**Mill Lane community Primary School &**

**Windmill Community Nursery**

**A New Academic Year Begins**

The new year has started and we are very excited about what the year ahead holds. It is always lovely to welcome and get to know the new families that join the school when the new Reception Class children start. Already the new children have settled well in to school and they are enjoying the spacious indoor and outdoor areas which give them plenty of opportunity to explore, play and make friends. It is now that families start to look around schools for their children starting next year. With this in mind, we have planned 3 open days for families to come and look around the school. It is a great chance to see not only the Reception Class environment but also the rest of the school. The school offers a lovely new library, a large sports hall, a computer suite, an environmental area, a large field and spacious play areas for different key stages. In addition, the school also offers a breakfast club, 2 early morning free sports clubs, an after school club, music lessons in a range of instruments and 2 choirs. This year we are also introducing Forest Schools. The open days will be on the following days and times:

Monday 25th September 9.30 – 11.30 and 1.30 – 2.45

Wednesday 18th October 9.30 – 11.30 and 1.30 – 2.45

Monday 6th November 9.30 – 11.30 and 1.30 – 2.45

On the open day on Wednesday 18th October, we will also be holding a coffee morning for MacMillan Cancer where visitors will be able to, not only look around the school, but can also try some of the delicious cakes baked by the staff and make a donation to MacMillan.

Up to Christmas we have lots of events and activities planned. Our Year 6 children are eagerly counting down the days until they go on their school journey to Kilvrough. This is a week away at an outdoor centre tackling a range of activities such as surfing, kayaking and abseiling. The children also learn skills such as teamwork, communication and empathy. Meanwhile, the Junior choir is already rehearsing for our annual performance at the O2 as part of the Young Voices concert. The Year 3 and 4 children have an exciting day planned as evacuees and will be travelling on the local steam train. Throughout the year we will keep you up to date with all the events happening at Mill Lane School and the Windmill Nursery.

**Tineke van der Ploeg**

**Headteacher**