Oxfordshire County Council

**Mill Lane Community Primary School**

**The Windmill Community Nursery**

**Mill Lane Chinnor Oxfordshire OX39 4RF**

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**Newsletter**

Monday 4th November 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a great start we have had to this year. The year kicked off with our 50th birthday exhibition and concert. It was brilliant to see so many past pupils and their families at these events and a big thank you to Mr Thompson and Mrs Hardstaff for all their hard work sorting through the archives to produce such a great exhibition and getting so many wonderful acts to perform at the concert. The Gruffland project is well under way with the whole area cleared and the goat enclosure completed with our 3 new goats: Oreo, Toffee and Popcorn. All 3 goats have settled well into their new home, and they are proving a big hit with the children. The next part of the project is to complete the outdoor reading area and to begin work on the outside classroom.

Mrs Kershaw and the class teachers also provided very informative maths mornings which were very well attended and highlighted how the teaching of maths has changed. There are lots of really useful hints and tips on how you can support at home on the school web site in the curriculum section. Don’t forget to try the activities in the new homework diaries.

This term there are even more events planned. On Friday, the MLSA are holding their annual fireworks night so don’t forget to purchase your tickets. Please remember that there will not be any tickets on sale on the night; all tickets must be bought online. We will also have a range of festive activities to end the term including traditional nativities from the early years and a more modern Christmas play from the KS1 children. All events are included in the ‘dates for your diary’ at the end of this newsletter so put these in your diary, we would hate you to miss anything.

**Class Topics**

It is always useful for you to know what the children’ topics are for this term. Below is each class’ topic for the next erm:

Class 1: To infinity and beyond (explorers)

Class 2: Up Up and Away

Class 3: Anglo Saxons and Vikings

Class 4: World War 2

Class 5: Ancient Greece

Class 6: Crime and punishment

**Anti-Bullying Week**

There is a national anti-bullying week planned for the week beginning 11th November. The theme for the week is ‘Choose Respect’. During this week and throughout the term we will be focusing on highlighting to the children what constitutes bullying, what to do if you are being bullied and how the school will deal with bullying. In addition, there will also be a focus on cyber bullying and keeping cyber safe. We will also continue to send out the monthly guidance to parents on how they can keep children safe when they are online. This month’s one accompanies this newsletter. It is really important to monitor your child’s use of ICT and to be aware of what games they are playing and what they are watching. The advice is to always have children in a room with you whilst they are online or using the computer.

**Parent Consultations**

Parents evening will be on Tuesday 12th November between 3.30pm to 8.30pm. We have decided to keep it all on one night as it is easier for staff and doesn’t clash with other meetings some staff have. It is an opportunity to catch up on the progress your child / children are making as well as suggest ways you can support them at home. Each appointment is 10 minutes long and teachers do try to keep to their schedules as much as possible. If you have already met with the class teacher to review their pupil profile, then you do not need to make an appointment. Reception and Nursery appointments will start at 3pm as they finish earlier. You will be able to book appointments online using SchoolComms. The Year 3 parents evening will be a bit later in the term, in order to give Mrs Sharkey time to know the class (we will let you know the date).

**Children in Need**

This year Children in Need is on Friday 15th November and we will be holding a mufti day where for a £1 donation the children can come in mufti. The children have to come in something ‘Spotacular’.

**School Photographs**

This year the school photographer will be in on Monday 11th November. On this day the photographer will be taking individual children’s photos as well as sibling groups. Due to very few people buying class photographs over the last few years, the photographer will only be taking class photos for Reception Class and Year 6. At 8.30am we start by taking photographs of sibling groups where there are very young children who do not come to Mill Lane or the Windmill Nursery. After this we take individual photographs and then sibling groups (which includes Nursery children).

**Choir**

This is a reminder that the KS2 choir is on a Thursday after school. The children are preparing for their performance at the O2. If your child is performing at the O2, don’t forget to order your tickets and t-shirts online. A letter will soon be sent out so that you can order spaces for the coach down to the O2. The choir will also be singing at the Village Centre Xmas market at 11am on Saturday 23rd November and the Christmas Tree Festival on Sunday 1st December at 4.15pm.

**Christmas at Mill Lane**

All classes will be putting on some form of Christmas entertainment for your enjoyment. The Nursery performance will be at 9.30am on Thursday 12th December when they will also have their Christmas party. The Reception Class performance will be at 2pm on Tuesday 17th December. The KS1 performance will be on Friday 13th December at 2pm and the KS2 will be holding a carol concert on Friday 13th December at 5pm just before the Christmas disco. We hope to see lots of you at these performances.

The MLSA will be holding their Christmas Bazaar on Friday 29th November. The school Christmas dinner will be on Wednesday 18th December. Children can come in Christmas outfits on this day. On Thursday 19th December the children from Reception to Year 6 will be visiting the pantomime. This year we have decided to go back to the pantomime at Wycombe which is Aladdin. More information will come out shortly.

The last day of term is Friday 20th December. We will have a family assembly at 1pm which you are welcome to come along to. School will close at 1.45pm and there will be no after school club on this day.

**Dates for your diary:**

Friday 8th November: 6pm Gates open for Fireworks night

Monday 11th November: Start of anti-bullying week

Monday 11th November: School photograph day

Tuesday 12th November: 3.30pm – 8.30pm Parent consultations

Friday 15th November: Children in Need mufti day – wear something spotacular

Tuesday 19th November: PC Ben talk with Year 1 & Year 3

Friday 22nd November: Year 3 Anglo Saxon workshop

Saturday 23rd November: 11am Choir singing at Village Centre Christmas Fayre

Friday 29th November: 6pm MLSA Christmas Bazaar

Wednesday 4th December: 7pm Year 3 & 4 Thame Festival of Christmas music

Monday 9th December: 9am Rock Steady concert

Thursday 12th December: 9.30am Nursery Xmas performance and party

Thursday 12th December: 10am KS1 dress rehearsal

Friday 13th December: 2pm KS1 performance

Friday 13th December: 5pm KS2 Christmas carols

Friday 13th December: 6pm MLSA Christmas disco

Monday 16th December: 10am Reception Christmas performance dress rehearsal

Tuesday 17th December: 2pm Reception Class performance

Wednesday 18th December: School Christmas dinner & Christmas jumper day

Thursday 19th December: 1.30pm Visit to Panto

Friday 20th December: Last day of term. Family Christmas celebration 1pm. School closes 1.45pm. No after school club.

More information about each of the events will be sent nearer the time but we look forward to seeing you during the term.

**Term Dates 2024 to 2025**

**Term 2:** Monday 4th November 2024 to Friday 20th December 2024 (1.45pm finish)

**Term 3:** Tuesday 7th January 2025 to Friday 14th February 2025

 INSET Day Monday 6th January

**Term 4:** Monday 24th February 2025 to Friday 4th April (1.30pm finish)

**Term 5:** Tuesday 22nd April 2025 to Friday 23rd May 2025

Bank Holiday 5th May 2025

**Term 6:** Tuesday 3rd June 2025 to Tuesday 22nd July 2025 (1.30pm finish)

INSET Day Monday 2nd June

Yours sincerely,

Tineke van der Ploeg