

Principal: Mrs. Mills

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Message from the Principal:

Once again, we have had an amazing half term! As you can see from this newsletter, we have managed to provide the children with lots of wonderful learning experiences, which they are always excited to tell me about. It is a real privilege to walk into classes and see their excited and enthusiastic faces with big, beaming smiles of enjoyment. As you can see, we have focused on ensuring that our children have had the opportunities to participate in a plethora of enrichment activities, from our extra-curricular programme to our camping experiences in years 4, 5 and 6. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents/carers and children for their exceptional work on the magic homework tasks this half term. Some of the creative work has been truly outstanding! It was also a pleasure to welcome many of the parents/carers into the Academy at our MacMillan coffee morning and our create a Christmas card session. The children, as always, have worked so hard and thoroughly deserve this half terms treat - the spooky wood and Halloween extravaganza! I look forward to the events planned next half term (please review our important dates on the newsletter), and I wish all the Mill Hill staff, parents, carers and children a lovely half term break.



Attendance & Punctuality

We are pleased with our current attendance of 94.8% and we are above national at 92%. It is crucial that children are in school all of the time so that they aren't missing out on learning time.



Road Safety

When dropping your children off at school, can we please ask that you park at the side of the road so that traffic can flow freely and safely down Sunnyside Avenue.

Message from Vice Principal:

What a wonderful first half term we have had! The children have been absolutely fantastic and have worked extremely hard. I would like to thank you for all your support with the children's magic homework as it has been amazing to see all of the children's efforts on a weekly basis. This help from you really supports the teaching that is taking place for your children and allows them to consolidate their learning. A new magic homework sheet will be shared with you after half term. Being able to organise the fantastic camping opportunities across the Academy has been my pleasure, and I am really pleased with how much the children and staff gained from these vital experiences. I have especially enjoyed welcoming you back into the academy to decorate Christmas cards with your children. We have a variety of activities planned for after half term for you to attend, including phonics sessions for Reception parents where your child gets to show you how they learn phonics in the classroom. Please look out for any updates via Class Dojo.



Message from Assistant Principal:

What a busy but fantastic half term it has been! It was great to be part of the camping experiences and see the children thoroughly enjoying their time with their friends. We had lots of giggles! The children have all worked extremely hard this half term and have produced some excellent work. I have been into all of the KS2 classes this half term to see how well the children are working and they have all spoken very well about their learning. The craft activities the children have brought into school for their Magic Homework has been phenomenal, so thank you for all of your support. Working with your child at home on homework tasks or reading really supports the work they do in school and helps them to progress in all areas of the curriculum. I am really excited for the next half term as we have lots more fabulous things to look forward to. Remember to keep up to date via Class Dojo.



Our Motto



Important Dates

Friday 22nd October
Academy closes for pupils for half term

Monday 1st November
Academy opens to pupils
Year 6 residential at Stanley Head

Wednesday 12th November
Academy photographs

Thursday 11th November
Flu vaccinations

Thursday 11th November—Thursday 18th November
Scholastic Book Fair

W/C 15th November
Parents Evening

Friday 19th November
Children in Need

Friday 26th November
INSET Day—closed to pupils

Monday 29th November
INSET Day—closed to pupils

Friday 10th December
Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 17th December
Academy closes for pupils

Our Curriculum

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

Nursery	Our real-life superheroes
Reception	The World and Beyond
Year 1	Are all castles full of turrets and turrets?
Year 2	Rescue me!
Year 3	The Stone Age
Year 4	Romans
Year 5	Vikings
Year 6	World Wars

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:

- Bonfire Night
- Diwali
- Remembrance Day
- Anti-Bullying Week
- Children in Need
- Hanukkah
- Christingle
- Advent
- Human Rights Day
- Christmas



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After School Clubs

After half term, we will be starting new after school clubs. Look out for the letter this week to sign your child up to a club. If you have any questions regarding clubs, please message Miss Jennings on Class Dojo.

Magic Homework

It has been great to see the children's efforts towards their Magic Homework this half term. It is lovely to see that you clearly take the time to work with your child to complete some of the activities, and from discussions with the children, they enjoy working with you to complete the tasks, which enhance their learning in school.



Christmas Cards

We know it was very early in the year to start thinking about Christmas, but it has been great to have parents and carers back into the academy creating the Christmas cards with the children to get them ready to go to print. There were some fabulous designs. Also, don't forget to enter the CLT Christmas card competition. All applications need to be in by Monday 1st November 2021



Year 6

Year 6 have had a busy week. They have been up to Haywood Academy to help make the transition from primary to high school as smooth as possible. They took part in some sample lessons of PE and IT. The children thoroughly enjoyed the lessons they took part in and represented Mill Hill very well.



They have also visited the National Memorial Arboretum through Young Stoke Poets and the Royal British Legion. This was a memorable experience for the children and will support their engagement with poetry as they have also had a visit from a poet to support them in creating their own poems.



Student Leadership

We now have our own student leadership team for this academic year at Mill Hill. We have appointed Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl, prefects, School Council, House Captains and Vice House Captains.



Making Scientists

We have had a 'Making Scientists' week where children have taken part in an experiment in their own class, been part of a very exciting assembly and completed workshops with scientists from Sublime Science. We finished the week with a water rocket launch outside watched by the whole academy.



Social Media and Squid Game

There have been some concerning reports recently about children and young people 'playing' Squid Game whilst at school. Squid Game is also being viewed via other platforms such as YouTube and TikTok, and given the popularity of the games in the show, developers have made various mini games based on Squid Game on Roblox and other gaming platforms. We strongly advise that children should not watch Squid Game as most episodes have an age rating of 15. The show is quite graphic with a lot of violent content.

With this in mind, it is important that we are all mindful of age restrictions for games, apps and programs. Younger children are also beginning to use social media platforms like WhatsApp, Snapchat etc. It is vital that children understand how to use these effectively and the effects this can have on themselves and others. This is something that we will also be educating the children on in school.

Camping Events

Over the last three weeks, children in Years 4, 5 and 6 have taken part in different camping experiences. Year 4 camped in the school hall, Year 5 camped in tents on the school field and Year 6 stayed over at Kibblestone. They took part in activities, enjoyed pizza, made s'mores and had lots of giggles. It was an amazing experience for the children (and staff) and one they thoroughly enjoyed—it will be something they always remember about their time at Primary school.

