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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Tuesday 2nd June 2025

Dear Parents,

Last term was a very busy term even if it was just a short term. Ofsted visited at last, and we are just awaiting the final report. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for your support during this week. The children were a real credit to the school. I will email the report as soon as it is available. The Year 5 children had a great week taking part in the active leader’s course where they learnt first aid and how to create and lead games for younger children. They devised games which they taught to the Year 2 children. The Year 6 children were pleased to get the SATs out of the way and can now concentrate on their end of year performance. Finally, the Year 4 children enjoyed their annual camp out on the field. A big thank you to all the staff who made this such a great experience for the children.

**Staffing**

This is the time of year when there always seems to be some movement within the staff at Mill Lane as being a small school, we take pride in growing leaders and developing teachers. The time has come for Mr Sam Thompson to spread his wings and show his leadership skills as a headteacher of his own school. Sam will be taking up a post as headteacher of Twyford C of E school in September. Twyford will be very lucky to have such a dedicated and passionate headteacher. Sam has been associated with the school for many years, first as a pupil then returning as a teacher. He has helped the school through two Ofsted inspections but more importantly has been leading on the development of Gruffland. His creativity and enthusiasm will be greatly missed but we all wish him the best on this exciting new stage of his teaching career.

Mrs Sarah Redrup has also taken the decision to move on from Mill Lane. Sarah has been at the school for 9 years but with a young family she has decided to move to a job nearer home so that she can be there for her young family. Sarah has been the driving force between improving physical education at Mill Lane, and more recently has taken the lead on writing. She has successfully organised our sports day and the Thame Partnership sports event. She has also actively looked for ways that the school could compete in more events such as football tournaments and the Thame cricket event. Sarah has developed into a confident and engaging teacher. We wish her all the best for the future.

We are lucky to have employed three new members of staff who will come with fresh ideas and a new energy to help move Mill Lane forward. The new teachers are Oliver Horn, Beth Jones and Cliona MacDonald.

**Classes Next Year**

With so much change happening, I thought it would be helpful to let you know the classes for next year.

Nursery: Suzie Pocock

Reception: Cliona MacDonald

Year 1: Beth Jones

Year 2: Lottie Jones

Year 3: Tina Zychowicz

Year 4: Oliver Horn

Year 5: Nicky Palmer & Saskia Sharkey

Year 6: Ali Kershaw

**Smartphone Free Childhood Meeting:**

This is just a reminder that the smartphone free childhood meeting is this week on Thursday 4th June at 7pm. The topic on whether children should have smartphones at school is a hot topic at this moment in time. The meeting will explore the issue around smartphones and their use and what the alternatives are. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please email [head.2465@mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.2465@mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk) as it will help us have an idea about how may people are thinking of attending.

**Fiver Challenge**

This term the children will be taking part in the School’s ‘Fiver’ challenge. This is where the children work either as a whole class or in groups to create a money making stall or activity. The groups are given just £5 to spend on prizes or resources for the stall but they can be creative in how they source any other materials. The stalls will be set up as part of the ‘fun on the field’ activities that will take place after sports day.

**Sports Activities:**

We are really looking forward to being able to run our usual sports day and picnic this year; hopefully the weather will at least be dry. Put Friday 11th July in your diaries to come and watch the children take part in individual races and then a carousel of activities. As usual, sports day will be rounded off with a family picnic. However, this year we will again be offering a ‘Fun on the Field’ afternoon for all families that would like to stay and join in with the fun. There will be lots of activities for adults and children of all ages to take part in. Each class will have created their own stall as part of our ‘Fiver Maths’ challenge. We are holding this event to carry on raising funds for the Gruffland Project. More information will follow.

This year the Reception and Nursery children will have their own Early Years sports day on Thursday 10th July at 2pm. The Reception children find the whole school carousel activities quite overwhelming and so we thought they would find their own sports day more enjoyable with activities targeted specifically to their age.

This term we have several workshops for the children to try some different sporting activities and to also learn about fitness and health. Children will get the opportunity to try caving as we have a mobile caving experience visiting. There will also be an African dance workshop and a fitness workshop.

The KS2 children will have the opportunity to take part in the annual Thame Partnership sports event. This will take place on Monday 16th June at 4pm. The teams will be selected over the next couple of weeks and then letters will be sent out to parents.

**Parent Consultations:**

Reports go out on Monday 7th July. They will look the same as last year as we had positive parents’ comments as we had included more information regarding what children have covered in all subjects. You will have the opportunity to discuss your child’s report on Wednesday 9th July when we will be holding parent consultations at 3pm – 8pm. More information about this will follow nearer the time but booking will again be online.

**Hot Weather (I’m ever hopeful for a sunny summer)**

Now we are in the Summer Term, I am sure we will soon be welcoming in warmer weather for longer periods of time. Therefore, we would ask that you keep to the following guidelines:

· Children must not wear open toe sandals or sling backs for health and safety reasons.

· Children need to wear appropriate clothing to protect them from the sun, it is important that they do not wear tops with thin straps e.g. for P.E. We also ask that children do not wear short shorts or short skirts.

· Children should have a named sun hat and a water bottle with water. Sun cream should be named and cannot be shared between children in order to safeguard those children with allergies. We are also unable to administer sun cream to children so you might want to demonstrate this to them so they are able to apply sun cream on their own.

**Last Day of Term:**

The last day of term will be on Tuesday 22nd July. We will be holding our Leavers and Celebration Assembly at 1pm. School will finish at 1.45pm and there will be no after school club on this day. The Nursery will close at 11.45am.

**Events for your Diary**

**Term 6**

Monday 2nd June: INSET day – school closed

Tuesday 3rd June: Children return to school

Thursday 5th June: Mufti day for Father’s Day sale

Thursday 5th June: 7pm Smartphone free parent meeting

Monday 9th to Friday 13th June: Year 1 phonics screening

Tuesday 10th June: Reception trip to Hoggshaw farm

Wednesday 11th and Friday 13th June: MLSA Fathers Day sale

Monday 16th June 4pm: Thame Partnership Sports for KS2 children

Wednesday 18th June: Yr 2 trip to Emmington Farm

Thursday 19th June: Nursery visit to Middle Farm

Friday 20th June: Year 1 trip to Lido

Saturday 28th June: MLSA fun day

Wednesday 2nd July: Caving workshops

Thursday 3rd July: Kidz Fit workshops

Friday 4th July: LWS Taster day

Friday 4th July: Class swap morning

Monday 7th July: End of Year reports go out

Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th July: Icknield Taster days

Wednesday 9th July: African dance workshop

Wednesday 9th July 3pm – 8pm: Parents Evening

Thursday 10th July: 2pm Early Years sports day

Friday 11th July: 9.30am Sports Day & picnic

Friday 11th July: 1pm Family Fun on the Field (Nursery will close at 11.45am so children can join fun on field)

Monday 14th July 9am Rock Steady Concert

Wednesday 16th July 10am: Year 5 & 6 dress rehearsal for end of year performance

Thursday 17th July 2pm & 7pm: Year 5 & 6 end of year performance

Friday 18th July 6pm: Leavers disco

Tuesday 22nd July 1pm: Leavers assembly

Tuesday 22nd July 1.45pm: School closes (no after school club)

**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