

Principal: Mrs. Mills

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Message from the Principal:

Welcome to April's newsletter! It is so good to be back and getting into our normal routines again. The children have returned to school after the Easter holidays so excited and eager to learn. They are so determined and resilient, showing just how adaptable our children are. We had a visitor into the Academy this week leading some year 5 and 6 resilience sessions. As he left, he said to me, your children are a real credit to you and the Academy! I whole heartedly agree and they make me so proud every day. Our attendance figures are one of the highest in the city and above the national average. This is testament to all we are doing at the Academy to engage our children in learning and it clearly demonstrates their love for attending our school every day. Well done everyone! Finally, I would like to introduce Miss Jennings to the senior leadership team as Assistant Principal. I know that she will be a real asset to the team and do a fabulous job. I look forward to all the exciting things we have planned this half term and have a lovely bank holiday weekend.



Our Motto

Work
HARD
Dream
BIG
Never
GIVE UP

Message from Assistant Principal:

It has been wonderful to see the children returning to school after Easter with fantastic attitudes to learning and looking super smart. The children are certainly enjoying their learning by our whole school attendance figures. I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents/carers who have supported us by making sure your children are wearing full uniform I know this has been a little difficult for some families. Please remember to check your child's class Dojo page on a regular basis as you will find any class updates and you can in turn communicate with your child's class teacher. Please support your child at home by reading at least 4 times a week and completing as many Magic Homework tasks you can. If you need any support with this please don't hesitate to contact myself or your child's class teacher.



Message from Assistant Principal:

After working at Mill Hill for the last two years as a class teacher and the leader of reading, I am extremely excited to be joining the senior leadership team as Assistant Principal. I will still be working in class as part of my role. I thoroughly enjoy being part of the team at Mill Hill, and I am looking forward to this new experience and supporting the academy on their journey. It has been great to see the children working hard in their lessons and showing their eagerness to learn. The fantastic attendance shows how much the children enjoy being at school. It is great to see most children are looking very smart in their uniforms. I am really pleased to see lots of children continuing their learning at home by reading and completing the Mill Hill Magic Homework—this is extremely beneficial in supporting the children's learning.



Punctuality

The school gates open between 8:30—8:45am. Thank you to all parents/carers and children for making every effort to be in school on time. Every second of learning counts! If you are late, please go to the main gate, where you will be directed to the Community Centre, where Mrs Lyons (our Attendance Officer) will greet you.



Attendance

We are so pleased with the attendance since returning to school. Our attendance is 97.5% compared to 92% across Stoke on Trent. This is amazing! Lets keep this up!

It is crucial that children are in school all of the time so that they aren't missing out on learning time.



Important Dates

Monday 3rd May
Bank holiday—school closed
Tuesday 4th May
Bag2School deadline
Tuesday 4th May
Eid Card competition closing date
Friday 14th May
Food donations
Friday 14th May
Pyjamarama
Friday 28th May
School closes for half term
Monday 7th June
School opens



Our Curriculum

We are excited to see the fantastic work children produce this half term including their final showcase pieces.

Here is a list of the topics being covered in each year group this half term:

Nursery	What is a woodland creature?
Reception	What can you grow at the bottom of your garden?
Year 1	How does your garden grow?
Year 2	Why are we potty about the Potteries?
Year 3	How has Britain changed since the 1960s?
Year 4	Pits, Pots and Power.
Year 5	Tudors
Year 6	What impact did the Victorians have on Britain today?

You will be able to see daily updates on Dojo of the lessons happening at Mill Hill.



Hopes, Dreams and Aspirations Programme and Theme Of the Week

Through our weekly assemblies, the children will focus on different themes and key celebrations.

This half term the themes are:

- The Queens' birthday
- St George's Day
- Ramadan
- My top 5 things
- Space Day
- VE Day
- Florence Nightingale's birthday
- Eid
- National smile month
- Make a difference day



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After School Clubs

We are excited to be starting after school clubs again this half term. Please see our clubs below.

Mondays

Craft Club—KS2

Tuesdays

Homework Club—KS1

Mindfulness/Colouring—Year 2

Construction—KS1

Bug Club/Reading Zone—KS2

Wednesdays

Netball

Thursdays

Songbirds

Should you have any questions, please message your child's class teacher on Dojo.

Reading

It is our aim to ensure our children have a passion for reading. Our expectation is that children read at home at least four times a week. This can be a mixture of their home reading books, Bug Club and texts of their choice.

Please sign your child's planner each time they read as they will get a raffle ticket on a Friday if they have read four or more times.

Each week, the children have the opportunity to win a book or a bookmark, and at the end of each term, they have the chance to win a book of their choice and they have hot chocolate and cake with Mrs Mills.



Online Resources

Here are the online resources we would like your children to use in between their lessons. If you require any passwords for them, please do not hesitate to message your child's class teacher on Dojo.



Operation



During PSHE, PCSO Warrilow came to our Year 6 classes about operation SCEPTRE, Ditch the Blade, to educate our children in keeping safe around the community. A massive well done to all Year 6 as they thoroughly engaged with this session.



Year 2 Creative Arts Project

Our year two classes are taking part in a creative arts project with local artist Mr Parr. Over the next twelve weeks, the children will design and create wooden bottle kiln planters, which fits perfectly with their 'Why are we potty about the Potteries?' topic.



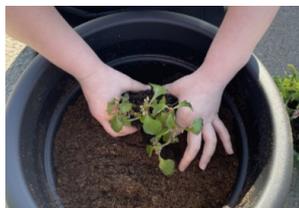
Magic Homework

It has been great to see the children completing their Mill Hill Magic Homework and earning points as they go. Please continue to share work on your child's portfolio on Dojo or add it to your child's homework book. Remember your child needs to earn 26 points and this can be done by choosing the tasks your child wishes to complete.

HOMework

Hook Days

As we enter the new term, classes have launched their new topics and they enjoyed lots of exciting activities on their Hook Day. We have had planting seeds, discovering why Stoke on Trent is famous, an afternoon in the sixties and much more.



PE

Here is a reminder of the days your child/ren need to wear their PE kits to school.

- Nursery—Thursday**
- Reception— Wednesday**
- Year 1— Thursday**
- Year 2— Tuesday**
- Year 3— Monday**
- Year 4— Tuesday**
- Year 5— Friday**
- Year 6— Wednesday**

Just a reminder that PE kits include plain black jogging bottoms, shorts or leggings, purple Mill Hill t-shirt or plain white t-shirt, plain black or purple jumper or the Mill Hill fleece and trainers.



Rewards

At the end of last half term, we had two days of exciting treats in the sunshine. This half term, the behaviour for learning treat will be a trip as a year band to Tunstall Park for a day out. The children will be having a picnic, playing on the park and enjoying an ice-cream! What a great day that will be!

David Hyner



On Thursday, David Hyner came into school to deliver an inspirational presentation to our Year 5 and 6 children. He reiterated our school motto of 'Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give up'. He gave the children steps to work through when you find something difficult. One of the most important elements is to work for 5-10 minutes a day on what you find difficult. Be a rhino!

If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you have always got.