



*A journey for the mind
A home for the heart*

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Welcome to the very first Newsletter for the 2017/18 academic year at Millfields. It has been a wonderful first week back at school and the children have settled in really well.

Teaching Staff

We have some new additions to the teaching staff for this year. I am sure you will join me in giving a warm welcome to Miss Davenport, who will be teaching Year 4. This term also sees the return of Mrs Hubbard in Y2. Mrs Hubbard will be teaching on Fridays in Y2 in the continued absence of Mrs Milner, who is on maternity leave. We also have a new Teaching Assistant in the Early Years, Mrs Duncalf, who we are delighted to say will be working in both Nursery and Reception.

Extension

I am sure you have noticed the changes that have taken place to the school building over the summer. It has been a frenetic few weeks and the builders, Paul Francis Development, have worked incredibly hard to ensure the Y2 children had a classroom to return to. There are still some aspects to finish off so I thank you for your understanding at this time. One of the important areas are the planters, which we are converting in to seating. In the meantime, please could you ensure children don't climb on them to avoid injury.

School Uniform

We have had some questions recently regarding school uniform. As such, this is a good time to point out some of the aspects of the uniform policy that have been queried:

- Black shoes (not trainers)
- Ear-rings should be studs only
- No nail varnish
- Black or white sandals can be worn in the summer but they must be worn with socks.

It is much better for children to have a reading folder than a bigger bag due to space in the classroom.

PE Kit

In addition to uniform, some parents have also been asking about PE kit. Most of the time, classes will be having 1 indoor and 1 outdoor PE lesson per week. As you will be aware, there are different requirements for indoor/outdoor so again, some pointers:

- Indoor: pumps/trainers; blue/white t-shirt; navy/black shorts
- Outdoor: blue/white t-shirt; navy sweatshirt/jumper; navy/black shorts; tracksuit/jogging bottoms
- Separate shoes for indoor/outdoor (trainers for outdoor and pumps/different trainers for indoor)

Breaktime Snacks

At Millfields, we are dedicated to giving the very best education to all of our children. Part of that education includes developing an understanding of what is needed to keep healthy, including diet and healthy eating. The Center for Science in Public Interest in the USA explains clearly: 'Serving healthy snacks to children is important to providing good nutrition, supporting lifelong healthy eating habits, and helping to prevent costly and potentially disabling diseases, such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, and obesity.'

Many children bring healthy snacks to consume during morning break; however towards the end of last year, we noticed an increase in the number of unhealthy snacks being consumed by children. Due to this, we are giving a reminder that healthy snacks are important for the current and future health of your child. From tomorrow, Tuesday, we will not be allowing any of these food items to be consumed at break times: chocolate, biscuits, sweets, crisps and cake. Fruit is provided to all Infant children on a daily basis and toast/juice is available to purchase during morning break.

I hope you will understand why we are giving this reminder and support the teaching staff in educating your child about the importance of healthy eating.

Reading Challenge

As you may remember, last year teachers set a half-termly Writing Challenge for all children to complete. The Challenge was a great success and the homework produced was of a very high standard. In order to continue to develop the independence of children, we are looking to continue the Challenge theme with a half-termly reading homework. Please look out for a letter in your child's book bag which will explain more about this year's Reading Challenge.

Dates For the Diary – Autumn 2017

Mon 11 th September	Y4 Swimming Lessons begin
Fri 29 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning (9-11am)
Wed 11 th October	Parents Evening (3:30 – 7:00pm)
Thur 12 th October	Parents Evening (3:30 – 6:00pm)
Friday 20 th October	INSET Day (children not in school)
23 rd – 27 th Oct	Autumn half-term holiday
6 th – 10 th Nov	Y6 WaterPark Residential
Fri 10 th Nov	Fluenz administration (R-Y4)
Mon 4 th Dec	Last Swim Y4
Mon 18 th Dec	Whole School Visit to Crewe Lyceum
Wed 20 th Dec	Last day of Autumn Term
21 st Dec – 5 th Jan	Christmas Holidays

