Oxfordshire County Council

**Mill Lane Community Primary School**

**The Windmill Community Nursery**

**Mill Lane Chinnor Oxfordshire OX39 4RF**

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**Newsletter**

Tuesday 21st February 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

This year seems to be flying by; it is hard to believe we are already halfway through the year. The second half of the year promises to be a lot of fun with a range of events and activities already planned. The Year 6 will be off on their residential at the end of this term and the Year 4 will camp out on the school field with survival activities in Term 6. The Year 4 are also visiting the Birmingham Sealife Centre at the end of this term whilst today the Year 3 are visiting the Living Rainforest. This year we will also be holding our usual book week with dressing up as a book character on World Book Day (Thursday 2nd March), as well as a Science Week and Sports Week.

**Staffing**

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Redrup is expecting her 2nd child; unfortunately, this does mean that she will be going on maternity leave at the end of this term. Fortunately, Mr Thompson will move to teaching Class 2 full time so the children will continue to be taught by a familiar adult. Unfortunately, Mrs Boyd-Leslie will be leaving Mill Lane as she takes up a new position working with children and young adults. We wish her all the best for the future. This does mean that, for the moment, we will not be able to offer any football clubs. However, choir will continue on Wednesday mornings.

**Curriculum**

Here is a reminder of what the topics are 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.

**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. This will give you a brief outline of how well your child is doing and we will be holding a parent consultation evening on Wednesday 1st 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 Monday 27th February. The evening will run from 3pm to 8pm. The Nursery and Reception teachers will also be available for you to book an appointment with to find out about the progress your child is making.

**Online Learning Journal**

You are also able to see how well your child is doing using the online learning journal 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 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.

**School Gateway**

Firstly, I would like to apologise for saying the new APP was School Comms. Please could I ask you to download the School Gateway APP as this is the official name of the new system we will be going over to. We will be using this new system for everything including sending out letters, ordering / paying for school dinners, booking for any clubs, booking for parents evening, paying for any trips and booking for after school and breakfast club. Some people have already downloaded the APP and there have been a few technical issues which we are currently ironing out. Please bear with us as we work through the issues. Even though we are having a few problems, I would ask that you try and download the APP so we can find out as soon as possible who is having a problem using the system

**Last Day of Term**

The last day of term is Friday 31st March. The school closes early at 1.30pm after a family assembly which will take place at 1pm. There will still be an after school club on this day but this will run from 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

**Dates for your diary:**

Tuesday 21st February: Year 3 trip to Living Rainforest

Wednesday 22nd February: 2pm Parenting group for managing children with anxiety

Friday 24th February: Mid-Year reports go out

Monday 27th February – Friday 3rd March: Book Week

Monday 27th February: Eggs arrive in the Nursery

Wednesday 1st March: Reception & Year 6 height and weight check

Wednesday 1st March: Nursery visit to the library

Wednesday 1st March: 3pm – 8pm Parent consultations

Thursday 2nd March: World Book Day – Dress up as your favourite book character

Wednesday 15th March: 3.30pm Spring Concert

Friday 17th March: Comic relief – Mufti Day

Monday 27th March – Friday 31st March: Year 6 residential at Kilvrough

Tuesday 28th March: Year 4 trip to Birmingham Sealife Centre

Friday 31st March: Last day of term (school closes 1.30pm). Family assembly at 1pm

**Term Dates 2022 – 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