



Dear Parents,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. It seems hard to believe that half term has already come around, it feels like only yesterday we were finally welcoming our whole school back and now here we are saying goodbye for a week!

I would like to say a big thank you to all of our staff for their resilience over the past half term, with everyone playing their part in the running of the school, whether adapting to different timings, lunch arrangements (hot meals are finally back from 2nd November!), classroom layouts and adaptations made to how we are delivering our curriculum. Throughout it all the staff team have been exceptional.

I continue to be grateful too for our wonderful community that is always on hand with kind words, patience and flexibility as we continue to navigate this unusual time nationally. Over the half term, please do have a break (not from reading!), play a board game or two, have a day out at a local park (if it is safe to do so) and enjoy the outdoors. We are so lucky to live in the beautiful surroundings of the Surrey Hills and there is much we can do and learn whilst exploring. Some things to look out for are here: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

You could also take on some half term challenges: <https://www.wildchildadventure.com/blog/5-exciting-nature-challenges-for-outdoor-learning/>

Whatever you do, enjoy some family time and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Mr Stear and all at Milford.

## **Surrey Wildlife Trust**

From 26th October to the 1st November Surrey Wildlife Trust are running the #BigWildWalk to raise money for conservation. There are also lots of different events going on over the next few months that may be of interest. There's no better time to be outside than now, and no nicer time to enjoy the Autumn sights and sounds!

Get involved!

## **E-safety**

As we embark upon another break from school, I would like to remind all parents to ensure that their internet safety settings are set up age appropriately for your children. Youtube always seems like a safe option, however there is a raft of content that would be inappropriate for children at our school, including 'gaming' streams where there can be elements of graphic violence. Please always check what your child is accessing to ensure it is safe and age appropriate.

## **Diary Dates**

Mon 26.10.20 - Fri 30.10.20 **Half-term**

Fri 06.11.20 - Inset Day

Fri 13.11.20 - Mufti Day for Children in Need

Fri 11.12.20 - Christmas Jumper Day

Fri 18.12.20 - Last Day of term. Early finish (time tbc)

Mon 04.01.21 - School re-opens

Mon 15.02.20—Fri 19.02.20 **Half-term**

Fri 26.02.21 - Inset Day

Mon 04.04.21— Fri 16.04.21 **Easter Holidays**

Fri 28.05.21 Inset Day

Wed 21.07.21 Last day of term

### **Teachers' Bench**

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the Friends' teachers' "thank you" fund at the end of last term. As well as the banner that is proudly displayed on the school gate, your donations purchased a lovely bench which is positioned in the sun outside Mr Stear's office. This is a fantastic tribute to the hard work all the staff put in during the difficult lock-down period and we hope they soon find time to sit and enjoy a moment's rest.

### **Friends AGM and Welcome Meeting**

The Friends held their Annual General Meeting and Welcome Meeting on 6 October via Zoom. The Friends have set an ambitious target to raise £20,000 for the school this year, with some really fantastic plans on how this money will be spent. Full details are in the meeting slides which can be found on Classlist. Alternatively email [friendschair@milford.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:friendschair@milford.surrey.sch.uk) if you would like any additional information.

### **"Free" money for our school**

As the shopping season is fast approaching, and internet shopping expected to be higher than ever, there are two ways that you can help raise funds for the school without any additional cost to you. These schemes have already raised thousands of pounds for the school.

If you buy anything on Amazon, please shop via [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) instead of the usual website or app. This provides the same shopping experience, but Smile allows you to select a charity (choose: The Friends of Milford School) and Amazon will donate a small percentage of sales to the Friends. The purchase has to be made via the Smile site for the Friends to receive the donation.

For all other online shopping, please shop via the Easy-Fundraising website or App. Over 4,000 big name retailers are included, such as John Lewis, Uswitch, ASOS, Argos, Expedia, M&S, and BT and every time you shop, the school will receive a free donation (choose: Milford School).

### **School photos**

If you have not already registered with Scopay, you should have received a letter with details on how to register, to enable you to order school photos. I have printed one hard copy per child only. When ordering, through Scopay, you have the option of paying £5 for the print or £7 if you would like the master copy sent to you via email. Our thanks go to Jo Plaistowe who took the photos, edited and provided them for us. We sincerely hope they will be enjoyed and are affordable for all. All proceeds go towards providing the best education and resources for your child.

Clubs

### **Breakfast and After School Clubs**

Breakfast Club: Mon 2nd November—Fri 18th December

Football Club Y1: Monday 3.10-4.10pm

Bogie Pumps (Dance) Y2: Tuesday 3.20-4.20pm

Bogie Pumps (Dance) Y1: Wednesday 3.10-4.10pm

Football Club Y1: Thursday 3.10-4.10pm

### **School lunches**

Hot meals are back after half term!

We are pleased to inform you that hot meals will once again be available after half term. This is now available for online ordering. Please use this link to place your orders:

<https://innovate2020.cashlessschool.co.uk>

If you have any problems, please do contact the school office!

### **Breakfast Club is back!**

You should have received an email with details of our Breakfast Club. It will now be run by Milford School staff to provide consistency and familiarity. Miss Baxter, who has significant experience of running holiday clubs will welcome the children each morning along with Mr Wallbank. It will include a breakfast as part of the club. This will start straight after half term. You will need to book and complete the form attached to the email received or you can look under the 'Parents' section of the website. We will only be accepting payment through our usual system of Scopay.

We hope this will be useful and encourage you to sign up!

Some links to help you provide a safe internet experience for your children are:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

<http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/personal-safety/staying-safe-online/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

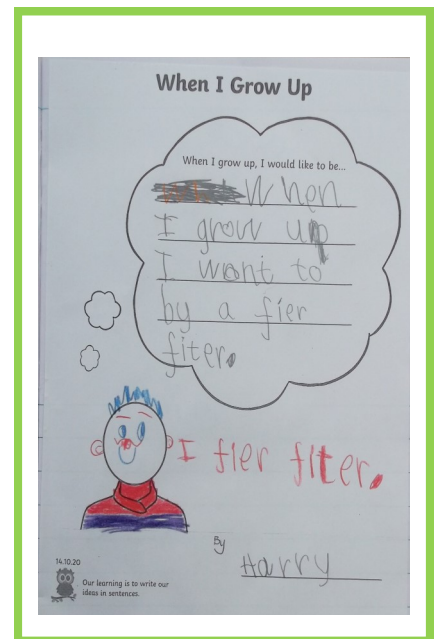
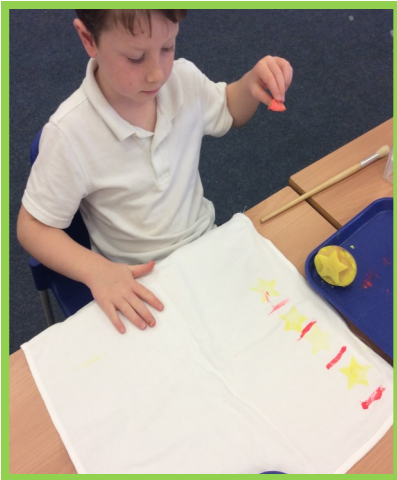
<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-safety-guide/>



## Year One News

In Year One we have been learning about some inspirational people. We kicked off with footballer Marcus Rashford and his selfless efforts on behalf of those less fortunate than himself. In PE we thought about what skills you need to be a team player. Then we learned about Banke Kuku, whose interests from the age of 5 inspired her to become a world famous textile designer. We were inspired to create our own fabric design by printing using unusual objects. Finally we explored the life of Dr Mae Jemison, whose love of reading at an early age helped her to become a Doctor and an astronaut!

At the end of the week we were excited to think about what adventures we might have when we grow up. Year 1 children have plans to be a deep sea diver, scientist, vet, police officer, explorer, racing car and a firefighter.



### **Communication channels**

We thought it would be useful to clarify which channels we will utilise and for what (for our benefit and for you as parents).

Email - the office will email important information, letters, forms etc. If you need to make contact for any reason at all, this is the route to take.

Google Classroom - this will be used to update and share what we've been learning, celebrate successes and will be used for setting learning tasks (anything related to learning!)

Twitter - this is a method of quickly sending out things that have happened, for example something exciting that has been happening in school. Occasionally it will signpost to important information being sent out in email.





## End of half term!

We were really lucky to have a special visitor on Thursday - Olympian Derek Redmond (Barcelona 1992).

Derek gave a talk to each year group about resilience. The children were amazing, listened well and asked some excellent questions. Derek gave a clear and inspirational message of when you fall down, get back up! Never ever give up and you can be and do whatever you want to do if you keep trying. Believe in yourself and keep going, it's within your control. If you give up however, there can be no one to blame except yourself. He shared the emotional and still painful video of his experience in 1992, but also shared some things that none of us knew.

He told us about the 7 operations he had on his leg in two years, how the surgeon told him after the seventh that he would never represent his country at sport again. As shown through his actions back then and his talk today, Derek was determined to prove everyone wrong. We found out that he went on to play basketball professionally and represent England. He played rugby professionally and almost made selection for the 7s team. He rode motorcycles and became national champion in his category. Prior to lockdown, Derek was and continues to box semi-professionally, despite being in his mid-fifties and has won every contest so far. If he is not an example to us all about resilience, courage, and what you can achieve with the right mindset and belief in yourself, then I don't know what is!

The final thing I want to share with you all is that when I was speaking to Derek before, during and at the end of his talks, he commented on what a lovely school we have and how well behaved the children were. We also shared some stories of teachers we both had when we attended (at different times!) the same secondary school in Northampton. Derek's one wish for us all, and one that I share (we both received the same speech from an inspirational teacher), is for all of our children and families to have no regrets. Don't be in a position where you are thinking, "what if I'd tried harder, done more, found the time."

Treasure every moment, make the most of the time you have, and please have a great half term.

Carpe diem!

