



# MILE OAK NEWSLETTER



FRIDAY 21ST JUNE 2023

## Summer 2 Newsletter



We have reached the end of another academic year at Mile Oak and what a year it has been for the school! So much progress, development and celebration has happened. We recently have been awarded the Silver Arts Mark Award. This recognises Mile Oak as an arts school and all the work that has taken place this year to raise the profile of the arts across the school. As always, PE has had a huge profile this year. We had some incredible Sports Days, represented the school at many events and in a variety of sports, further embedded the teaching of the cycling curriculum and held our first sports ceremony to recognise the achievements of our children. Our children have experienced a wealth of enriching trips and visitors which have supported their understanding of the curriculum.

This has also been the year where we set up our long awaited Little Oaks Nursery. This means we are now shaping the educational experience of the youngest children in our community.

Our pupils continue to be wonderful ambassadors for the school and represent the values that we hold so dear. They have worked incredibly hard this year and deserve a summer of rest and relaxation ready for another amazing year in September.

Thank you to all the staff who work unbelievably hard, every day, to support all the children. Their commitment shines through in all that they do and we feel so lucky to work with such a talented and inspiring staff team. This year teachers and schools from across the city have visited Mile Oak to learn from our staff and the exceptional work they are doing. This now places our school as one of the best in Brighton and Hove, which is reinforced by the amazing learning outcomes that the children have achieved this year.

Thank you to FOMO and all the families who volunteer to support their work. They have once again organised and run so many successful events throughout the year. The money they raise provides the school with some vital additional funds to further support our pupils.

Finally, thank you to all the families who work so hard to support the school and their children. We appreciate all that you do and the kindness and warmth that you exhibit to staff. Our community is so much stronger when we are a committed team of support around our children. We wish you all a wonderful and well-earned summer break as families and look forward to continuing our journey with you in September.

Mr. Lording



AMBITION



RESPECT



PRIDE



COURAGE



# LITTLE OAKS NURSERY



What a busy and fun filled half-term we've had in the nursery. The amazing weather has inspired lots of water play and cooling walks around the field and forest school. We have been learning about growing and life cycles. Our sunflowers are growing well and they have needed lots of water too!

We have shared key texts with the children starting with Lenny Has Lunch by Ken Wilson-Max. This book prompted lots of talk about healthy eating and we played with real fruit and vegetables in the home corner. We also made some lovely vegetable print paintings and even made a boat, like the boat in the story. We hope you have been singing the focus nursery rhyme, Row, Row, Row, Your Boat, at home too.



We then continued our key text activities after reading Handa's Surprise. This story provided lots of opportunities to talk about hot countries, taste different fruits and balance objects on our heads. The children were incredibly good at balancing – we even challenged ourselves to egg and spoon races in the nursery. This book inspired another key focus rhyme - Humpty, Dumpty, Sat on the Wall!

We have 22 children leaving Little Oaks to join Reception in September. We have been busy taking them for visits to their new classrooms and to explore the outside area. They have had lots of opportunities to meet the reception staff team and we hope they all have lots of fun next year. It has been wonderful to see them all grow into the lovely reception-ready children they are now. We are excited to watch them on their journey as they progress through the school.



Good luck to you all, you have all been amazing during our first term at Little Oaks. To the children returning to Little Oaks in September we look forward to seeing you again.

We have 13 new children and their families joining the nursery in September and we are excited to welcome them to our lovely setting for more wonderful adventures throughout the autumn.

Please remember we have INSET days on Friday 1st and Monday 4th of September. Little Oaks Nursery and the wider school are closed on both days. However, new families are welcomed to stay and play sessions, on the 1st of September. If you haven't already booked in, please call the office to reserve your place. There are two sessions to choose from:

12:00pm-1:00pm

1.30pm-2.30pm

The nursery team wish everyone a great summer holiday.

Stay safe and enjoy yourselves!



... Little Oaks Nursery Team

# GARDEN UPDATE



Spring is the time of growth in the garden calendar, and this year after a slow start due to a cold, wet spell in April, our cultivation efforts have been rewarded. The children are delighted to see the sweetcorn growing taller each day, the potatoes have flowered and are almost ready for harvesting, beans and peas are ripening and everybody enjoyed feasting on fresh strawberries and raspberries.

Rhubarb has never been more popular! We were kindly donated many ornamental plants and seeds which have added to our stunning display of wildflowers including poppies, hollyhocks and cornflowers. These brightly coloured, and scented, blooms bringing essential pollinating insects into the garden.

Even our perennials made it through the winter. We waited in trepidation to see if the banana tree came back to life, and it did!



It now stands as a grand centrepiece to the sunny border, though is unlikely to ever produce fruit in the UK climate. Next jobs for the children will be harvesting; so parents of keen young gardeners can expect some fruit and veg to be brought home in the next few days. We hope you enjoy the produce!"

... Miss Foster and Mrs Beach, Garden Mentors



# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX



Firstly, we would like to say how pleased we are of the Year 6s who have worked so hard this year and achieved so much. Their SATs results have done themselves, and the school, very proud indeed.

In writing, the children have completed their transition unit based on a short stories book called Happy Here. When they get to secondary school, they will pick up where we left off as a way of supporting them in their transition to the next phase in their learning. To finish the term off, we have been writing Fairy Tales with a modern twist.



**Activity Week** - While most children were on residential, others enjoyed activity week where they went bowling, to the cinema and for a walk on The Downs. What a lovely three days we had!

The weather was kind to us as we set off to Worthing. A morning walk along the prom before arriving at the art deco cinema felt like a real treat, as they opened up this beautiful cinema just for us! Popcorn in hand, we settled down to watch Mario. This was followed by an exciting session of ten pin bowling then a leisurely picnic in the gardens before heading home.

Day two was nature based, with a morning of forest school and an afternoon of walking on the Downs, where we were reminded just how close we are to stunning surroundings.

Our final day was filled with sporting activities under the superb supervision of Mr Crellin. All in all, a fun-filled complement to the residential.



**Residential** - Often the highlight of Year 6 for many children, is our trip to Blacklands Farm for the residential and it hardly comes as a surprise when we see the amount of fun the children have whilst they're there! From abseiling to zip-lining and everything in between, the children challenged themselves over and over again, whilst supporting their classmates when they found something tricky.

Everyone had an incredible time and made even stronger bonds with their friends throughout the three days. It is also noticeable how much the children have matured since the trip. We were extremely proud of the way they represented Mile Oak on their final school trip and hope that it was one they will remember forever.

# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR SIX



**Summer Fair** - We are extremely proud of all the year 6 children for successfully running a Shaun the Sheep Summer Fair for the children. They worked collaboratively in groups to plan out and make a stall that children could play and win housepoints on. They raised a huge £612 for Martlets.

**Leavers' Disco** - On their penultimate week of term the Year 6s got to celebrate in style at their Leavers' Disco! We thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children letting their hair down and dancing away to all their favourite songs with their friends. It was genuinely so lovely to see them all looking so carefree and completely living in the moment without a phone or iPad in sight! The atmosphere they created amongst themselves was heart-warming to watch and demonstrated the levels of maturity they have started to show us in preparation for secondary school.

Well done Year 6, we have loved every minute with you, not only this year, but throughout your whole time at Mile Oak. It has been a pleasure to be a part of your journey and we are so incredibly proud of the mature children you have developed into. It's not necessarily been the smoothest passage throughout your Primary School years, but you have demonstrated tremendous resilience and courage to make it through.

The progress and development we have seen you make in both your learning, and in your character has genuinely been a joy to be part of. You have left all of us with wonderful memories and we hope that you leave Mile Oak with wonderful memories of your own. We'll never forget you class of 2023 (so please do come back and visit us when you can!). Enjoy your summers and go and be the best you can at your secondary schools – they are lucky to have you.

... The Year 6 Team



# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FIVE



That's a wrap! What a pleasure it has been to teach the children in Elder and Walnut 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.

We continued with our geography focus after May half term, learning more about our local area by studying OS maps. The children are now able to identify key symbols on maps, measure distances using scale and even locate important places using 4 or 6 digit grid references. We took a field trip to Foredown Tower to identify both human and physical features of our local area, as well as sketching The Downs in preparation for our artist in residence that finished our fabulous term. More about that later...



Our class reader – The Explorer – has continued to engage the children's love of reading, whilst inspiring their writing. Being such good predictors, we tasked our budding authors with writing the next chapter of the book and were blown away with the results. Their ability to write in the tone and style of a published author, whilst developing the story in keeping with existing settings and characters, was to be commended.

Mathematics learning focused on mastering fractions (ready for Year 6), as well as developing their knowledge in shape, area and perimeter, angles and co-ordinates. Our ukulele lessons have continued, with Sound Makers teaching the children well-known songs such as 'Wake Me Up' by Avicii and 'We Will Rock You' by Queen and we've seen a mature approach from all children during our important RSE learning.



There have been trips to the Mandir to learn more about Hinduism. A visit from a Fire Safety Officer to improve their knowledge of fire safety around the home and school. A visit to PACA to watch students perform 'Matilda the Musical' and a field walk to the Downs to support our art. The printmaking workshop, led by local artist Helen Brown, was a hit with the children and staff alike. Using tracing paper, the children carefully sketched their designs onto lino before using cutting tools to carve out their image. By adding an array of coloured inks, their prints came to life. It was wonderful to see their wide smiles when the final print was revealed.

A successful sports day, finished the half term, with every child giving their all.

Enjoy a well-deserved summer!

... The Year 5 Team



# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR FOUR



Well, what an amazing year it has been in Year 4!! We have learned about fantastic topics, from the Tudors, to Romans, to our latest topic, Up, Up & Away. All of these topics have linked to learning in all areas of the curriculum and have brought each of them to life.

We have been lucky enough to go on some amazing trips. Going as far as London to visit Hampton Court Palace was really exciting and gave the children a unique experience of seeing where famous figures from Tudor times lived. Our visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace, also allowed the children to experience first-hand the actual buildings Romans lived in all those years ago.

Throughout the year, the children have shown; an unquenchable thirst for learning new things, determination to always do their best and plenty of humour and enthusiasm.

This year, all the children in Year 4 have worked really hard on improving their times table skills, mainly through Times Tables Rock Stars. They all performed amazingly well on the national Multiplication Tables Check and absolutely blew their teachers socks off with their results!

We have taken the opportunity to use the class sets of bikes in the school whenever we can. It has been really heartening to see the children growing in confidence with these and making amazing progress with being able to ride a bike independently. We also got a lot out of our wheelchair basketball sessions.

The children worked really well together to produce an amazing assembly about Bees and their plight, which celebrated learning in lots of different subjects.

To cap things off, we have had an exciting and varied final Summer term. We had a very nice walking trip on to the South Downs. We did this to celebrate Brighton Walking Festival but it was also lovely to remind ourselves about this wonderful resource on our doorstep.



In class, we have learned lots in our Up, Up and Away topic, from creating our own islands, to our moving dragon models.

We have been utilising our amazing school grounds as much as possible by looking for living things there and classifying them. We are also surveying them for our Maths and Geography lessons. We have enjoyed using the field for our PE lessons and practicing athletic skills in preparation for Sports Day.

... The Year 4 Team



# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR THREE



What a fantastic term we have had this Summer. Although we are all tired in the heat, we have kept on going, learning some more interesting facts about Ancient Egypt. We went on the public bus and had a very informative trip to the Brighton Museum where we saw lots of real-life Egyptian artifacts. We also got to pull the brains out of an Ancient Egyptian person that was being mummified. Ewww!!! We found out about how his heart was weighed against a feather to see if he could go to the afterlife. It was lighter than the feather, so, thank goodness, he was able to enjoy the rest of his time in the Fields of Reeds.

Our writing this term has been focussing on writing instructions. We watched a drama about two slaves that had to work very hard and then wrote instructions on how to build a pyramid. We also did some drama to show the different stages of building a pyramid. Later, we had a very messy session mummifying an orange and wrote the instructions for this too. We had to take out its organs, dry the cavity and then fill it with spices and salt. We then wrapped the oranges in bandages and left them to dry. It was great fun.



Our Class reader is VarjakPaw by SF Said. It is about a Mesopotamian Blue kitten who has to learn a secret martial art, The Way, to save his family and all cats that keep going missing. We have loved finding out about his adventures and how he survived a city full of dangerous dogs, cat gangs and the mysterious Vanishings. Our love for reading has really developed and we think this is our favourite book so far.

To follow on from our last Science topic about Flowering Plants, we are finding out about the full Life Cycle of Plants. We have made model flowers and learnt the names of the male and female parts of a flower. This also fitted in with our PSHE and Sex Education where we thought about the differences and similarities between male and female bodies. In our PSHE we also looked carefully at how all families are different and unique but that every family is special.

In computing we have learnt how to collect data using a tally chart and then turn that information into a graph. We learnt that there are different types of graphs for different uses. We learnt how to change the graphs appearance; changing fonts and colour. In maths, we have concentrated on learning about fractions, which we have found tricky but we have persevered and are now getting the hang of it.



It has been lovely to get onto the field to do our PE this term. Although it has been hot and we had to take slightly shorter sessions, we have learnt the beginnings of how to play rounders and also practised our athletic skills ready for Sports Day. We were also lucky enough to have a go at Wheelchair Basketball, which was great fun!

Our Design and Technology this term has been to make Canopic Jars out of clay. We learnt how to make a coil pot and how to make a pinch pot. We then used tools to make the lids resemble a falcon, a baboon, a jackal or a human. These were used in Ancient Egyptian times to store body organs.

... The Year 3 Team



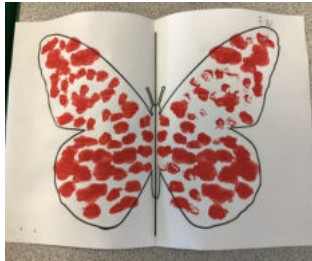
# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR TWO



Year 2 have had a great time this half term learning all about 'Beautiful Brighton'. We started off our topic by learning about the history of Brighton; including The Royal Pavilion, Prince Regent and Martha Gunn. We went on an amazing trip, which included a tour from Martha Gunn herself. We visited the house where Martha grew up and ate our lunch in the Pavilion Gardens. We ended our tour with a ride on the Volk's Electric Railway.

After our trip, we loved making maps of the route we took and illustrated these with great pictures. In art, we learnt about printing and collage and we created some amazing pictures of Brighton beach using polystyrene printing tiles. These look amazing on the front cover of our learning journals!

Our trip inspired us to compare Brighton-then and now. In writing lessons, we looked at leaflets and thought about what features make a good leaflet. We wrote three sections about the history of Brighton, the Royal Pavilion and Brighton Beach. Then we created our own leaflets all about Brighton.



Year 2 also began reading chapter books for our whole class guided reading sessions. WE read Cavegirl and Rabbit and Bear. Our favourite part was where Rabbit ate his own poo! YUCK!

In maths we learnt how to tell the time to o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past. We created time diaries of our day. We also learnt all about symmetry and we painted our own butterflies with symmetrical wings.

We have also been busy practising our athletics events ready for sports day. We had SO much fun competing in our houses. To continue our theme of the local area we looked at microhabitats and went on a minibeast hunt around the school grounds.



All of the Year 2 adults 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 3 and will miss them very much. We hope they enjoy a well-deserved, relaxing summer holiday!

... The Year 2 Team



# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR ONE



Wow - the year has flown by, and we are super proud of all our Year 1 children.

We have had terrific times and lively learning!

**English** - The main aims of writing in year 1 are to ensure that children understand what makes a full sentence, identifying nouns and verbs, and then expanding detail by using describing words.

Handwriting, punctuation and finger spacing is regularly practised. By the end of Year 1 children are able to read and check their writing, and to edit. This half term we have focused on instruction writing - making fruit salad in DT, inspired by Oliver's Fruit Salad, and guacomole as part of our reading about The Avocado baby! As part of our Jack and the Beanstalk learning, we have climbed the imaginary beanstalk and written creative ideas about what we might see there!



**Science** - The children know a lot about what a seed needs to grow, so our next step was to design and set up an experiment to prove what we know!

We have worked in Science teams, choosing places to put our seeds, making predictions, observing and recording results over time! The results have been surprising, so as Scientists we are discussing what we noticed and why we think it happened.



**Geography** - We have been using maps and plans to develop our understanding of place and direction. We have used the school plan to practise 'birds eye view', and to understand the purpose of a map key.

Finally, we have followed a trail around the school, navigating with the map, reading clues and finding the answers in the location marked on the map!

**Music** - This is a Year group that loves to sing and play. We have had lots of fun learning and performing. The last unit on Jack and The Beanstalk has been great and the children know eight songs off by heart!

They have sung some of these in our Infant Assembly, along with our Glocks percussion club group. I look forward to extending the percussion club to our new Year 2's next year!

# A MESSAGE FROM YEAR ONE



**Maths** - Throughout Year 1 we have been focusing on mastering our number, addition and subtraction skills. We have practised our fluency by playing Numbots and practised our measuring skills in our forest school's area. The children have gained a real in-depth understanding of the composition of numbers up to 100. We have explored lots of different addition and subtraction strategies and have started to look at time, shape and money.

**Reading** - All of the children in Year 1 have worked really hard on their reading this year and we were amazed at the skills they demonstrated during their Phonics screening check. In Year 1 we read everyday and have really enjoyed reading a range of genre this year, including, fairy tales, poems, reccounts of events, non-fiction texts and instructions.

The children's abilities to ask and answer questions about what they have read is incredible. We cannot wait to see how they progress in Year 2.



**DT and Art** - We have had lots of fun in DT and Art this year. In Art we were inspired by the work of Georgia O'Keeffe and really enjoyed showing off our skills when creating our very own spring flower pieces using oil pastels. Back in the Autumn term we made our own clay leaves and wheeled vehicles too!

After our trip to the toy museum, we couldn't wait to make our own peg dolls. We have ended Year 1 by designing and making fruit salads - yummy!

**PSHE** - We have done lots of PSHE work this year, our class books are overflowing with fabulous work. We started Year 1 by reminding ourselves about the zones of regulation and school values.

During anti-bullying week we made, and signed, a class oath promising not to bully. Throughout the Autumn term, we made friendship potions and a class bucket of kindness. During Spring term, we explored gender equality and looked at lots of different ways that we can stay fit and healthy.

This term we have looked at family diversity, we listened to the story "Picnic in the park" and created our own "Real families rock!" poster.



... The Year 1 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 seeds and made seed bombs. We had an interesting visit from Sussex Wildlife Trust who told us all about bees and pollinators. Our last adventure around Mile Oak was a visit to Mile Oak Farm. The farm teacher, Hannah, was so kind. She helped us to explore the farm and find out about the animals and the type of farm Mile Oak farm is.

Back at school we made maps of our trip around the farm. We shared the story 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson which also has a map of a farm in it.



Next we started to think further afield. We shared a story about all the people who help us in our town during the night, 'All Through the Night' by Polly Faber.

This led to many role play adventures of firefighters, police officers, medical staff, construction workers and refuse collectors.

We even had visits from the RNLI and the police and had a exciting time in the police car! It was great to think about all the people who help us in our community.



# A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION

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 and we loved seeing our city from a different perspective.



Back in school for a final few days and more fun-filled times...

We have taken part in our very first sports day. Mr Lovegrove had made sure we were so well prepared that we were able to have a brilliant time. Then finally we had the BEST beach party ever! Lots of splashing, games, dancing, fruit tasting, 'mocktails' and an ice cream, or two!

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

Well done Reception!

... The Reception Team

# PE UPDATE



We are thrilled to share the incredible success of our recent Sports Day. It was a day filled with exhilarating moments, outstanding sportsmanship, and an overwhelming display of talent. We couldn't be prouder of our students and the incredible effort they put into making this event unforgettable. Well done to Arundel who won the year 2 & 3/4 sports day and Lewes who won the year 5/6 sports day.



We want to extend our warmest congratulations to the children who attended 'Withdean athletics' for their exceptional performance at the local athletics event. Your dedication, hard work, and passion have truly paid off, and we couldn't be prouder of your accomplishments.

It was also fantastic to host the first annual sports awards because we showcased all of the sporting brilliance that has been on display this year.

We had the chance to give our sports leaders their awards as well as handing out awards for determination and sporting achievement this year. We cannot wait to make the next one even bigger and better!

Thank you to all of our parents this year for showing their support towards PE and school sport.

We thank you for being the best spectators, supporters, and most importantly - the best kit washers!

We look forward to providing your children with even more sporting opportunities next year and beyond.

... Mr McCusker & Mr Crellin



# ART UPDATE



The summer term has been a busy one for art and creativity. This half-term the focus was on Shaun the Sheep to raise money for Martlets which exceeded £700 from all of the events.

The Shaun the Sheep design competition raised £62 of the total which is so amazing - thank you and well done!

There were so many wonderful ideas and designs that it made choosing very difficult. There were common themes and ideas such as house colours, finger prints and rainbows. We whittled it down to two finalists and allowed the rest of the school to vote for their favourite, it was a very close call but Poppy.P's design prevailed.

Martlets expressed that we do not share too much about his final makeover in order to keep it a surprise for when he is taken out of storage and put on the Shaun the Sheep by the Seaside Art Trail in September.

We would like to also congratulate Frankie.S who was our Shaun the Sheep runner up



*Congratulations to our Shaun the Sheep Winner Poppy.P!*



*Congratulations to our Shaun the Sheep runner up Frankie.S!*

Year one created some lovely collage fish after their trip to the Sealife Centre, Year 3 developed their skills using clay by making Egyptian Canopic jars from coiling clay to make the pot shape and Year 5 had a visit from a local print artist who ran a workshop on how to convert their Downs sketches into a variety of prints. All year groups continued developing their pupils' knowledge of artists and art movements. Next year, there will be more competitions and a drive on learning about different artists. If you would like to support your child in their knowledge of art, going to art exhibitions and galleries will really help. We will also be inviting more artists into school to further develop our art curriculum.

THANK  
YOU

... Miss Witts



# WRITING UPDATE

It is an honour to lead writing at Mile Oak School and to see, not only the wonderful pieces of writing in each year group, but the progress the children make across the school year. We are passionate about writing and ensure that the children write at every opportunity. Each year, the standard is higher and higher as you will see from the beautiful pieces of writing below.

In June, the moderators came to school to moderate the Year Six writing and were full of praise for the writing at Mile Oak.



Some of their comments included -  
 'It is evident that the children at Mile Oak enjoy writing and are inspired by what they read.'  
 The children are confident at using a range of grammatical structures throughout their writing to ensure it is cohesive'

'Strong editing is evident to improve writing effectively.'

'Teachers have good subject knowledge and are able to present their writing confidently.'

Congratulations to all our Year Six children for their impressive progress in writing this year!

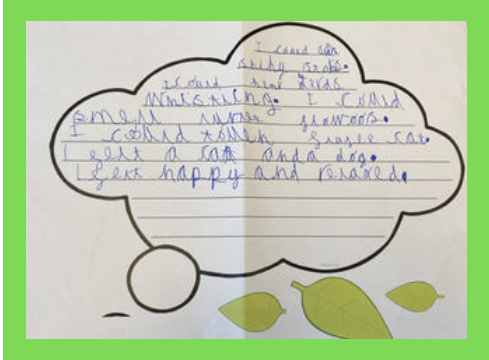
With the long summer holidays ahead of us, we want to ensure that the children continue to write. Here are some activities to inspire them:

Draw a map of your dream bedroom. Label 12 items you've included 	Write a very scary short story	Write the first half of a story for a family member or friend to finish	Write outdoors 	Write a short story or poem inspired by today's weather
Write a letter to the main character of the last book you read	Write a recipe for the most delicious ice cream sundae	Create a poster sharing ideas for being kind to others	Write a silly story about a talking animal	Write instructions explaining how to play an outdoor game
Make a list of the top 10 books you've ever read 	Write a story featuring a rollercoaster	Write a list of 101 things that make you feel happy	Create a paragraph in response to; If I Were My Teacher...	Create a comic strip or graphic novel 
Write a story featuring your oldest toy	NAME Write an acrostic poem	FREE CHOICE Write for 15 minutes without stopping	Plan your dream vacation 	Write a BIG list of words starting with the first letter of your name
Write a tongue twister using lots of words with the same beginning sound	Create a secret code and write coded messages	Write a thank you note 	Write a story about two characters from different books meeting each other	Write about a time you felt super excited!
If you opened a restaurant, what food would you serve? Create a menu	Write a letter to a friend or relative 	Create a series of quiz questions about a topic of interest	Write a list all about YOU	Write a review of the last movie you saw



**Reception** - We are so proud of all the children in reception for achieving such fantastic writing outcomes - just look how far they have come! Our children try every day, to produce exciting writing and feel so secure in their knowledge and skills. We want to thank them for their hard work and enthusiasm. We know they will all be moving on to Year 1 ready for their continuing journey. You are our super star writers. Well done Reception!

**Year 1** - The main aims of writing in year 1 are to ensure that children understand what makes a full sentence, identifying nouns and verbs, and then expanding detail by using describing words. Handwriting, punctuation and finger spacing is regularly practised. By the end of Year 1 children are able to read and check their writing, and to edit. This half term we have focused on instruction writing - making fruit salad in DT, inspired by Oliver's Fruit Salad, and guacomole as part of our reading about The Avocado baby! As part of our Jack and the Beanstalk learning, we have climbed the imaginary beanstalk and written creative ideas about what we might see there!





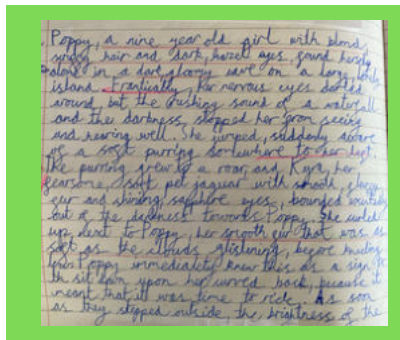
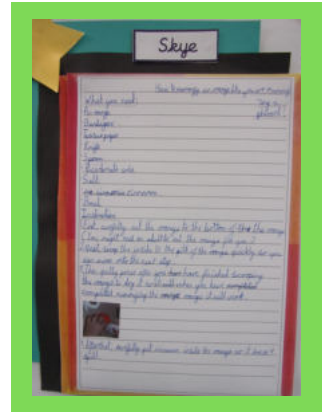
# WRITING UPDATE



**Year 2** - Year 2 loved creating leaflets all about Brighton after our amazing trip. We wrote about The Royal Pavilion and Prince Regent, Martha Gunn and Brighton Beach. We worked hard to make our writing interesting to read by using sentence openers and conjunctions to extend our ideas. We then spent a long time publishing our work and adding pictures and captions. Don't they look amazing?

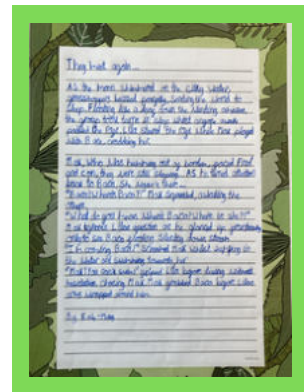
**Year 3** - As part of the Year 3 topic of Ancient Egypt, we have written some instructions on 'How to Mummify an Orange'. We first mummified the orange (it was a bit messy) and then they thought carefully about the steps to tell someone else how to do it. Maybe you could try it at home! We used time adverbials, to make sure we knew the order of events. This helped to keep it in chronological order. We also used imperative verbs, these tell us what we must do, such as cut, scoop and wrap.

As teachers, we are so proud of how far they have come, building on their previous learning. They are all amazing writers!



**Year 4** - The children wrote wonderfully adventurous narratives about how they would escape from being stranded on a deserted island. They included a plethora of detailed descriptions to paint a picture for their readers. They have also written some fantastic diary entries by imagining they were a character in the book we are reading; The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. They wrote about the traumatic events from one day in this toy rabbits life and his feelings about it.

**Year 5** - Year 5 have continued reading 'The Explorer' this half term and feel like we are in the Amazon with the characters! Writing in the style of the book, we planned, wrote and published our own chapter thinking about the obstacles our adventurers might face in their search for freedom. Using 'The Explorer' as our stimulus, Year 5 explored the Downs. We then wrote a recount of our great adventure!



**Year 6** - What an exciting writing term Y6 have had. After an input from one of our student teachers, the children set about creating a modern twist on some traditional fairy tales. Having completed the writing and editing process, they published their tales as mini, illustrated reading books. We met a range of characters, such as, Red, a 21st century blogger, who came across a wolfish character in New York, and Goldi meeting three criminals and their antics, as well as other recognisable characters from our childhood.

We also had a chance to stretch out writing muscles with some county-wide transition work. Using a book called 'Happy Here', which will be revisited in Y7, we took inspiration from some of the short stories. One story, 'A House Like No Other, following an unconfident young dancer, who overcomes her fears and delivers the highlight performance in a local ballet show, provided a springboard for a dance review. Children became newspaper critics and wrote up their reviews. They took this work with them for their Transition Day at their new secondary school

... Ms Wilks

# MULTIPLICATION TABLES CHECK



Earlier in the term, children in Year 4 completed their Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). This is a times table test where children have to answer 25 questions on a variety of a times tables (from 2x to 12x), with a 6 second timer to answer each question. Everyone in Year 4 has worked incredibly hard on their times tables this year, during their counting stick sessions, maths fluency sessions, normal maths lessons and, of course, during their Times Table Rock Star slots!

Given the work they have put in, it is no surprise that we had some amazing results from the MTC.

Our school had 51% of children scoring 25/25 on the check. This is way above the National Average from last year which was 27% (there is no national data from this year to compare against yet).

We also had a mean average score of 19.9, compared to last year's national average of 19.8.

It is also of no surprise that Year 4 appear to have the most Rock Legends and Rock Heroes on TTRS! The whole year group are times table superstars and we are very proud of the work they have put in this year.

Keep rocking Year 4!

... Mr Conboy

## OUR CITY, OUR WORLD!



In September, we will be launching the Our City, Our World project in our school. This is an exciting and essential city-wide project which will use education to raise awareness of, and tackle climate change and sustainability.

We are really excited about the difference this could make to our children and our planet and we will need your help and engagement with each stage of the process.

Plans have already begun and we will be in touch after the Summer holidays with more information.

... Mr Harris

# SCHOOL UNIFORM

Dear Families,

It is that time of year where families start to think of purchasing new uniform. Before you go out and buy brand new uniforms, come and have a look to see if there is anything we can offer in our well-stocked pre-loved uniform shop. Not only might you save a few pounds on clothes children grow out of (or lose!) so quickly, but you will also be playing your part in supporting us to look after our environment by saying no to the growing fast fashion industry.

Here is a reminder of our school uniform and items we may have available:



A bottle green jumper is compulsory. This can be a jumper with or without the school logo.



A bottle green fleece is an optional item.



Bottle green cardigan



Summer gingham dress or playsuit



Grey or black skirt / Trousers / shorts.



Comfortable back shoes or trainers.  
If your child has lace ups, please teach them to tie their shoelaces.








Please ensure all items are labelled so we can ensure items left around the school are returned to their rightful owner.

<https://www.mileoakschool.co.uk/info-for-parents/school-uniform/>

... Ms Wilks

# 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.
15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> 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).
24 <sup>th</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> September	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.
29 <sup>th</sup> September	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.
October			
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> October	Shemini Atzeret	Jewish 	This is the conclusion of Sukkot. This day is characterised by candle lighting and festive meals which reaches its climax with Simchat Torah when the conclusion—and restart—of the annual <i>Torah</i> -reading cycle is celebrated. Shemini Atzeret marks the beginning of the rainy season in Israel and, therefore this day includes the year's first prayer for rain.
15- 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Navaratri	Hindu 	Navaratri means 'nine nights', which is how long the festival, in the honour of the goddess Durga, lasts. The day after the end of Navaratri is celebrated as the 'victorious tenth' (Vijaya Dashami) and huge figures of Ravana are filled with fireworks and burned on Ram Lila grounds

# 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 - 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](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 Autumn 1

Reception Monkey and Me and Owl Babies: Oh Dear

Year 1: Look what I found in the Woods, 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: Stone Age Boy and Stone Age Hunter Gatherers

Year 4: Kings, Queens, Scribes and Ferrets

Year 5: Ancient Greece and Percy Jackson and the Lightning thief

Year 6: Beowulf and Viking Boy



# September



**Fri 01.09.23** INSET Day

**Mon 04.09.23** INSET Day

**Tues 05.09.23** Children Return to School

**Thurs 07.09.23** Year 5 - Ancient Greek Workshop

**Fri 08.09.23** Year 2 - Rainbow Theatre Company Workshop

**Tues 12.09.23** Year 6 - Viking Workshop

**Wed 13.09.23** Year 5 Swimming - Walnut Class

**Fri 15.09.23** Year 3 Pedestrian Training

**Wed 20.09.23** Year 5 Swimming - Walnut Class

**Fri 22.09.23** Year 4 visit Hampton Court Palace

**Fri 22.09.23** Year 3 Pedestrian Training

**Tues 26.09.23** Year 3 - Beech Class visit Brighton Museum

**Wed 27.09.23** Year 5 Swimming - Walnut Class

**Fri 29.09.23** Year 3 - Cherry Class visit Brighton Museum

# October

**Mon 02.10.23** Individual and Sibling Photos

**Mon 02.10.23** The School Nurse visit Reception

**Wed 04.10.23** Year 1 - Goldfinch Class Local Walk and Church Visit

**Wed 04.10.23** Year 5 Swimming - Walnut Class

**Thurs 05.10.23** Year 1 - Starling Class Local Walk and Church Visit

**Fri 06.10.23** Year 3 Pedestrian Training

**Mon 09.10.23** Influenza Nasal Spray

**Wed 11.10.23** Year 5 Swimming - Walnut Class

**Fri 13.10.23** Year 3 Pedestrian Training

**Wed 18.10.23** Reception - Dragonfly Class Local Walk

**Wed 18.10.23** Year 5 Swimming - Walnut Class

**Wed 18.10.23** Year 2 - Robin Class visit Church of the Good Shepherd

**Thurs 19.10.23** Reception - Ladybird Class Local Walk

**Thurs 19.10.23** Year 2 - Wren Class visit Church of the Good Shepherd

**Fri 20.10.23** 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.

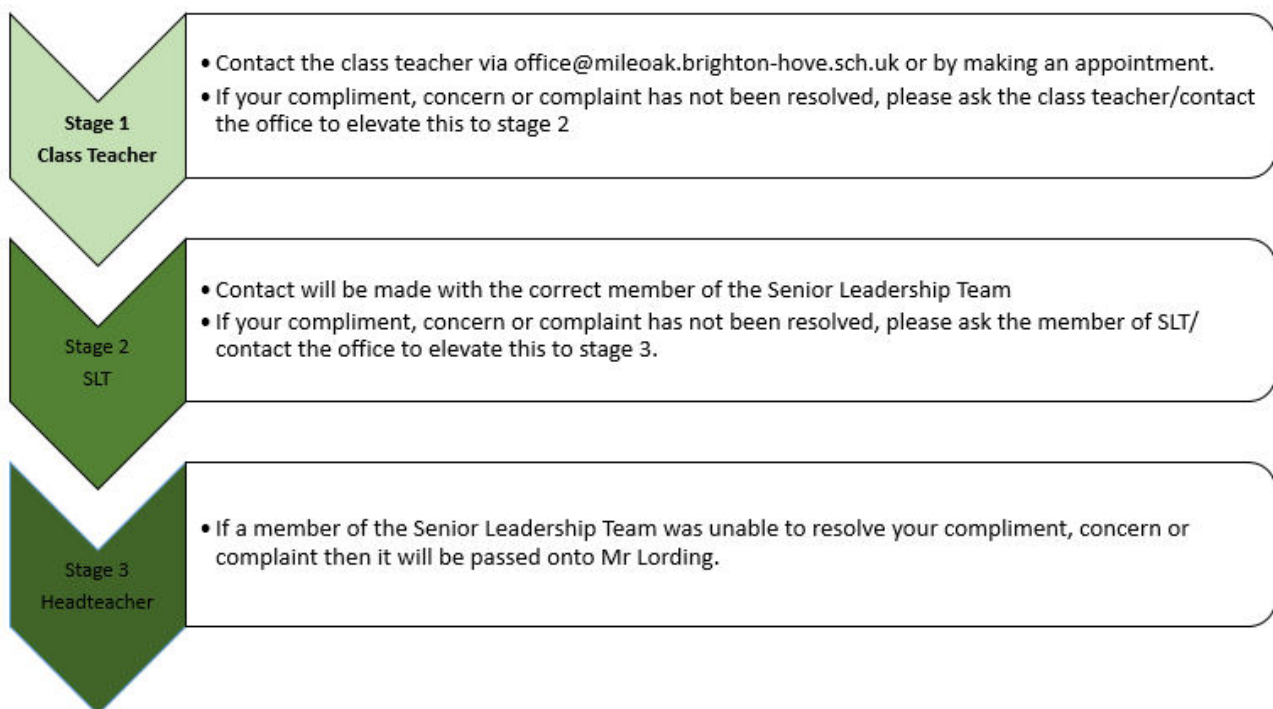
Once initial communication has been made, staff will respond within 2 working days. If a face-to-face meeting is required, the relevant member of staff will make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

The Admin team are very happy to take calls, emails or even messages in the postbox 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](mailto:office@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk)



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