Oxfordshire County Council

**Mill Lane Community Primary School**

**The Windmill Community Nursery**

**Mill Lane Chinnor Oxfordshire OX39 4RF**

**Head Teacher Miss Tineke van der Ploeg**

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**Newsletter**

Monday 24th February 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are halfway through the year and already there have been so many great things going on in the school. We ended last term with our annual science week where the children all took part in a thermal insulation experiment to save Mr Thompson’s ice poles! There were also two workshops: one where the children carried out practical investigations which looked at different chemical reactions and the second workshop which involved robotics where the children controlled a motorised buggy.

The second half of this year should be just as much fun. This term, we will be celebrating the progress our musicians are making with the spring concert and the rock bands will also be performing again. The term ends with the Year 6 going on their residential to Kilvrough. All events are listed at the end of this letter. Hopefully, we will see you at lots of these events, especially the class assemblies which will take place every Friday morning.

**Staffing:**

Unfortunately, I have to report that Miss Rea will be leaving Mill Lane at the end of this term. It has been a pleasure to see her develop from a newly qualified teacher to a more confident and creative teacher. I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for the future. We have advertised for a replacement and should have news regarding this by the end of the term.

**Gruffland Project**

The goats are well settled in their enclosure and in the summer our 2 new guinea pigs (Scruffy & Tommy) will move from the corridor to join the goats on Gruffland in their own hutch. Work has begun on the outdoor sensory trail with the pathway cleared and laid (thank you to the Year 5 children who helped with this) and we have the first pieces of equipment that will make up the trail. The aim is to have the sensory trail completed by the end of this term. Once it has been completed you will be able to see photos of it on the school’s website. After the sensory trail is completed, work will begin on the outdoor storytelling area and the outdoor classroom.

**Mid-Year Reports**

As we are halfway through the year, we will be sending out a mid-year report for all the children in KS1 and KS2. The reports will go out on Tuesday 4th March. This will give you a brief outline of how well your child is doing and we will be holding a parent consultation evening on Tuesday 11th March where you will be able to meet with the class teacher to discuss any concerns you may have. Slots will be available to book from Tuesday 4th March once you have seen your child’s mid-year report. The evening will run from 3pm to 8.30pm. The Nursery and Reception teachers will also be available for you to book an appointment with them to find out about the progress your child is making but they will not be sending out a report. Nursery and Reception parents can track how well their child is doing using Tapestry, the online learning journal. Staff are able to highlight how well they are doing against the learning objectives covered in class and upload photos of their work. You should already have received a login for your child so you are able to access observations, photos and assessments. Please speak to your class teacher if you are unable to access Tapestry and we will try to resolve the issue. Remember this is just for Nursery and Reception parents.

**Class Assemblies**

Just a reminder that there will be class assemblies taking place every Friday morning at 9am. Each class will share with us work they have been covering during their topics. Below are the dates for each class:

Friday 28th February: Class 5

Friday 7th March: Class 4

Friday 14th March: Class 3

Friday 21st March: Class 2

Friday 28th March: Class 1

Friday 25th April: Class 6 Kilvrough Assembly

**Last Day of Term**

The last day of term is Friday 4th April. The school closes early at 1.45pm after a family assembly which will take place at 1pm. There will be no after school club on this day.

**Dates for your diary:**

Wednesday 26th February: Afternoon Year 6 Boys football tournament

Tuesday 4th March: Mid-Year reports go out & booking for parents evening is open

Tuesday 4th March: 5.30pm Year 6 SATs information meeting for parents

Thursday 6th March: World Book Day

Tuesday 11th March: 3.30pm – 8.30pm Parents’ Evening

Friday 21st March: Comic Relief Mufti Day

Monday 24th March: 9.30am Rock Steady Concert

Tuesday 25th March to Friday 28th March: Book Fair

Monday 31st March: Urban Strides Assembly for KS2

Friday 4th April: 1pm Family Assembly

Friday 4th April: Last Day of Term. 1.45pm Early Closing

**Term Dates 2024 – 2025**

**Term 4:** Monday 24th February 2025 to Friday 4th April (1.45pm 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

**Term Dates 2025 - 2026**

**Term 1:** Wednesday 3rd September 2025 to Friday 24th October 2025

INSET Days Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd September

**Term 2:** Monday 3rd November 2025 to Friday 19th December 2025 (1.30pm finish)

**Term 3:** Tuesday 6th January 2026 to Friday 13th February 2026

INSET Day Monday 5th January 2026

**Term 4:** Monday 23rd February 2026 to Friday 27th March 2026 (1.30pm finish)

**Term 5:** Monday 13th April 2026 to Friday 22nd May 2026

Bank Holiday 4th May 2026

**Term 6:** Tuesday 2nd June 2026 to Friday 17th July 2026 (1.45pm finish)

INSET Day Monday 1st June & Monday 21st July

Yours sincerely,

Tineke van der Ploeg