

Principal: Mrs. Mills

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Message from the Principal:

Welcome to January's newsletter. WOW January has rattled by! The children have had an amazing few weeks back. It is clear to see in their books and when I talk to them that they are thoroughly enjoying their lessons and are making really good progress. I would like to thank parents/carers for their support of the Academy as the number of children who are reading four or more times per week and completing their home work is amazing. The interest in our after school clubs this term has been fabulous. We have 87% of our children attending clubs and on waiting lists! The dance and cooking clubs have gone down a storm. Congratulations to our 100% attendance award winners and those children that were at 96% and above last term. Thank you to parents/carers for getting their children into school and on time in what has been a difficult few weeks with road works and snow! Just by setting off five minutes earlier can make a massive difference! As always, don't hesitate call into the office or catch me on the gates if you need me.



Attendance

Each week, we celebrate the classes with the best attendance and they win a big breakfast on a Friday. Our current whole school attendance is 93.6% and we are aiming for at least 96%. Attending school each day is vital to your child's education.

Just a reminder that children need to be in the academy between 8:30am and 8:40am.

Anyone arriving after 8:40am, are classed as late.

100% Attendance Big Breakfast

If your child/children have 100% attendance between 4th January 2023 and 29th March 2023, you and your child will be rewarded with a big breakfast.



Message from Vice Principal:

What a fantastic start to 2023 we have had! The children have all settled back into school extremely well after the holiday and the new Rising Three children have slotted in seamlessly. As Mother's Day is approaching, we will be selling gifts closer to the time - please look out on Class Dojo for further information. Thanks to all parents/carers who attended the phonics workshops for Reception and for all the hard work on their phonics homework. Preparations are well underway for this half term's treat of a Valentine's Disco and the children are working hard to ensure that they get the correct amount of points. Please get in touch if you have missed the deadline for Nursery or Reception applications.



Message from Assistant Principal:

How is it almost February already? It has been a very busy start to the year and the children have been working their socks off as usual. They are knowing more and remembering more and are able to share their learning with you when you speak to them. Thank you to you all for supporting your children with their Magic Homework. A big thank you to parents who attended our Year 6 SATs information event. As always, we have exciting times coming up with many trips planned in the diary and our next behaviour for learning treat and house treat at the end of the half term. Our after school club uptake has been immense and the children are really enjoying these clubs.



Important Dates

Wednesday 1st February

Academy closed except for Year 6

Friday 3rd February 2023

NSPCC Number Day

Wednesday 8th February 2023

Year 1 trip to Warwick Castle

Monday 13th February 2023

Year 4 trip to Cannock Chase

Thursday 16th February 2023

House team treat

Friday 17th February 2023

Behaviour for learning treat
Academy closes for half term

Monday 27th February 2023

Academy opens to pupils

Thursday 2nd March 2023

World Book Day

Tuesday 21st March 2023

Nursery trip to Wonderland

Our Curriculum

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

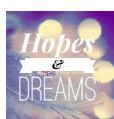
Nursery	Traditional Tales Which material is best to build a house?
Reception	The World and Beyond What is outside my window?
Year 1	Everyday materials Seasonal changes
Year 2	Seasonal Changes Fieldwork
Year 3	Ancient Egypt Coding
Year 4	3D recycled sculptures Coding
Year 5	Fieldwork Databases
Year 6	Photography Spreadsheets

NSPCC



Number Day

Hopes, Dreams and Aspirations Programme and Theme of the Week



Through our weekly assemblies, the children will focus on different themes and key celebrations. For the next few weeks, the themes are:

- NSPCC Number Day
- Safer Internet Day
- Charles Darwin's birthday
- Random act of kindness

Reading Raffle

A huge well done to the children who won our reading raffle back in December. They enjoyed hot chocolate, a cake and a book of their choice presented by Mrs Mills. Ensure your child is reading at least four times a week to be in with a chance of winning.

House Competition

This half term, the children have taken part in an archery competition for their house team. All points were recorded and the results are below:

1st place Scorpius - 853 points

2nd place Cygnus - 735 points

3rd place Lupus - 670 points

4th place Aquila - 653 points

A huge well done to all the children for taking part—they all love a good competition and an extra special well done to Scorpius on their win.



Reception

Reception have had a very busy start to the year. They invited parents in to a fun phonics session to demonstrate what daily phonics sessions are like and to give ideas for fun activities to do at home. The children loved showing off their skills to their parents.



As part of their 'World and Beyond' topic, Reception went for a ride on the minibus to Tunstall and then walked back to school looking at the local area and talking about how it has changed from the past. The children's behaviour was amazing!



Future Journalist Award

Year 4 had visitors to their class to help them learn all about journalism - what it is and what jobs they could do. They joined in on a quiz and practiced interviewing techniques on Miss Higginson. The children were extremely enthusiastic. This has definitely made them consider a future career in journalism.

Staffordshire University are running a competition for children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 called the 'future journalist award'. The children can enter by either writing 200 words on their chosen subject, creating a 30-second audio clip or a 30-second video clip. Their subject can be anything they want. Some ideas are: your favourite sports events, a holiday you have been on, your favourite hobbies, favourite TV show or family activities.

For the winners, there will be an awards ceremony which will take place on the 23rd March 2023 at 11:00am in the Staffordshire University Catalyst Building. They will choose three winners from each category:

- best written content
- best vlog
- best audio

The winner will also win a prize.

It would be lovely for your child to take the opportunity to enter (with your permission). Look out on Class Dojo for how to send in your entry.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Dickson via the school office.



Acacia Maths Course

We are really pleased to be able to offer our parents the opportunity to attend a FREE 6 week training programme 'How to help your kids with maths' every Monday starting on 6th February from 10am - 2pm here at Mill Hill Academy in conjunction with Acacia Training. Over the course of the programme, a number of topic areas will be introduced. If you would like to attend or would like more information, please contact Mrs Yates via Class Dojo.

After School Clubs

This half term we have started our new after school clubs and they have been a roaring success. It is very quiet out on the gates at 3:00pm on a Tuesday and a Thursday due to the uptake of clubs. The children seem to be thoroughly enjoying them. If your child has been unable to attend their first choice club this half term, we will ensure that they have the opportunity to take part soon.



A snowy day

The children had lots of fun in the snow at break and lunchtime. The yard was covered in snowmen!



PE

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

Nursery— Thursday & Friday

Reception— Monday

Year 1— Monday

Year 2— Thursday

Year 3— Tuesday

Year 4— Wednesday

Year 5— Tuesday (Swimming or 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.

If your child does not have their PE kit, they will be unable to take part in the lesson for health and safety reasons.

