

# Newsletter September 2023

## Welcome

We are delighted to see all of your children back in school and it is lovely to welcome new families to the school.

We will send out letters and newsletters throughout the year to keep you up to date. Newsletters and most letters will also be put on our website.

## Attendance

As you know, our attendance last year was well below where it should be.

At the end of the school year, 33% (47 children) missed over 10% of the school year (almost 4 weeks) and some missed much more than this.

Nationally, just over 22% of all primary school pupils missed more than 10% of the school year.

I will be reporting to you regularly about attendance and I am very much hoping that you will work with us to make sure your child benefits from their education.

Sadly, we have already had some children miss learning this year for a variety of reasons. I can reassure you that, if you send your child to school and they become unwell, we will send them home. Most children completely forget they felt unwell or had a headache in the morning and, by playtime are laughing and playing with their friends.

This year, we will continue to reward good attendance and each class will earn £1 for every day all members of the class are in school. Very sadly, this did not cost us a lot of money last year as it was such a rare occurrence!

## Punctuality

Being in school on time is also important. Please make sure your child is in the building before 9am as this is when the register is taken. Any time after 9am is late. We open the doors at 8.50am.

## Uniform

Our Uniform Policy is on the website but here are some reminders.

Only children in nursery can wear a dress as they do not participate in the Daily Mile or formal PE. Dresses are not permitted in any other classes as they are not suitable for running or PE.

ALL jewellery, including stud earrings, MUST be removed for PE and children need to be able to do this themselves – staff are not permitted to do this. Taping earrings is not considered safe practice and is not done at Mill Lane Primary.

Please put your child's name in their coats and jumpers – we have already had lots of lost jumpers!

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## Water Bottles

Children should bring a water bottle to school each day – they may only bring plain unflavoured water. Please do not send expensive bottles as they may get damaged.

## Packed Lunches

All packed lunches should be healthy.

Packed lunches must not contain crisps or any products that contain nuts.

Please do not put a drink in your child's packed lunch as they should have a water bottle in school. Your child will be encouraged to eat everything you pack for them and anything left will be sent home.

A very rough guide is 3 items – main item e.g. pasta salad/sandwich + fruit/veg + small sweet treat

## School Trips

We are currently planning our school trips and will soon let you know where your child will be going, when and how much it will cost.

Last year we spent many, many hours chasing parents for contributions so that trips would not be cancelled – whilst staff were doing this, they were not supporting teaching and learning in the classroom. We will not be doing this again.

We will give you lots of notice and you can pay small amounts over the months in addition to which we will subsidise trips so they do not cost more than £25 but, if we do not receive sufficient contributions by the deadline, trips will be cancelled.

## Contacting School

If you need to contact school there are several ways to do this.

You can ring on 01924 477544 – be mindful that between 8.30am and 9.30am is our busiest time.

You can leave a message on the school answerphone out of hours – ring the number above.

You can email the office on [office@mill-lane.org.uk](mailto:office@mill-lane.org.uk).

In all instances, you should speak to your child's teacher if you have any concerns about them in school.

## Reminder

I have not had any complaints about parking – thank you for being considerate.