



1 16.09.16

Grow, Learn, Believe, Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new year at Milford School and thank you for such a warm welcome over the last two weeks. I feel extremely lucky to have inherited such a happy, friendly and supportive community of staff, parents and children and feel very optimistic about what we can achieve in partnership together over the next few years. I have spent much of the last two weeks getting to know you, the staff, the children and all of the different systems and procedures in place at Milford School. I have reviewed the Governor's questionnaires that many of you kindly completed during the summer term and invited staff to share their views about Milford School. It was interesting to note many common themes, particularly when considering the strengths of the school. These included: "a fantastic team", "caring staff", "wonderful, funny and friendly children", "supportive parents", "children are treated as individuals and valued", "the facilities of the school – the outdoors!"

When looking at what could make Milford an even better school, there was also a considerable amount of consistency in responses. Some of these were: "we need to communicate more effectively with parents – letting them know more about the valuable things we do", "we would like to get parents into school more often, sometimes to help", "improve links with the local community – businesses, artists, museums and parents", "have a clearer set of rewards and sanctions for behaviour", "improve the school IT systems", "improve children's writing", "have more creativity – themed weeks etc". In response to this, myself and the staff have started to write and update our School Development Plan to incorporate much of what we have been told and would like to make you aware of some things that will be happening over the Autumn term. We will be reviewing and updating our Behaviour Policy and will send 'key guidelines' home for you to see. I am awaiting further quotes to improve our school IT systems and hope to move forward with this before the end of October. We will be updating the website regularly with news and activities to support your child's learning at home (there are now some Reception phonics videos and some good website links under the 'Learning Links' section of the website!)

I will be attending the 'Meet your Village' event at Milford Village Hall on Friday 23rd September at 7.30pm to network with local organisations/businesses and charities and hope to build some links to help our school.

As we move through the year, I will try to keep you updated with our progress and what we are working on and may ask for your help and support to ensure the very best possible outcomes for all of our children.

Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the sunshine.

Mr A. Stear
Headteacher

DIARY DATES

Wed	21.09.16	EYFS - Meet the teacher 12.30pm	Fri	18.11.16	Year 1 and Year 2 Flu nasal immunisation
Thurs	22.09.16	Photographer (Individual photos)	Fri	18.11.16	Muffi Day for Xmas Fair
Fri	23.09.16	Friends Coffee Morning for parents 9.30am	Tues	22.11.16	Toddler Time in Hall 2.15-3.00pm
Mon	26.09.16	Surrey Advertiser Reception class photo	Fri	02.12.16	Christmas Fair
Fri	30.09.16	Grandparents Morning 10.00-11.30am	Fri	09.12.16	Elm/Lime to Dower and Clockhouse
Thurs	06.10.16	Sign-up for Partners Evening	Mon	12.12.16	Christmas Performance for Grandparents
Fri	07.10.16	Friends Meeting - (all welcome)time tbc	Tues	13.12.16	Christmas Performance (1) 9.15am (Surnames A-L)
Thurs	13.10.16	Harvest Gifts to School	Wed	14.12.16	Christmas Performance (2) 9.15am (Surnames M-Z)
Fri	14.10.16	Harvest Assembly 9.00am	Thurs	15.12.16	Parent Helpers Coffee 9.00am
Fri	14.10.16	Elm/Lime to Dower and Clockhouse	Fri	16.12.16	Carols around the Tree 9.00-9.30am
Wed	19.10.16	Parents Evening 1 4.30-7.00pm			Christmas Jumper Day in aid of 'Save the Children'
Thurs	20.10.16	Parents Evening 2 3.30 - 6.00pm			Christmas Lunch
Fri	21.10.16	Cake sale 3.15pm	Wed	21.12.16	Last Day of term school closes at 1pm
Mon	24.10.16 - Friday 28.10.16	Half-term	Tues	03.01.17	School resumes at 8.55am
Mon	31.10.16	Inset Day	Thurs	19.01.17	Pied Piper Theatre Co - 'Burglar Bill'
Wed	02.11.16	Sleepy Story Time 4.45-5.45 pm			
Thurs	10.11.16	Friends Meeting - (all welcome) 7.30 pm			

Value of the Month this month is – RESPECT

It would be great to hear about ways your children are showing Respect at home and how they are trying to meet our value. If you'd like to share examples of these with your child's class teacher (either by sending a note into school or by having a chat at an appropriate time), then please do so. It would be good to put some 'Value Leaves' from home onto our class 'Value Trees'.

Absences

We are required by Surrey County Council to send in an absence return every half term. As a result we ask that on the first morning of absence parents ring the school office and leave a message by 9.25a.m. explaining the reason for his/her absence. If a child is away and we do not get a message to explain, we will contact you to ensure your child is safe. If a child is away for two or more consecutive days, we would ask that a parent rings again on the third day to explain why their child is still away.

Request for Leave of Absence during term time

We will not normally authorise absence for holidays during term time and any such absences will be marked as unauthorised. Surrey County Council guidance gives Headteachers the power to authorise absence only in exceptional circumstances. Examples of exceptional circumstances, given by the Department for Education (DfE), are: service leave and family crisis.

Pupil Post

We try to use Friday as our regular day for sending parent mail and newsletters. **Please check your e-mails and your child's bag on a Friday to ensure that you keep up to date with school events.** We should also be grateful if you would help your children on a weekly basis, to clear their bags of all unnecessary items (apart from reading books and diaries). Sometimes it is unavoidable to send mail on other days so please bear this in mind. We update the website regularly with important information.



Bicycle and Scooter Shelter

You may have noticed that we now have a brand new bicycle/scooter shelter and I am pleased to see so many children making use of it. Can you please ensure that as children come into the school grounds they do not ride their scooters or bikes, please push them to avoid any unnecessary accidents, particularly during busy times.



Medication and Inhalers

If your child receives medication, including inhalers for asthma, please ensure that the school is informed of this and medication is supplied for use in school. As with any medicine/inhalers that need to be given during the day, a form (obtained from the office) must be completed giving details of the medicines and clear instructions as to how they should be administered. Please refer to our 'Supporting Children with Medical Needs' policy. All medication must come via the School Office and not via the classteacher.



Updating Records/Information

Your child should have received an envelope today which shows the details we currently hold. Please return the form unchanged if the details are correct, but, if they are not, please alter them clearly on the form. Some parents will have received other letters, FSM eligibility forms, Dietary Requirement forms and Tucasi on-line payment forms. We would be grateful if these forms/data collection forms can be returned by **Wednesday 21st September.**

Dogs on School Premises

Please ensure that dogs are not brought on to school premises. Please tie them up to the fence at the front of the school building, away from paths and gates.

Clubs - First Half of Autumn Term

Breakfast Club: Tuesday 6th Sept - Friday 21st Oct
Tennis (Monday): 19th Sept - 5th Dec
SCL Football (Tuesday): 20th Sept - 18th Oct
Club Energy (Wednesday): 21st Sept - 19th Oct
French (Lunchtime): 15th Sept - 8th December

SCL - 'Saturday Soccer' at Milford School

SCL are running a Saturday Soccer at Milford School which will take place from 9.30-10.30am. The cost is £66.00 for 12 weeks (17th Sept - 10th December excluding 29th October). For more information and to book online please visit wearescl.co.uk/saturday-soccer.

SCL Holiday Clubs

SCL will run holiday clubs at Milford School during the October half-term, Christmas holidays and February half-term. Booking information will follow.

Stars of the Week

Certificates were awarded to:

Elm

Penny: For settling into Elm Class

Isabelle M: For being kind and friendly to everyone

Lime

Dylan: For being a great role model and always trying his best

Jessica: For sharing her ideas in our class discussions

Beech

Tom: For extending his learning at home and creating a super house for our Beech Class animals

Lexi: For showing respect to everyone in our Beech Class family

Cherry

Conor: For super listening and following our new class rules

Georgina: For challenging herself, helping others and being ready to give things a go.



Photographer

The School photographer will be coming on Thursday 22nd September to take individual and family group children's photographers. Older and younger children in your family who do not attend our school may be brought into school at 8.45a.m., if you would like them to be included in your school child's photograph.

Priority will be given to older children, so that they can get to their school as soon as possible. Individual and family group photographs of children who attend our school will be taken during the remainder of the morning.



Free School Meals Eligibility and Pupil Premium

Although all infant school children are now eligible for a free school meal, it is still important to us that we are able to identify who would have been eligible if the system hadn't changed as this information is used for the school to be able to claim pupil premium.

You or your child's information is not given to anyone else but is used purely for the school to be able to claim the premium.

The Pupil Premium is additional funding given to schools so that they can support their disadvantaged pupils and close any potential attainment gaps between them and their peers. The Pupil Premium is rising to £1.875 billion, with schools receiving an additional £900 per eligible child.

Please pick up a form from the School Office as soon as possible, even if you are not sure whether you are eligible, in order for us to make this claim as accurately as possible.

New Assembly Arrangements

Monday: Singing Assembly with Mrs Fulterer

Tuesday: Values Assembly with Mr Stear/Miss Morgan

Wednesday: PSHE/Circle time discussion in classrooms

Thursday: Values Assembly (a different teacher each week)

Friday: Star of the Week assembly with Mr Stear/Miss Morgan

In the Summer term, the plan is for each class to hold their own class assembly in the hall and to invite parents to attend. You will be given details by Christmas so that you can book time off work if necessary/possible!

Creative Curriculum

Creative curriculum sessions take place on Friday afternoons. The children will be participating in a range of activities to enhance their learning and we are putting the many skills and qualifications of all our staff to good use. The children will take part in a rotation of activities for 3 weeks at a time so they will get to experience all of the activities. This term we will be starting with lego animation, games club, karate and outdoor learning. All these activities will be run in addition to the learning opportunities provided by the National Curriculum subjects in class. The children and adults are all very excited and looking forward to these sessions and hopefully you will hear all about them from your children.

Gates Locking/Opening

Please note that all gates will be locked in the mornings at 9am. Please ensure that you vacate the site promptly after drop-off. They will be re-opened at 3pm.