

Principal: Mrs. Mills

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Message from the Principal:

Welcome to December's newsletter. As you can see, there have been lots of exciting learning experiences, enrichment opportunities and rewards this half term. It has been wonderful to have parents and carers onto the academy site to experience our Christmas nativities and carol concerts this year. The children worked so hard on their performances and a thoroughly enjoyable experience was had by all. One parent said to me.... 'That was better than going to the theatre!' As always, the Mill Hill community did what they do well when it comes to supporting the school and charity events. Amazing amounts have been raised this term and I would like to thank all the children, parents/carers and staff for their incredible support. Finally, I wish all the children, parents/carers and staff a lovely festive break and best wishes for the New Year.



Attendance & Punctuality

A massive well done to all the children who have successfully met the attendance challenge to be in school for a continuous 18 days. These children are being entered into a prize draw and the winners will be announced shortly. We are pleased with our current attendance of 94% and we are above national at 91%.



The school gates are open between 8:30 - 8:40am. Thank you to all parents/carers and children for making every effort to be in school on time.

Message from Vice Principal:

Wow! What a wonderful term we have had, it has been an absolute pleasure to be part of the children's learning both in school and at home as the Magic Homework has been exceptional. It was a great pleasure to be able to allow parents on site for Christmas productions and our recent Christmas Fayre. All events I am sure you will agree were a roaring success and our children made us proud.

We are looking forward to our new rising 3 children joining us in January. New Nursery and Reception admissions are now currently open. Please apply before the deadline overleaf.

I hope you have a wonderful festive break and prosperous New Year!



Message from Assistant Principal:

I can't quite believe that it is the end of 2021. The children have had a fabulous Autumn term, and they have their new topics to look forward to as we enter the Spring term. The children have worked hard to complete their Showcase books for the end of their topics. Thank you for all of your support this term with donations for the Christmas Fayre, for our charity events and supporting us at our Christmas Fayre and performances. It has also been amazing to see some of the fabulous Magic Homework the children have completed. The treats for this half term have been fantastic and it's something that the children always look forward to. Finally, I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas. Enjoy the time with family and friends over the next two weeks and I wish you all the best for the New Year. See you in January!



Our Motto



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:

- Resolutions
- RSPB's Big Schools Birdwatch
- Make your dreams come true
- Martin Luther King Day
- Burns Night
- Holocaust Memorial Day
- Time to talk day—Careers
- National Story Telling Week
- Charles Dickens Birthday
- Safer Internet Day
- Children's Mental Health Week



Important Dates

Friday 17th December 2021

Academy closes for pupils

Tuesday 4th January 2022

INSET Day—closed to pupils

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Academy opens to pupils

Friday 18th February 2022

Academy closes to pupils

Monday 28th February 2022

Academy opens to pupils



Our Curriculum

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

Nursery	Growing and Changing
Reception	All Creatures Great and Small
Year 1	Dinosaurs
Year 2	On Top of the World!
Year 3	Egyptians
Year 4	Greeks
Year 5	The Maya
Year 6	World War

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



Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 10th December, we took part in Christmas jumper day and enjoyed our delicious Christmas dinner. Thank you to everyone who sent in donations for Save the Children. We raised a fantastic £277.74.



Christmas Fayre

On Wednesday 8th December, we were pleased to hold our annual Christmas Fayre and we enjoyed a fun filled few hours with parents, carers and children. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces and hearing lots of laughter. Thank you to everyone for your tremendous support in donations, attending our event and to the stall holders. We raised over £1200 for our school PTFA, which will further support the children within the academy.



Year 4 Trip

Year 4 went on a trip to Grosvenor Museum in Chester to support their learning on the Romans and the Celts. They completed workshops where the children looked at artefacts, maps and completed different activities to enhance their knowledge of Roman Chester. They went around the museum and looked at the exhibits focussing on Roman Chester. They dressed up in armour, carried a shield and chanted their way down to the Roman Amphitheatre where they demonstrated and practiced Roman Army defence and attack techniques. They had a great time!



Social Media/Internet use

It has come to our attention that a number of children are watching or accessing games, which are not age appropriate. Please could you ensure that you monitor your child's use of tablets, phones etc. Children are also sending inappropriate messages or uploading videos to social media platforms without permission from others. This is then causing issues when the children are in school.



Port Vale

Last week, 50 went to Port Vale Football Club for a community carol concert, 'The Wonder of you'. They attended the event with players and staff from Port Vale and children from other schools. Our children performed Rocking Around the Christmas Tree and then enjoyed mince pies and refreshments.



Nursery and Reception

Nursery and Reception applications are currently open for September 2022. Applications can be made at:

https://www.stoke.gov.uk/info/20033/school_admissions

On Friday 7th January, we will be having an open day for new Nursery and Reception parents. Please contact the academy if you wish to attend. We also run a Rising 3s programme where your child can start at our Nursery the term after they turn 3. For example, if your child turns 3 between September and December, they can start in Nursery in the January. For more information, please contact the school office.



Ofsted says our Nursery and Reception are GOOD and 'pupils flourish at this caring, welcoming school'

Christmas Performances

It was very special to be able to hold our Christmas performances this year, and it certainly put us in the festive mood. All children were fabulous and they all sang beautifully and spoke very confidently. Our children continue to make us all proud each and every day.



Rewards

We love to reward our children at Mill Hill for their attitudes to learning and their behaviour. Each half term we have a treat that we ensure is amazing for all of the children. This half term, the children have had numerous rewards, including a disco, a special grotto with a visit from a man in red, festive games, a virtual pantomime, class parties and giant inflatables and snow!



Reading Raffle

Each week, we have a reading raffle, to win a book or bookmark, for the children who have read at home four times or more. These children are then entered into an end of term raffle to choose a book of their choice and enjoy hot chocolate and cake with Mrs Mills and Mrs Donnelly. Well done to our winners for this half term.

