Oxfordshire County Council

**Mill Lane Community Primary School**

**The Windmill Community Nursery**

**Mill Lane Chinnor Oxfordshire OX39 4RF**

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**Newsletter**

Thursday 5th January 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Last term was a very difficult term for everyone with the increasing number of children suffering with a range of illnesses. There are still lots of respiratory infections that cause sore throats, colds and coughs circulating at this time of year. We have been advised by County that flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported.

It’s important to minimise the spread of infection in schools as much as possible. Consequently the following advice should be followed:

•      If a child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better, and the fever has resolved.

•      Teach children the importance of good hand hygiene, practice regular handwashing with soap and warm water.

•      Catch coughs and sneezes in tissues then bin them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.

•      Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if they do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don’t visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.

•      Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus.

**School Day**

This is just a reminder that the school day for all classes starts at 8.45am. It is important that the children arrive on time as each class starts the day with early morning activities tailored to their individual needs to develop their phonic/spelling and maths skills. Lunch time for Reception is now at 11.45am, Key Stage 1 is 12pm and KS2 is 12.15pm. The times have moved slightly in order to cover more in the morning when the children are at their best and less tired.

**Curriculum**

We have made some slight changes to our curriculum this term. Previously the KS1 classes did the same topics whilst Year 3 & 4 did the same and Year 5 & 6 did the same. However, to make it easier to assess children, we have moved to each year group having its own topic. Classes will still have the opportunity to work together as in the past. Here are the topics for the classes this term:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Nursery** | **Reception** | **Year 1** | **Year 2** | **Year 3** | **Year 4** | **Year 5** | **Year 6** |
| Patterns we see and hear | Toys | Great Fire of London | My Wonderful World / The World We Live In | Under the Canopy | Blue Planet | The Victorians | Chocolate (Maya) |
| Spring - Growth and Change | Amazing Animals Come Outside!  Growth | My World  (Great Britain and Chinnor) | Sensational Safari |

You will receive more detail about each of the topics from each class’ newsletter and also information will be available on the class webpages.

**Uniform**

As we start the new year, it seems the right time to send out a reminder about the school’s uniform policy. Children should wear a white shirt or polo shirt, grey / black trousers, shorts or skirt and a red jumper / cardigan or fleece. Clothing does not need to have the school logo on it. Children should wear black shoes or black trainers (with no different colours). For health and safety reasons, children are not allowed to wear any jewellery other than a watch or tiny stud earrings. Earrings cannot be worn during P.E lessons and must be taken out by the child. Staff are not allowed to remove earrings at all. Children need to have shorts, t-shirt, tracksuit bottoms, trainers / plimsolls for P.E. If they consistently do not bring in their P.E clothes, we will provide them with clothing from the second hand store where possible.

**Communication**

We have had a lot of emails being sent to multiple members of the admin staff and this is causing some confusion as everyone is working on the same problem which obviously wastes time. Please could we ask that you email the school office ([office.2465@mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2465@mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk)) with any problems and the email will then be forwarded on to just the relevant person.

**Mill Lane Store**

The Mill Lane food store continues to be open every day for families that would like to access essential food items. You do not need to come to reception, just go to the outside huts at the end of the day and help yourself. Please feel free to continue to bring donations in if you can as we try to keep the store topped up. Thank you to everyone who has kindly donated items so far.

**Extended Services**

This is just a reminder that the cost for attending After School Club has increased to £9.00. From term 4 we will be moving to an online system for booking breakfast and after school club. This will enable you to see if there are spaces available and to keep a track of what you owe. Hopefully, it will be a more efficient system than what we currently have. More information will follow shortly as we complete setting it up.

**Choir**

Children need to arrive at 8.00am and come in to school via the front reception. Choir will take place in the music room in the outside huts. The children are busy preparing for the O2 concert on Wednesday 18th January. Coaches will leave school at 12pm after the children have had lunch. Because the children will not return until after 11pm, they may arrive late on Thursday to catch up on their sleep. Children will be expected to be in school by 10am.

**Online Learning Journal**

This year we are continuing to track the children’s progress as they complete activities using an online program called Tapestry. We are able to highlight how well they are doing against the learning objectives covered in class and to upload photos of their work. You should have received a login for your child so you are able to access observations, photos and assessments.

**Dates for your diary:** At the moment we have a very quiet term but more things will be added as classes sort out trips and workshops.

Tuesday 17th January: Year 4 Palaeoquest eco and climate change workshop

Wednesday 18th January: Choir performs at O2

Friday 10th February: Last day of term

**Term Dates 2022 – 2023**

**Term 3:** Wednesday 4th January 2023 to Friday 10th February 2023

**Term 4:** Monday 20th February 2023 to Friday 31st March 2023 (1.30pm finish)

**Term 5**: Monday 17th April 2022 to Friday 26th May 2023

Bank holiday Monday 1st May & Monday 8th May

**Term 6:** Tuesday 6th June 2023 to Friday 21st July 2023 (1.30pm finish)

INSET day Monday 5th June

**Term Dates 2023 - 2024**

**Term 1:** Tuesday 5th September 2023 to Friday 20th October 2023

INSET Day Friday 1st September, Monday 4th September & Friday 6th October

**Term 2:** Monday 30th October 2023 to Wednesday 20th December 2023 (1.30pm finish)

**Term 3:** Monday 8th January 2024 to Friday 9th February 2024

**Term 4:** Monday 19th February 2024 to Thursday 28th March 2024 (1.30pm finish)

**Term 5:** Tuesday 16th April 2024 to Friday 24th May

Bank Holiday 6th May 2024

INSET Day Monday 15th April

**Term 6:** Tuesday 4th June 2024 to Wednesday 24th July 2024 (1.30pm finish)

INSET Day Monday 3rd June

Yours sincerely,

Tineke van der Ploeg