

Principal: Mrs. Mills

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### Message from the Principal:

Welcome to January's newsletter. Once again, the children have returned after the break eager to learn, super smart and a real pleasure to be with. We had a record number of completed homework tasks last term with many amazing creative pieces. Thank you so much to the children for their efforts and to the parents/carers for their support. I look forward to seeing this half terms efforts very soon. Every day I am impressed with the Mill Hill culture of kindness, support and of course our school motto "Work hard, Dream big and Never give up" that is shared by our children, the staff, parents/carers and our wider community. Staff ensure that lessons ignite our children's minds and really challenge their thinking to get them to know and remember more. Our children really do flourish at our caring and welcoming school. As you can see, we have lots of exciting events planned for our children and our community and I look forward to all of them. I am particularly pleased that we are aiming to raise funds for a defibrillator for the school and also our community. If parents/carers have any queries, concerns or need our help and support please do not hesitate to get in touch.



### Attendance & Punctuality

A massive well done to all the children who have 100% attendance and enjoyed a big breakfast with Mrs Mills. Please remember to ring the school office by 9:00am if your child is absent from school. We are extremely pleased with our current attendance of 94% as we are above national at 92%. Keep it up Mill Hill!



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:

The children have really started the new year with a great eagerness to learn and have got stuck into their new topics. It was fantastic to see all the new Rising 3 children start with us in January in the Nursery. If you would like to know more about our Rising 3 programme, or you have a Nursery or Reception age child, please don't hesitate to get in touch with myself to talk through what Early Years has to offer - we currently have places for now and in September. I am also really pleased to see the great effort children and parents are putting in with this terms homework as many children are already scoring highly by completing a range of tasks. If you need any support with completion of homework please speak to your child's class teacher or myself.



### Message from Assistant Principal:

Although it is almost the end of January, Happy New Year to you all. The children have come back to school after the Christmas break looking very smart and eager to learn. It has been great to see the children starting their new topics. They have also worked extremely hard to improve their handwriting and presentation in books. Thank you to all parents who came to the Multiplication Tables Check meeting - I hope you found it very helpful. If you need any advice on how to support your child with their learning at home, please get in touch with your child's class teacher or myself. It is also great to see the trips that children have been on and the trips we have planned for children over the next term too. These experiences are invaluable to the children and their learning journey. Remember to keep up to date with all information via Class Dojo.



### Defibrillator

Over the next few months, we will be raising funds to purchase a defibrillator to be situated on the fence outside school. Keep a look out over the next few weeks for all the different events/fundraisers we will be holding.

### Important Dates

**Friday 11th February 2022**  
Magic Homework to be complete

**Friday 18th February 2022**  
Treat Day

**Friday 18th February 2022**  
Coffee Morning  
Academy closes for half term

**Monday 28th February 2022**  
Academy opens to pupils

**Thursday 3rd March 2022**  
World Book Day

**Monday 14th March 2022**  
Mother's Day shop

**Friday 18th March 2022**  
Red Nose Day

**Friday 25th March 2022**  
Reports out to parents  
Bags2school

**Monday 28th March 2022**  
Parent Drop In

**Thursday 7th April 2022**  
INSET Day - closed to pupils

**Friday 8th April 2022**  
INSET Day - closed 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.



### 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:

- 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



### Uniform

If you have any old school uniform that your child no longer needs, can you please donate this to school to help us support other families.



### Mill Hill Magic Homework

Magic Homework is due to be completed on Friday 11th February. By completing the homework, children will earn extra points to gain the treat, but if homework isn't completed, this could affect the children's scores. If you have any difficulty in supporting your child to complete their homework, please speak to your child's class teacher and we can ensure your child has the support they need.



### PE

Here is a reminder of the days your child/ren have PE.

**Nursery - Friday (No PE kit needed)**

**Reception - Monday**

**Year 1 - Thursday**

**Year 2 - Monday**

**Year 3 - Tuesday**

**Year 4 - Wednesday**

**Year 5 - Tuesday (Swimming/PE)**

**Year 6 - Friday**

Just a reminder that PE kits include plain black jogging bottoms, shorts or leggings, purple Mill Hill t-shirt, plain black or purple jumper/tracksuit top (no logos) or the Mill Hill fleece and trainers.

### Nursery and Reception

We have had very successful open days for our Early Years and we have children who have started at Mill Hill after visiting our setting. If you would like to visit our school, please get in touch with the office to make an appointment.

Nursery applications are currently open for September 2022, but they close on 31st January.

Applications can be made at:

<https://www.stoke.gov.uk/info/20033/school-admissions>

or you can get a paper copy at the school office.



### Behaviour for Learning Reward

To ensure that children are able to enjoy the treat, they need to engage in lessons, work hard, complete homework, read at home regularly, show respect and manners and generally be the best they can be.

Our next treat will be in the last week before February half term—a Valentine's themed disco. Children need a score of 56 to achieve the treat.

### After School Clubs

We offer many different after school clubs for all age ranges. If you would like your child to join one of the clubs, please contact the school office and we will do our best to accommodate you.

### Big Garden Birdwatch

Be wowed by your local wildlife. Big Garden Birdwatch is for everyone. Simply count the birds you see in your garden or local park for one hour between 28th and 30th January.

Taking part is as easy as 1,2,3

1. Watch the birds around you for one hour.
2. Count how many of each species of bird **lands** on your patch.
3. Go online and record what you saw. Visit the RSPB website to record your results.

### How can we support families?

During a time that is difficult, we are here to help and support you! Please don't suffer in silence, feel afraid or ashamed to ask us for help. Confidentiality is something we regard highly at Mill Hill. If you need any support, get in touch with the school office and ask to speak to a member of the WISH team. See below for just some things of the things we can support you with.



Parenting support



Before & After School Clubs

Emotional support

School uniform

### Hook Activities

The children have all had a great start to their new topics. Ask your child(ren) what their new topic is and what they did during their first lesson. We have also had a big focus on our new writing journey, the expectations of handwriting and daily grammar lessons.



### New Vic Theatre

Reception went to the New Vic Theatre to watch Tale Trail to Cappella. The children completed a workshop and then watched and participated in the performance—they were all amazing! Over the last few months, Reception have been working alongside the New Vic Theatre in school to build speech, communication skills and confidence.