

### Message from the Principal:

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2021! It certainly has been busy and different – opening on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and then receiving notification of the school closure 8pm that night! Staff have been working really hard to ensure that children have access to fabulous learning materials whilst they are at home and daily live lessons. I have really enjoyed looking through their portfolios on Class Dojo and seeing them in their live Zoom lessons. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children for working really hard and also parents/carers for your ongoing support of the Academy and your children's learning. You are doing an amazing job in these difficult times, THANK YOU. Keep doing what you are doing, balanced with quality family time and time to relax. I hope that you enjoy this newsletter, with the many exciting initiatives and academy developments. To reward all the children for their hard work we are planning a surprise and more details will follow shortly. If you do have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.



### Our Motto

*Work*  
**HARD**  
*Dream*  
**BIG**  
*Never*  
**GIVE UP**

### Message from Assistant Principal:

What a term it has been already, I am sure it will most definitely be one to remember! It was wonderful to see all the children arrive back after Christmas even though it was just for one day. I would like to send you all a heartfelt thanks for all your support with remote learning from uploading work to Dojo, messages of thanks and support to your child's teacher and supporting your child to access Zoom. It has most definitely been a steep learning curve for all involved. The children make me so proud how well they have adapted to this way of learning.

I would like to say a big welcome to our new Nursery Rising 3 children who are settling in really well. Just a reminder our Nursery has been able to stay open so please don't hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Donnelly to speak about your child coming back to Nursery. Nursery applications for September 2021 have been extended to 28th February so if you haven't already applied for your child's Nursery place for September 2021 please contact the school office for more information.



### Message from Assistant Principal:

Three weeks in and what a term it has been so far. It was so lovely to see the children when they came back after Christmas, even if it was just for a day. School life is definitely not what we are used to but I would just like to say a massive 'Thank You' for everything you are doing to support your children during this challenging time. The children's engagement on Zoom lessons, the amazing work uploaded to Dojo, the positive messages, all highlight what a fantastic community we are! I could not be prouder of how you and the children have adjusted to this new way of schooling. I can not wait to see you all again, back in school, whenever that may be!



### Parent Voice

We were so pleased that 104 parents/carers completed our questionnaire in December 2020.

We were so proud to see how highly you all regard the Academy – thank you! Some highlights are:

- **98%** said that their child was happy at the Academy.
- **99%** said that their child felt safe at the Academy.
- **99%** said that their child is making good progress.
- **99%** said that their child was well looked after.
- **100%** said that their child was taught well.
- **96%** said that their child received appropriate homework.
- **99%** said that the Academy ensures children are well behaved.
- **99%** said the Academy is well led and managed.
- **96%** said that they received valuable information about their child's progress.



### Important Dates

**Thursday 4th February**—Time to Talk Day  
**Tuesday 9th February**—Safer Internet Day  
**Monday 15th — Friday 19th February**—Half Term, so there will be no work set during this week, enjoy some family time!  
**Friday 26th February**—INSET Day

### Hopes, Dreams and Aspirations Programme and Theme Of the Week

Our Hopes, Dreams and Aspirations programme is still continuing through our weekly assemblies. So far the children have celebrated Martin Luther King day and have looked into different careers that they can aspire to achieve in the future. They have also shared their love for reading during National Storytelling Week.

This half term Year 6 have been learning all about 'resilience' and how they can become more resilient. They had an excellent opportunity to hear first-hand from Port Vale footballer Christian Montano, who shared with them his own experience of showing resilience in his career.



### Here are a few examples of some of the fantastic work completed so far this term:



### Online Learning

The staff at Mill Hill would like to send you all a huge 'Thank You'! You are doing a great job, and all we ask is that you just keep doing what you are doing!

Just a reminder to check Class Dojo every morning for your class teacher's welcome video, the daily learning, the links to Zoom lessons and the celebration posts.



There is nothing we love more than seeing your children's work and celebrating their successes.

Please upload pictures of your children's work each day so the teacher can share their feedback.



### Here are a list of the topics covered in each year group this half term:

<b>Nursery</b>	Are witches real?
<b>Reception</b>	I wonder...who lives at the zoo?
<b>Year 1</b>	Who lives in the castle?
<b>Year 2</b>	Who went exploring?
<b>Year 3</b>	Why are the Ancient Greeks still
<b>Year 4</b>	How does water go round and
<b>Year 5</b>	What damage is our life having
<b>Year 6</b>	What are your dreams and



### Our Motto



### PTFA

Even though things aren't as normal as we would like, we are still trying to do as much as we can to continue providing new and exciting equipment and experiences for our children. To do this, the PTFA need your help.

Coming up is:

- An in-school book sale
- A sponsored sports related event
- A perfume auction

Keep checking Class Dojo, ParentMail and the school's Facebook page for upcoming information about these exciting fundraising events.



### Keeping Children Safe and Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 9th February, it is Safer Internet Day, so we will be talking to children about keeping safe online. This might be a good time to review the privacy settings on your child's devices as these can often reset after updates. Whenever your child is online it is important that they are only talking to and sharing things with people that they know.

The focus of Safer Internet Day this year is also about children knowing what information is true online and what information isn't. Please can your support your children with this, especially during this time whilst they are learning online.

Here is a link to the Safer Internet Day website, which gives you more information and a quiz you can complete with your children.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2021>



### Fundraising

Whilst we're unable to do our usual fundraising, we have a brilliant way to raise free donations for the school.

All you have to do is sign up to support us with #easyfundraising and then when you do your normal online shopping, go via the easyfundraising website or app and you'll raise free donations for Mill Hill Primary Academy, Tunstall.

There are over 4,100 retailers to choose from, including Just Eat, eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Amazon and many more.

Signing up is quick and easy:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/millhillprimarytunstall/?](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/millhillprimarytunstall/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=s-f3)

[utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=s-f3](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/millhillprimarytunstall/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=s-f3)



### 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.



### Rewards

Due to the current situation, our usual end of half term extravaganza unfortunately can not go ahead. However, watch this space for something that will hopefully put a smile on your faces and show our appreciation for everything you've done this half term!



Also, to say a massive thank you for working so hard, we have arranged for a magical magician to bring some fun at the end of a very strange, but busy half term.



When we all return back to school, our treat days will continue. This will take into consideration behaviour and attitude in school, as well as engagement with online learning. Please keep reminding your children to continue working hard at home so that they can take part in our exciting rewards.

### Over Christmas, our learning spaces had a make over; with dinosaurs, books and the world taking over our walls.



### Time to Talk Day

On Thursday 4th February, the children across the country are being encouraged to talk about mental health.

The focus of this day is 'the power of small' - a small conversation about mental health has the power to make a big difference.

### Ten tips for talking

1. Mental health isn't just about illness. It is also about wellbeing.
2. Showing you're happy to talk and listen will mean a lot.
3. You don't need to set aside hours. Just opening up the conversation helps.
4. You could chat while doing something else, like driving or preparing dinner.
5. Explain that every one of us has mental health.
6. You don't have to be an expert, or have the answers.
7. Hypothetical situations might be easier to talk about than personal experiences.
8. Familiar ideas might include feeling stressed, depressed, low or anxious
9. You could suggest learning together.
10. There are lots of good information resources on the internet.

