

Principal: Mrs. Mills

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Message from the Principal:

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year! Where did those six weeks go? It has been a real pleasure to welcome back the children and to see their smiling faces on the gates each morning. It has also been lovely to greet the new parents, carers and children into our Nursery and Reception classes. The children have made me immensely proud in how well they have settled back into the school routines and as always are so eager and excited to learn. We have such lovely, kind, resilient and caring children here at the academy and every day they give me a reason to smile proudly. As always, we have lots of exciting things planned this term alongside our regular rewards for the children who embody the school motto of "Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up!" Please make sure that you have access to Dojo for regular updates on school life. As always, don't hesitate to contact me or catch me on the gates if you need anything.



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 96.4%, which is brilliant as each week 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.

Message from Vice Principal:

Wow, what a wonderful start to the new academic year we have had. It was fantastic to see all the children arrive back to school looking so smart in their uniforms and eager to learn. A big well done to all the new Nursery and Reception children that have started with us this term - they have all settled so well. I am so proud of the way the children have been able to show great independence by finding their new classrooms and leaving their parents/carers with super smiles. On Monday 23rd October Reverend Chris Coupe will be coming into school to talk to the children about the amazing work 'Chell Parish Pantry' do to support local families. Therefore, will be asking for harvest donations of tinned and dried goods to be brought into school on Monday 23rd October.



Message from Assistant Principal:

What an amazing start to the academic year we have had! Smiley faces and smart children in their uniform fill the academy each day. The children have settled into their new classes well and are enjoying their new topics. We've already had many great experiences for the children both in and out of the academy with many more to come. Our new vending machine has been a great hit with the children with lots of them achieving a raffle ticket each week to be in with a chance of winning a token. Please check Class Dojo regularly for information and to find out what your children have been learning about. If ever you have any queries, please get in touch with your child's class teacher or myself.



Christmas Card Dates

Nursery—Thursday 12th October 2023.
Funky Frogs-9.00am-10.00am
Lively Ladybirds-10.00am-11.00am

Y1—Monday 16th October 2023, 2.00pm-2.45pm.

Y3—Tuesday 10th October 2023, 2:00pm—2:45pm.

Y6—Friday 13th October 2023, 1:30pm-2:30pm.

Reception/Y2/Y4/Y5 - already taken place.



Important Dates

Monday 30th October 2023

Academy closed for half term

Monday 6th November 2023

Academy open for all pupils

Wednesday 8th November 2023

Tempest photographs

Monday 13th November 2023

Parents evening

Book Fair

Tuesday 14th November 2023

Flu immunisations REC-Y6

Friday 17th November

Children in Need

Friday 24th November 2023

INSET day (closed to children)

Monday 27th November 2023

INSET day (closed to children)

Our Curriculum

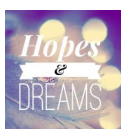
Current unit
Next unit

	Current unit	Next unit
Nursery		What is a family?
Reception		Are we nearly there yet?
Year 1	Where in the world do I live?	Season—Autumn
Year 2	Textiles: Pouches How has technology changed over the last 50 years?	
Year 3	How did daily life change in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age? How can where you live impact you as an artist?	
Year 4	Textiles: Fastenings What can pottery tell us about the past?	
Year 5	Rivers How realistic do portraits need to be?	
Year 6	How has crime and punishment changed in Britain over time? How can our school reduce its plastic waste?	

Hopes, Dreams and Aspiration 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:

- World mental health day
- Braille week
- Harvest festival



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Reception Truck Visit

To launch the topic - planes, trains and automobiles - a truck was brought onsite for the children to explore. They were able to go inside and see where the driver works and sleeps.



Your Heroes Award—Umar

A very well done to Umar from class 4D who has been nominated as a Future Star in the "Your Heroes Awards" by staff here at Mill Hill who have recognised his selflessness.

At just eight-years-old, Umar is a young carer for his teenage sister who has complex needs.

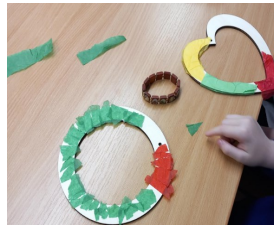
"Umar is an exceptional and inspiring young man who has shown complete kindness, dedication and selflessness in caring for his sister. He has displayed remarkable qualities of compassion, responsibility and resilience in his role in being a brother. Umar not only cares and worries about his sister but also cares about his mum and how she feels. He comes to school each day with a smile on his face and giving 100% effort in everything he does."

After School Clubs

WOW! What an amazing turnout we have had for our after school clubs throughout September. We have so many children across all year groups attending after school clubs, which is amazing!

Our staff have provided some really exciting opportunities for the children ranging from craft club, construction, football, computing to cross country—just to name a few.

Additionally, Mrs Lindop has started a balance bike after school club to teach the nursery and reception children how to ride a balance bike and have a lot of fun whilst doing so, too!



Blue Peter Badge Winner

Billie has been awarded a silver Blue Peter badge for showing kindness and helping others by asking the PTFA to purchase a friendship bench for the KS1 yard.



Along with her badge Billie also received a lovely letter from Blue Peter:

"We were very impressed to read about you showing fantastic initiative for asking for a buddy bench at school. What a wonderful idea! You should be really proud of yourself for making a difference"

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 29th September, we hosted a very successful Macmillan coffee morning and raised £208.55. Once again, thank you to everyone who attended, donated cakes and supported us in fundraising for this wonderful charity.



Year 4 Trip



The year 4 children visited the British Ceramics Biennial. They

made and decorated their own ceramic tile and went on a tour to see exhibitions of alternative artists who used ceramics within their designs.



The Vending Machine

We had a very exciting delivery this month - our very own reading vending machine. A huge thanks to our PTFA for funding this and to parents/carers for supporting our events and making this possible.

For children to be able to choose a prize from the machine, they need to read at home at least four times a week to earn a raffle ticket. Each week, a winner will be chosen from each year group and then they have a token to the vending machine to collect a book.

Here's some of our lucky winners so far.



Keep reading at least four times per week to be in with a chance of winning!

Reading

We put reading as a high priority and Mrs Mills has purchased a wide range of books for the children to enjoy during DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time with their teachers. Each year group has already started with their first text and

each one they read will have links across the whole curriculum.



Student Leadership Team

Many year 6 children expressed their interest in taking on a leadership role during their final year at Mill Hill. The children had interviews with the senior leadership team and they all did brilliantly! In particular, the staff loved seeing all of their amazing talents that they were keen to showcase. All of the children were successful in gaining a role as either senior prefect, prefect or ambassador. Ambassadors will focus on certain aspects of school life (science, kindness, sports leaders, etc.) In their roles, they will have many responsibilities, including: cloakroom duties, showing parents around the academy and supporting at parents evening and many more. Well done to all who applied!