

December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been such a busy term and it will not be long before the Christmas break is upon us. We are looking forward to some lovely performances by our Reception and KS1 children.

Staffing

We are looking forward to welcoming some new support staff after Christmas. Mrs Wright and Miss Ngando will be joining our Nursery team and Mrs Kalchenko will be joining us in KS1. We are also pleased to announce that Mrs Grauduza, will be joining our site team as our new Caretaker.

Online Safety reminder

Do you know what your child is accessing online? What age ratings are the films, series and games that they play? Did you know that most social media platforms have an age rating of 13?

Inappropriate content poses a safety risk in that it can cause mental and emotional damage to children of any age, especially very young children. It can cause them to have nightmares or a change in behaviour, more so if the content was very vivid. Age ratings are designed to protect our young people from exposure to harmful content beyond their years of understanding and ability to cope.

With gaming in particular this website may be helpful to understand the legal definitions of content ratings: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/pegi-games-ratings>

Did you know that WhatsApp in particular has an age rating of 16?

It has been brought to our attention that there are a number of children in KS2, who are communicating outside of school using WhatsApp and have not been very kind to each other. This has also been without parents/carers knowing the content of what their children are sending to each other. We encourage parents/carers to be monitoring their child/ren extremely closely if they are allowing them to use this app, particularly as they are under 16 years old.

Meal Vouchers

Unfortunately, the council are unable to offer the food vouchers during the Christmas Break. Families who are struggling can access the council's cost-of-living webpage for information on support available to them.

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/benefits/cost-living-support>

The HAF programme will be available and further details can be found here [Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2024 | Milton Keynes City Council](#)

Families can also contact their local food bank for a food voucher, you do not need to have a referral from the school to be able to access this support. Below are the Food Banks details.

office@mkfoodbank.org.uk

01908 322 800

St Mark's Meal Boxes

We would like to share with you information regarding St Mark's Meals, who support our school community. This wonderful charity provides schools with meal boxes that can be given to families who are, for whatever reason, struggling to provide a meal for their family. The boxes are either vegetarian, fish or meat and provide a full family meal including a pudding. A simple recipe card is included. St Mark's have also provided us boxes that can provide a meal using only a kettle. We invite any families, now or in the future, to contact us. You can email the school office or ask to speak confidentially to a member of staff if you wish to access a meal box.

Free Breakfast Club for children entitled to Pupil Premium

If your child is entitled to Pupil Premium Funding, you will now be able to book them into our free breakfast club provision. This is available for free from 8.00am every day and your child will be given breakfast and an opportunity to play with their friends before heading to class at 8.20am. To make use of this, you will need to book a place on the Pupil Premium Breakfast Club in the Club section of SchoolComms.

Uniform

We have had some interesting changes in the weather recently. However, despite the rain and cold, we have still had some children come to school without coats, hats and gloves. We try to encourage the children to be outside as much as possible, so warm coats are essential. Keep a close eye on the forecast when we return to school in January and make sure children have hats, gloves and scarves too.

Please also ensure that children are in the correct uniform for PE which should be as follows:

- PE kit: plain white round neck t-shirt, plain black PE shorts, plain black sweatshirt/zip through, plain black jogging bottoms, plain black trainers.
- On Health & Safety grounds children are not allowed to wear jewellery to school (except for small studs in pierced ears and watches) Small studs must be covered during PE.

OPAL resources – we are still desperately in need of more resources

As you know we implement the OPAL project for our playtimes. We have purchased lots of resources for the children to play with, however we need to supplement these with loose parts. Loose parts are any materials that can be easily moved, combined, and incorporated into children's free play. The items we are looking for will enable us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime (see below for some examples):

- Plastic milk crates/supermarket delivery crates/plastic bread trays
- Briefcases, especially hard cased ones
- Road signs and cones
- Kitchen pots, pans, baking trays, work tables, wooden spoons, chopping boards
- Tools like small spades/shovels, trowels and brooms
- Tubes of various sizes and various materials
- Buckets
- Nets and thick ropes
- Keyboards/torches/laptops/calculators/mobile phones/desk phones/webcams/cameras that are no longer working
- Foam sheets/bodyboards/camping roll mats/yoga mats
- Cable drums
- Guttering
- Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)
- Hats/scarves/jazzy shirts/elasticated skirts/waistcoats/wedding dresses/character costumes
- Pegs (to help to set up dens)
- Wellies

Please bring any donated items into school next week, they will be very much appreciated.

Upcoming events: Please see the diary dates below – new additions are highlighted in yellow.

Choir singing at the Lake View Care Home – Monday 9th December

On Monday 9th, the choir will be bringing some festive cheer to the residents at the Care Home. The residents will also be coming into school later in the week to watch our Y2 dress rehearsal.

Y4 TT Rockstars Day – Tuesday 10th December

In preparation for the National Times Tables Test in June, Year 4 will be relaunching our Rock Stars learning platform and holding a Rock Stars day on Tuesday 10th December.

All the children in Year 4 are encouraged to dress up as a rock star on the day, rocking their air guitars! They will be competing against each other and the other classes within Year 4. We will aim to have an overall individual winner across the year group as well as a winning class.

Wednesday 11th December Christmas Carol Event

We are looking forward to you joining us for our Christmas Carol event after school at 3.15pm for a 3.30pm start. Collection of your child/children from Years R-6 will be as normal, from the classroom doors and the 4G pitch. We will then be setting up stalls on the MUGA where you can make some purchases. The choir will be singing at 3.30pm. For our Nursery parents, you do have the option should you wish to collect your child earlier, from 3.00pm.

Thursday 12th Y1 Singalong – parents invited

Parents/Carers of Y1 children are warmly invited to join their children in the hall for a Singalong at 2.00pm.

Monday 16th December – EYFS Christmas Show – Reception rocks

Parents/Carers of Reception children are warmly invited to join their children in the hall for a performance at 2.00pm.

Tuesday 17th December – Y2 Production – Whoops-a daisy-angel

Parents/Carers of Y2 children are warmly invited to join their children in the hall for a performance at 2.00pm.

Wednesday 18th December – SMART Star Awards

As part of our termly celebrations, class teacher will choose a child from their class to be awarded with the SMART Star award. These are given to children who have gone above and beyond to demonstrate our SMART values. If your child is selected, you will be invited to join us for a special breakfast and celebration at 9.00am in the hall.

Wednesday 18th December - Christmas Lunch and non-uniform day – optional Christmas Jumper

You have the opportunity to book your child a Christmas lunch for Wednesday 18th December, this can be done through School Gateway. We are inviting children to wear non uniform and an optional festive/Christmas Jumper on this day, there is no donation required for this.

Friday 20th December – last day of term.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support and to wish all of our families a restful break over the holidays. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back on **Tuesday 7th January 2025**

Miss E Donoghue



Headteacher

Dates for Diaries

Monday 9th December	Choir visit to Lake View Care Home
Tuesday 10th December	Y4 TT Rockstars Day
Wednesday 11th December	3.15pm Christmas Carols
Thursday 12th December	2.00pm Y1 Christmas Singalong to parents
Monday 16th December	2.00pm EYFS Christmas Show to parents
Tuesday 17th December	2.00pm Y2 Production to parents
Wednesday 18th December	9.00am SMART Star award breakfast Christmas Lunch/ non-uniform – optional Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 20th December	1.30pm Y3 Recorder performance to parents
Friday 20th December	<i>Break up for Christmas holidays</i>
Monday 6th January 2025	<i>INSET day</i>
Tuesday 7th January 2025	<i>Children return to school</i>
Wednesday 15th January	Y2-Y6 Reading learn alongside
Monday 27th January – Friday 31st	Y5 Residential Visit to Lake District
Tuesday 4th February	Young Voices
Wednesday 12th February	Parent/Carer Consultation Evening
Thursday 13th February	Parent/Carer Consultation Evening
Friday 14th February	<i>Break up for half term</i>
Monday 24th February	<i>Children return to school</i>
Wednesday 26th February	2.15pm Reception- Reading for pleasure
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day
Wednesday 5th March- Friday 7th	Y4 Residential Visit to Irthlingborough
Monday 10th March	Science Week
Wednesday 19th March	Y4 Anglo-Saxon/Viking Workshop
Thursday 20th March	Y1 Dinosaur Workshop
Wednesday 2nd April	9.00am SMART Star award breakfast
Friday 4th April	<i>Break up for Easter holidays</i>
Monday 21st April	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
Tuesday 22nd April	<i>Children return to school</i>
W/c 12th May	Y6 SATs week
Friday 23rd May	<i>Break up for half term</i>
Monday 2nd June	<i>INSET day</i>
Tuesday 3rd June	<i>Children return to school</i>
Wednesday 11th June	EYFS/KS1 Sports Day
Thursday 12th June	KS2 Sports Day
Friday 27th June	3.15 – 5.00 Summer Fayre
Monday 30th June – Friday 4th July	Y6 Residential Visit Isle of Wight
Wednesday 9th July	Transition afternoon 3.15 – 5.00pm Meet the Teacher
Thursday 17th July	Y6 Production
Wednesday 16th July	9.00am SMART Star award breakfast
Monday 21st July	9.00am Y6 Leavers Assembly 2.30pm Nursery Graduation
Tuesday 22nd July	<i>Break up for summer holidays</i>
Wednesday 23rd July	<i>INSET day</i>