

Principal: Mrs. Mills

Tel: 01782 234466

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Message from the Principal:

March has been a truly wonderful month as we were able to have all of our children back into school! Parents/carers and children deserve so much praise for the work that they did during this lockdown. No mean feat for us all, learning new technological skills through Zoom and Dojo and for many balancing this with working from home, supporting family members and ensuring quality family time. So, a BIG well done to you all! As always, I am so proud of our children. They were so excited and pleased to be back, with many eagerly skipping through the gates with big beaming smiles on their faces and we were SO pleased to see them. They really have showed just how resilient they are, with 98% attendance in our first week back being a testament to that. The children had a lovely first week back with many exciting learning activities and we have lots of exciting activities and ventures planned for the remaining three weeks of the term. These are all detailed in this newsletter and more information will be sent to you via Class Dojo and Facebook. As always, thank you parents/carers and children for your ongoing support of the Academy.

Just a reminder we have the Behaviour for Learning treats on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th March. We are closed to children after 3pm on Tuesday 30th March for the Easter holidays (Wednesday 31st March and Thursday 1st April are INSET days and Friday 2nd April is Good Friday).



Our Motto

Work
HARD
Dream
BIG
Never
GIVE UP

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 for the first week back. Our attendance was 98% compared to 95% average across Stoke on Trent. Well done to you all! Lets keep this up!

We are looking forward to meeting the children, who achieved 100% attendance before Christmas, for breakfast within the next couple of weeks.



Message from Assistant Principal:

It was wonderful to see all of the children return back to school after what felt like such a long time away. I continue to be blown away by the way the children have settled back into school, showing a real can-do attitude. I would like to say another big thank you to all parents and carers for supporting your child/children and encouraging them to access and engage with the home learning. It was amazing to see all of the fantastic work the children completed whilst being at home. Please continue to communicate with your child's class teacher via Dojo and look out for regular class updates as the teachers have some great learning planned for the rest of this half term.



Message from Assistant Principal:

Last week we welcomed all the children back to school after being away for so long and it was lovely to see their happy, smiley faces. We really did miss them! Knowing how resilient the children at Mill Hill are, it did not surprise me that they came back eager to continue their learning. Last week, they walked into their classrooms, which were covered in tin foil, and began an exciting week of work based around 'The Tin Forest'. All the children worked exceptionally hard and have produced some fantastic pieces of writing. I am looking forward to seeing all the other wonderful work they produce this half term! I would just like to thank the parents and carers for your continued support. Please continue to use Dojo to speak to the staff and read all about life at Mill Hill!



Important Dates

Friday 19th March
Red Nose Day

Thursday 25th March
Reports sent home

Monday 29th March
Parent phone calls with class teachers

Monday 29th March
Year 1 and 2 Decorated Egg Parade

Tuesday 30th March
Nursery/Reception Easter Bonnet Parade KS2
Easter Garden Parade

Tuesday 30th March
School closes for the Easter holidays

Monday 19th April
School opens for the Summer term



Our Curriculum

Once again, thank you for all of your hard work with supporting your child/ren to ensure they still accessed their learning through Zoom lessons and via the PowerPoints on Dojo. It really helped maintain some consistency for the children and made the transition back to school, so much easier for them.



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

Nursery	Are witches real?
Reception	I wonder...who lives at the zoo?
Year 1	E is for Empire.
Year 2	Who went exploring?
Year 3	What if you lived in Greece?
Year 4	Ancient Egyptians and how does water go round and round?
Year 5	Did the Mayans create a calendar that could predict the future?
Year 6	World War 2

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 have focused on different themes and key celebrations:

- St David's Day
- World Maths Day
- Brain Awareness Week
- British Science Week
- St Patrick's Day
- Manners
- Comic Relief

At the end of the half term, the children will look at the celebration 'Easter' and why it is an important event for Christians.



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School Uniform

Full school uniform is now expected to be worn by all children, however we are aware of the difficulties parents are facing to purchase new uniform. We ask that you do your best over the next couple of weeks. The Tunstall uniform shop 'Supersport' is open for online orders and click and collect is available on Wednesdays 11-4pm and Saturdays 10-2pm. Please see the academy website for details regarding the school uniform.



PTFA

First of all, the PTFA would just like to say a massive thank you for your support towards the Mother's Day sale. We hope you enjoyed your cards and gifts. We have very thoughtful children at Mill Hill! The money raised from this and from the uniform sale will go towards continuing to provide the best school environment and resources for your children. Keep checking Class Dojo, ParentMail and the school's Facebook page for upcoming information about future exciting fundraising events, including:

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



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.



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/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=s-f3



Keeping Children Safe

As the children return to school, we know the impact of the pandemic is not over. For many children, the uncertainty and worry from coronavirus has taken a toll on their mental health and we must be ready to support them. Here at Mill Hill, we can offer your child/children support if you feel it is needed. We work closely with Younger Minds and the Trailblazer counselling service. If you feel that some support is needed for your child, please get in touch with Mrs Salih.



Magic Homework

At the start of this half term, your child should have received the 'Magic Homework' for this half term. Please continue to remind and support your child/children to complete the different activities and achieve the total points required by the end of this half term. Children can then bring these in to show their class teacher, or upload pictures/videos onto their portfolio on Dojo as we love to see what extra learning goes on at home!

HOMework

Mill Hill Primary Academy Governors

For your information, please see below a list of the names of our school governors. They continue to work alongside Mrs Mills and the staff at Mill Hill to ensure we provide the best education for your children.

Adele Mills — Principal
Kathleen Smith (Chair) — CLT Board Appointed
Neil Dawson — CLT Board Appointed
Fred Hughes — CLT Board Appointed
Barbara Mitchell — CLT Board Appointed
Rachel Shingler — Parent Elected
Elaine Harvey — Co-opted
Tom Paxton — Staff Elected



Rewards

At the end of this half term, we have two days of exciting treats to look forward to. As always, the children need to follow our school motto and achieve the magic number '30' to receive these rewards!



Monday 29th March—Disco with DJ Dunn
Tuesday 30th March—Easter Egg Hunt and Inflatables



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.



Making Writers Week

After becoming fully immersed in the book 'The Tin Forest', the children across the school produced fantastic pieces of writing, including: instructions, character descriptions, setting descriptions and persuasive letters to the prime minister. Here are some of the pictures from our week.



British Science Week

Last week was also British Science Week. The children were all given a bingo board of Science challenges to complete. All of the children should have brought home a sunflower seed, so they can take part in Mill Hill's sunflower competition. Who will grow the tallest sunflower?

