end of the term, we visited PACA library where Year 5 shared their love of books with Year 10 pupils. The children rose to the occasion and read beautifully, whilst listening attentively to their hosts explain about the local library and all it has to offer. Finally, our most recent trip to St Nicholas Church allowed the children to pose our Big Question (Is the Christmas story true?) to Father David.



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

.... The Year 5 Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FOUR



We have had an enjoyable and enlightening term in Year 4. We have continued with our topic of The Tudors but expanded this to learn about Explorers. This allowed us to learn all about significant explorers such as Francis Drake and also about some lesser known historical figures, including those from different ethnic backgrounds.

We also had an amazing time recreating a Tudor Banquet feast. We researched what a Tudor feast would have been like and then designed our own healthy version. We spent a day chopping vegetables and cooking a tasty vegetable and barley stew (exactly like the Tudor peasants would have eaten). We also made spiced and baked apples, which were just as delicious as the stew was.

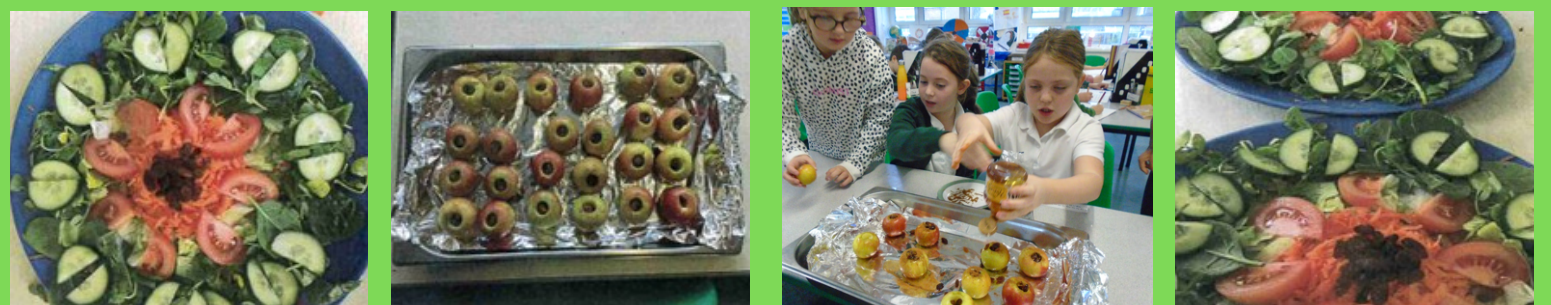
We had real lightbulb moments in Science when we were experimenting with electrical circuits. We then carried out an investigation into which materials would be good insulators and conductors for a local model railway enthusiast.

Also this term, we have been keeping active with hockey, yoga, cycling and even wheelchair basketball.

Next term, we are looking forward to get stuck in to the always engaging topic of The Romans. This will be enhanced by our planned trip to Fishbourne Roman palace in February.

We would all like to wish you all a wonderfully happy Christmas!

.... The Year 4 Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR THREE



Year 3 have had a fantastic half term. They have enjoyed their 'Fieldwork' topic and have been fascinated by the physical and human features of Mile Oak. They have written some brilliant letters, persuading tourists to come and visit Mile Oak, as well as creating great maps of their local area, labelling the features with a key.



Year 3 have also visited the Church of Good Shepherd, where Father David explained to the children what Christmas means and re-told the Christmas story in great detail. The children really enjoyed exploring the church afterwards too.

The children had a great time riding bikes this half term and have gained confidence when using them.

Year 3 have also been working hard in DT and have been exploring a running stitch when designing and making their very own Christmas trees, adding details with coloured beads.

The children have loved guided reading sessions this half term and have got fully immersed into 'The Song of the Dolphin Boy', where they explored a selkie child who prevented a plastic pollution disaster.



We really hope that the children have a well-deserved, restful and festive break over the Christmas period and we look forward to welcoming them back in the Spring term for our 'Where do we Live?' topic. During this topic, they will be learning more about the history of their local area.

... The Year 3 Team



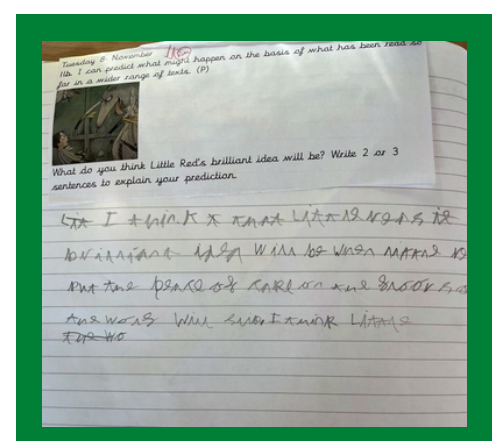
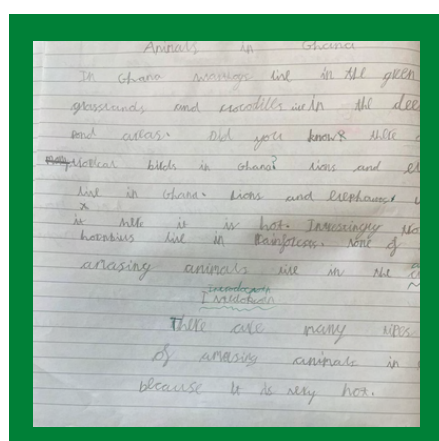
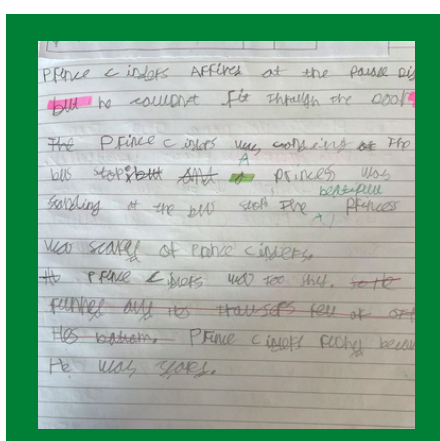
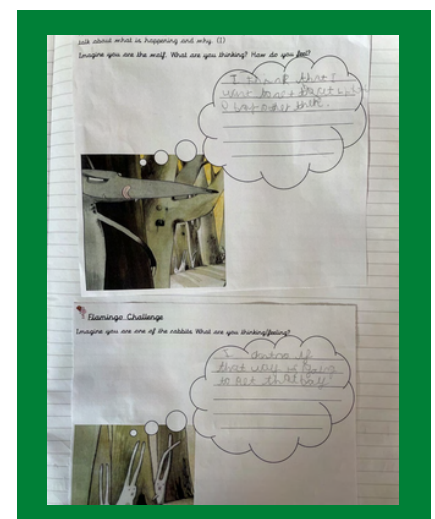
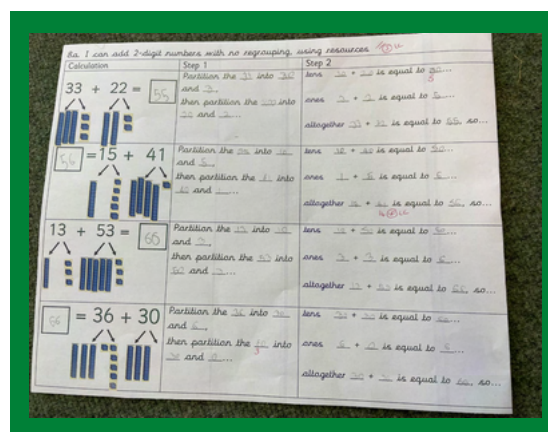
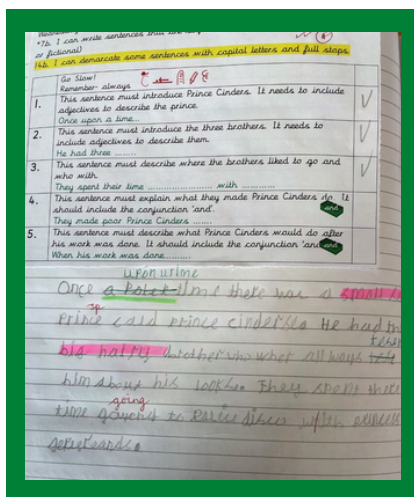
A MESSAGE FROM YEAR TWO

Year 2 have had a busy half term and have worked incredibly hard. They started the half term by learning all about Ghana and made comparisons between Ghana and the UK. They tried some delicious Ghanaian traditional foods such as fufu and jollof rice. Our topic was Once Upon a Time and the children explored some alternative versions of traditional fairy tales such as Little Red, The Ghanaian Goldilocks and Prince Cinders.

They really enjoyed retelling the story of Prince Cinders and comparing the book to the animation. In maths lessons the children have been using their knowledge of number bonds to help them add and subtract 2 digit and 2 digit numbers. After learning about the artist Frida Kahlo, the children created their own self-portraits in a similar style.

These last few weeks have been really busy learning about the Christmas story, visiting the local church and preparing for their Christmas performance. Our topic next term is Ice, Ice Baby and Year 2 are really looking forward to creating some ice poetry and learning all about penguins.

.... The Year 2 Team



A MESSAGE FROM YEAR ONE



The children are really enjoying our 'Toys and Us' topic. They will be bringing home their terrific peg dolls that they have been making in Design and Technology. This activity was inspired by our wonderful visit to Hove Museum. The children listened to Rosemary, the workshop leader, as she told us about the history of the museum and how it was a family home, and about the toys that were left there by the owners.

The children talked about how toys have changed, and how materials for toys in particular have changed. This has also informed our learning about everyday materials in Science. The children enjoyed playing with a large variety of older toys, and we also had time to visit the wonderful 'Wizard's Attic' upstairs at the museum.

The narrative text 'Nothing' by Mick Inkpen has been a lovely story to develop our understanding of history and timelines.

The children have really impressed us with their continuing progress. The behaviour of all children on our trip was excellent, and it was an absolute pleasure to take them onto the bus to the Museum. We are very proud of them all.



We were busy learning our Christmas Performance poems off by heart and it was great to see families at our performances!

Our next topic is called 'To the Moon.... and Back!' and will be about Explorers. We will be learning about notable explorers in history, including Neil Armstrong and Amelia Earhart. The topic will have another historical focus and we will be writing reports about chosen explorers in English. We shall also be reading the narrative texts 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jeffers and 'The Night Pirates' by Peter Harris. In Design and Technology, we shall be making wheeled vehicles, inspired by the theme of exploration.



The children will experience exciting opportunities next half term in PE as we have dance sessions booked with a dancing in schools' company. The first session is based on a theatrical musical style approach, and the second based upon Chinese New Year.

.... Best wishes, The Year One Team.

A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION



Well, hasn't this half term just been a blast! The children continue to amaze us with their attitudes to learning, progress through our curriculum and further settling into school life. Our topic 'It's Getting Darker' has seen us investigating light and dark, seasonal changes and how lights are a theme across cultural celebrations.

Our term started with a bang (or should we say whoosh!) as the local fire service visited us to tell us about all the hard work they do to keep us safe. We saw all their equipment, tried on their helmets and sat in the cab. They even let us squirt the fire engine hose- it was such fun! This helped us link our learning to experiences of fireworks being part of cultural events such as Halloween and Bonfire Night, and to Diwali; the Hindu and Sikh festival of light, and how it is important to stay safe during these times. We have thoroughly enjoyed being firefighters in our outdoor area, using the bikes as fire engines, putting out fires with 'hoses' and problem solving together as a team to rescue a cat from a tree.

Another theme we have explored was how the seasons are changing and the nights are drawing in. We talk about the weather daily and love noticing how it changes through each day and each week. We have been 'camping' in our role play areas and visited the Forest School area finding out the answer to our big science question 'Why do leaves crunch?' We have been bird watching with our binoculars in our outdoor learning area too and investigating ice on these frosty mornings. Our writing skills have been developing by keeping notes and lists on all we have explored.

Recently, we had a very special visitor in school, Henry the hedgehog. He dropped by with his owner, Graham, to support our learning about woodland animals and we learnt the meaning of the word 'nocturnal'. We also were very fortunate to meet Charlie the fox during a brilliant puppet show. He taught us lots about woodland animals and we got to be puppeteers too as we made our own sock puppets. We then put on little shows of our own. Charlie thought they were great and so did the teachers!

A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION

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

Our term concluded with the eagerly anticipated Christmas show. The children worked so hard to learn and perform a range of songs and we couldn't wait to perform it for you. We hope you loved it as much as we enjoyed getting it all ready. We went to Paddock Court to spread some festive cheer by singing our songs to them. The best time was had by old and young alike! We have also continued our learning by visiting The Church of The Good Shepherd where Father David told us all about The First Christmas.

Our next topic is sure to be another fun-filled escapade as we 'enter stage left' into the footlights with our topic 'That's Show Business!' We will be experiencing and immersing ourselves into the world of performing arts including dance, magic, singing and circus skills. We will think about colour and shape, and develop our self-confidence as we learn to perform to each other and other classes. The very popular Mile Oak Talent Show will take place, and the older children will show us their skills. For any willing grown-up performers amongst you, this is your chance to show us your skills!

All of this learning will be backed up by some fantastic stories such as 'Circus Girl', 'Wolf Won't Bite', 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'The Colour Monster'.

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

Best wishes for a restful holiday.

.... The Reception Team



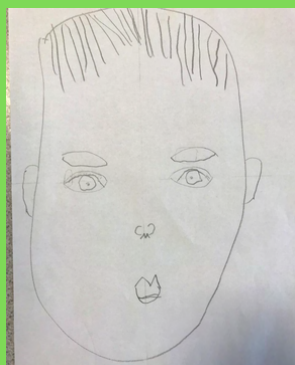
ART UPDATE



The teaching of art has gone from strength to strength so far this year. Staff have attended training on providing children with opportunities to explore artistic mediums in lessons and build on their knowledge about artists and art movements. Year groups have planned activities to promote discussion and to develop the children's language of art. The children have lots of creative opportunities across the school and I have seen the results of this through children's fantastic artistic pieces.



Reception continue to explore lots of creative ideas linked to their topics. Year 1 explored our school grounds to collect items for their own environmental art based on the artist Andy Goldsworthy. Year 2 have been learning about portraits by studying the surrealist painter Frida Kahlo. They then drew themselves and mixed their own skin colour to go onto their self-portraits.



Year 3 have developed their sewing skills by making seasonal decorations from felt. Year 4 have extended their knowledge about portraits by looking a range of artists: Vincent Van Gogh (impressionism), Pablo Picasso (surrealism) and Leonardo Di Vinci (Renaissance). This supported them in drawing portraits of The Tudors. Year 5 explored drawing materials such as: pencils, pens, crayons, pastels and charcoal, to draw Greek mythical creatures. They also demonstrated their ability to step outside their comfort zones and be innovative in their final drawings. Year 6 are learning about how to show movement in their pictures. Vincent Van Gogh is a good example of mark making so that it looks like things are moving and modern artist - Chinaza Agbor - creates paintings that seem to defy gravity.



The Children's Parade

After a successful bid, we have been awarded as a Heritage School for The Children's Parade, which means we get an extra level of support and more opportunities for our children to experience a range of artistic media. Look out for a Ping next term inviting you to sign your child up to the parade.



... Miss Witts

PE UPDATE



This half-term has been incredibly successful for Mile Oak in PE. We have attended the annual cross-country meet at Waterhall, which had been deluged in the week leading up to it. At the event, the children were unfazed by this and gave it their all. A special mention has to go to Blake, who finished 36th in the Y5 race and Elliot and Tommy, who finished 73rd and 28th in the Y6 race respectively. The children showed great courage to finish the race under the conditions and out of so many children (about 200 in each race).

We have also welcomed a wheelchair basketball coach to our school to work with Y5 children during curriculum time. Y4 have also had the opportunity to experience how to play the sport during taster sessions. We feel that inclusion games are an important part of the sporting ethos here at Mile Oak, therefore, other children will have the opportunity to participate in this sport later on in the year.

There have been four sporting after school clubs, including basketball, gymnastics and boxercise, which have been an important part of our children staying active outside of the school day. Further sports after-school clubs are being explored so that Mile Oak can offer an even wider range of sport for our children.

.... Mr McCusker and Mr Crellin



MATHS UPDATE

This half term we have been extremely impressed by the children's calculation skills with both mental and written methods. Across all year groups, children have been working on developing different strategies to help them add and subtract. It has been great to see the children demonstrate so much flexibility in their mathematical thinking.

We are continuing to raise the profile of Times Table Rock Stars and Numbots. Lots of children have won inflatables after showing great commitment to developing their times table facts, working their way up the leaderboards. As well as this, our year group competitions have added some extra encouragement to engage with TTRS and beat the rival classes!

We would like to say well done to Chestnut class, Walnut class, Rowan class and Beech class, who had the most competition wins this half term.

We would also like to say a huge well done to the following children who we have seen dedicating a lot of time to playing TTRS;

Vincent - Chestnut Class
 Maisie - Ash Class
 Tyler - Rowan Class
 Edward - Walnut Class
 Isla - Hazel Class
 Sophie - Walnut Class
 Archie - Cherry Class
 Aleeza - Blackthorn Class
 Daisy - Beech Class
 Fraser - Hazel Class
 Dylan - Elder Class

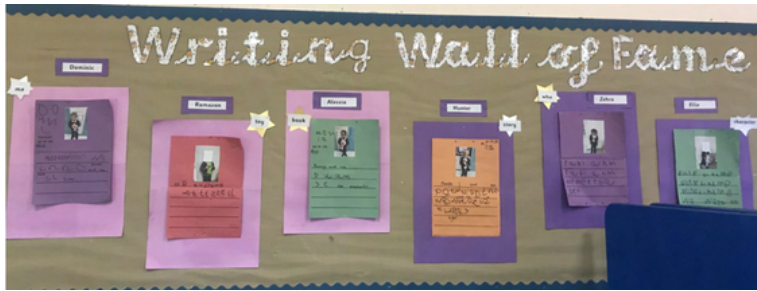


During next term, Mr. Conboy will be running a dedicated TTRS club at lunchtimes. Please encourage your child to come along to the club, particularly if it is tricky for them to access it outside of school. As ever, there will be prizes for children who engage the most and make the most progress throughout the term! Keep rocking!

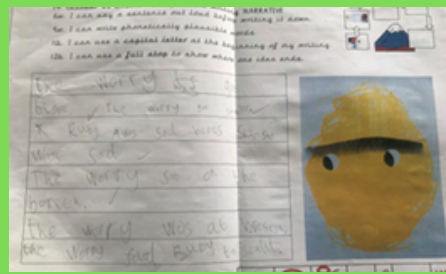
.... Mr. Conboy and Miss Martin



WRITING UPDATE



The children at Mie Oak School just love to write and we are so proud of the progress they have made this term. I would like to share some of our many displayed pieces of writing from across the school. Our amazing Reception children are currently on the 'Writing Wall of Fame' and have been working incredibly hard on their writing. They have also enjoyed writing to Santa and Stick Man.



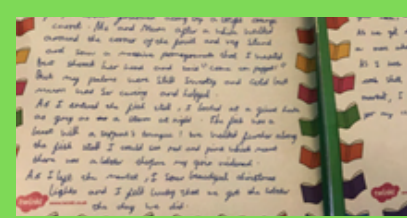
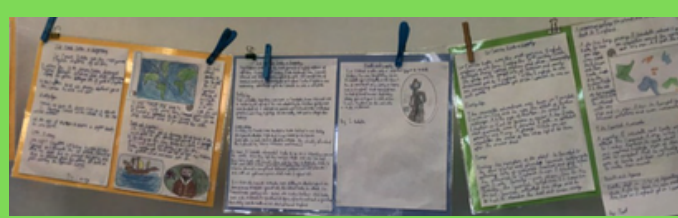
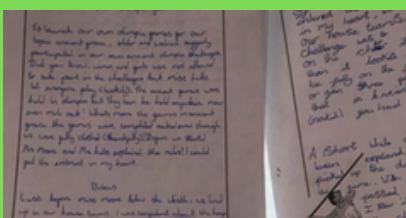
Year One, have used story mountains to help them to plan and write a story. Year Two, have written information leaflets about Ghana. Based on their book 'Stone Age Boy', Year Three have written instructions for making fire. Year four have written an information page about Sir Francis Drake and they loved using the internet to research facts. Year Five were inspired to write after their Olympics event. They have also used their book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' as a stimulus for writing a description of a market scene. Year Six have finished publishing their non-chronological reports about Valhalla. They enjoyed working collaboratively to research facts about their section and sharing their findings with the rest of the class.

I would also like to say congratulations to the recent poetry competition winners. Well done to all of the children who participated in the competition- I enjoyed reading all of your entries. Look out for the up-and-coming story writing competition!

Have a lovely Christmas and if you want to pick up a pen and write, I would love to read your piece of writing.











.... Ms Wilks.

"Be yourself. Above all, let who you are, what you are, what you believe, shine through every sentence you write, every piece you finish." – John Jakes



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Spring 1 Religious festival calendar

January			
	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh	Sikh 	This is a celebration of the birth anniversary of the Guru Gobind Singh. On this day, historical lectures are conducted and poems are told in praise of the Guru. Special dishes are prepared and served during the festivities. Like other anniversaries associated with the lives of the Gurus, the day is referred to as a gurburb, and is marked by the ending of an akhand path, an unbroken reading of the whole of the Guru Granth Sahib. This lasts for 48 hours
6th January	Epiphany	Christian 	This is the 'twelfth day of Christmas', which, according to Christian belief was when the three kings visited the infant Jesus in Bethlehem, bearing symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh; and when John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the River Jordan. Epiphany is the day when some say that all Christmas decorations should be taken down, since otherwise bad luck will follow.
14 th /15th January	Makar Sankranti	Hindu 	Sankranti is the start of a new zodiac sign. This is the date based on the solar rather than the lunar calendar. For many Hindus it is a day for giving and patching up quarrels and disagreements. Fires are lit outside and peanuts and sesame sweets are eaten round them. The traditional Punjabi meal consists of cornmeal chapatis and a mustard leaf dish.
16 th January	World Religion Day	All Faiths      	This day promotes interfaith understanding by emphasising factors common to all faiths.
22 nd January	Chinese New Year		New Year's Day is the most important event in the traditional Chinese calendar and marks the beginning of the first lunar month. The festival is colourfully celebrated with fireworks, dances (such as the famous Lion Dance) and the giving of gifts, flowers and sweets.
26 th January	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.
February			
5 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.



AMBITION



RESPECT



PRIDE



COURAGE

NEXT TERM

Topics for Spring 1

Reception - That's Showbusiness!

Year 1 - To the Moon and Back

Year 2 - Ice, Ice Baby!

Year 3 - Where do we Live?

Year 4 - The Romans

Year 5 - Space

Year 6 - WWII

Please visit the school website and select your child's year group to view the curriculum overview for their year group. This details what children will be learning in each subject. In addition to which concepts and time periods children will cover, the curriculum maps show the language which will be taught.

Topic Share Evenings

We will be holding topic share evenings for each year group next half term. These will be an opportunity for you to come into your child's classroom and for children to share their work with you from the year so far. See the '**Dates for Your Diary**' section of the newsletter for the date this will be happening in each year group.

Core Reading Texts for Spring 1

Reception - Life is Magic: Meg McLaren

Wolf Won't Bite: Emily Gravett

Flyaway Katie: Polly Dunbar

Year 1: The Way Back Home: Oliver Jeffers

Night Pirates: Peter Harris

Year 2: The Snow Dragon: Vivian French

Winter's Child: Angela McAllister

Year 3: Tilly and the Time Machine: Ade Edmondson

Year 4: Roman Diary: The Journal of Iliona, Young Slave:

Richard Platt

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

Year 6: When the Sky Falls: Phil Earle



TIME TO TALK!



Each fortnight Hiedi, our Family Champion runs a Time to Talk session which is aimed at supporting common issues that parents may experience when bringing up their family.

All parents are invited to attend every session, even if they can't stay for the whole time or haven't managed to complete the Ping form confirming their attendance.

We always welcome feedback and would love to hear of sessions that you may find useful for future Time to Talks.

Wednesday 11th January 2023 - 8:50 to 9:30am

Toileting - Kate, our School Nurse will be providing advice and support to ensure that your child is fully continent day and night.

Wednesday 25th January 2023 - 8:50 to 10:30am

Reading with the Reluctant - Alison Muir, a Specialist Literacy Support Teacher will be providing support and practical advice to parents who may struggle to engage their child in reading at home.

Monday 06th February 2023 - 5:00 to 6:00pm

Cyber Safety - Reported online grooming cases rose by 70% in the last 3 years. It is important that all parents who are able to, attend this session. Learn more about the websites and apps that your child may be using and how you can support them to be safe online.

Tuesday 21st February 2023 - 8:50 to 9:30am

FOMO - This session will be a discussion around our parent group Friends of Mile Oak. Hear about future plans, funds raised and how you can help. We also welcome your feedback and ideas for events.

Wednesday 08th March 2023 - 8:45 to 9:30am

CAPA - We will be joined by Jane Griffiths the founder of CAPA. This session is for parents who are struggling with their child's behaviour at home.

You may find that you're treading on eggshells around them. They may hurt you or act in a verbally aggressive manner on a recurring basis. You may regularly change your plans or make plans around their behaviour for fear of what might occur.

Thursday 23rd March 2023 - 5:00 to 6:00pm

Bullying - This session will be a discussion around bullying. Find out how to identify if your child is being bullied; how to react when your child shares that they are being bullied and what steps we take as a school when it is identified that a child is being bullied.

January



Tues 3rd INSET Day

Wed 4th INSET Day

Thurs 5th Children Return to School

Fri 6th Reception 2023/2024 September Starters Open Event- 1:30pm

Tues 10th Reception Magician Show

Wed 11th Time to Talk - Toileting

Wed 11th Reception Topic Share Evening- 3:30pm-4:30pm

Thurs 12th Dance Workshop - Reception, Year 1 & Year 2

Mon 16th TTRS Competition Week Begins

Tues 17th Year 3 Topic Share Evening- 3:30pm-4:30pm

Thurs 19th Year 2 Topic Share Evening- 3:30pm-4:30pm

Mon 23rd Year 3 Beech Class - Local History Walk - Please note that this date may change

Tues 24th Year 3 Cherry Class - Local History Walk - Please note that this date may change

Tues 24th Reception Talent Show-2:30pm

Wed 25th Time to Talk - Reading with a Reluctant Reader

Wed 25th Year 4 Topic Share Evening- 3:30pm-4:30pm

Thurs 26th Year 5 Topic Share Evening- 3:30pm-4:30pm

Mon 30th Science Week begins

Tues 31st Year 2 - Robin Class visit to Al Medinah

February

Wed 1st Chinese Dragon Workshop -Reception, Year 1 & Year 2

Mon 6th Children's Mental Health Week Begins

Mon 6th Time to Talk - Cyber Safety

Tues 7th Year 2 - Wren Class visit Al Medinah

Tues 7th Nursery Prospective Family Tour 1:30pm

Wed 8th Year 1 Topic Share Evening- 3:30pm-4:30pm

Thurs 9th Year 6 Topic Share Evening- 3:30pm-4:30pm

Fri 10th Last Day of Term





OPEN DAYS FOR RECEPTION STARTERS 2023/2024



Dates and Time



Friday 06th January 2023 - 1:30pm



Ofsted commented that, 'Pupils feel happy and safe at this school. They know that staff have high expectations for all pupils. Staff encourage pupils to follow the school's vision and 'Think Big' about what they can achieve in the future. Pupils are proud to belong to the school and they enjoy the range of experiences on offer. Mental and physical health are strong themes in the school's work to support pupils.'



AMBITION



RESPECT



PRIDE



COURAGE



LITTLE OAKS NURSERY OPENING 2023!



Mile Oak Primary School is Growing Roots!

**Little Oaks Nursery
Opening in April 2023**



Courage Pride Respect Ambition



- o Led by qualified teachers and highly experienced practitioners
- o Established local preschool moving to brand new nursery classroom and outdoor area
- o Extensive grounds and established forest school area
- o Nurturing, creative and inspiring curriculum
- o Provision for children aged between 2 and 4 years
- o Open 8.00 am - 4.00 pm
- o All Government funding accepted

We have the following open events on offer

Tuesday 7 th February 2023	1.30 PM
Monday 27 th February 2023	1.30 PM
Tuesday 14 th March 2023	10.00 AM
Saturday 25 th March 2023	10.00 AM

To register an interest or book one of the dates please contact the school office via
office@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk or call **01273 077114**



Mile Oak Primary School
Graham Avenue
Portslade
BN41 2WN



www.mileoakschool.co.uk



MILE OAK SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Mile Oak Primary School

"THINK BIG"

Safeguarding Team



*Mr Lording,
Headteacher (DSL)*



*Ms Wilks,
Assistant Headteacher
(DDSL)*



*Mrs Larter,
Family Champion (DDSL)*



*Mrs Foster,
Learning Mentor*

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.

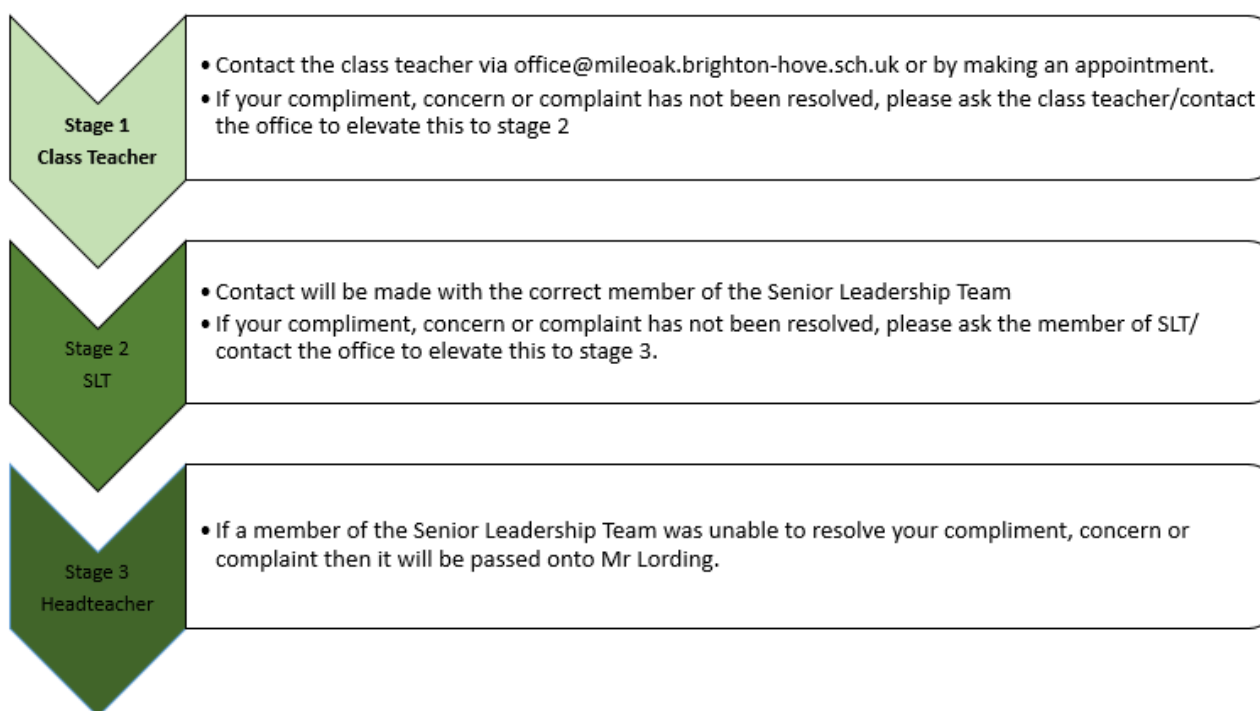
Once initial communication has been made, staff will respond within 2 working days. If a face-to-face meeting is required, the relevant member of staff will make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

The Admin team are very happy to take calls, emails or even messages in the postbox outside 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>



FOMO UPDATE



As a special treat, Santa visited the school on Wednesday 14th December and delivered a board game, bought by FOMO, for each classroom.

FOMO also purchased Christmas crackers for the children's Christmas dinners.

As always, our events could not go ahead without the support of our Mile Oak community. In the new year, we are looking to expand our planning committee from just 2 people to 10 people, preferably with volunteers from all year groups. If you can spare a little time and are interested in keeping FOMO running by becoming more involved with the planning and preparation of our events, please email the office with the title FOMO to put your name forward. The more people that come forward, the lighter the workload for our current planners.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas break!



Upcoming Events!

Valentines disco - Date to be confirmed!

Happy's Circus 13th June 2023. Early bird tickets will be on sale from January 2023

Please follow our Friends of Mile Oak Facebook page for more information!