



Millbrook Junior School

Churchill Way, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN15 5DP

<http://www.millbrookjuniors.co.uk/>

01536 517049

Dear Parents/Carers

Please read our newsletter below to find out more about what has been happening in our school.

Don't forget, Millbrook Junior School is on Twitter. If you would like to know more about what is happening in our school, please follow us on @MillbrookJunior.

Mrs Danielle Warren

Seasonal Concert

Since the end of September, our school choir have been busy learning songs for a Christmas musical - Sheik, Rattle and Roll, which tells the Christmas story from the view point of the three wise men. Last week saw the culmination of all their hard work and dedication when they performed, as part of a massed choir, in The Rotary Club's Seasonal Concert at The Castle Theatre in Wellingborough. Our children sang with four other Northamptonshire schools, including Rowan Gate School which meant that they not only sang but also signed key words to support those performers who were nonverbal or had hearing difficulties. As well as the massed piece, each school also sang individually two songs of their choice. Our choir sang Nowell, Nowell ably accompanied by Mrs Farnworth on the guitar, and Gabriel, a 4-part song, which is an impressive piece for such young voices. We are very grateful to each and every member of the choir for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment and we know that they all thoroughly enjoyed the amazing experience to sing in a massed choir to such a large, encouraging audience.

Anti-bullying Week

Anti-bullying week was very successful with classes across the school thinking about how amazing we all are and how fantastic it is to be different. The odd sock day was brilliant with odd socks everywhere! The message for the whole week was to 'choose respect'.



Class Assemblies

January 10th

Rembrandt Class Assembly

January 17th

Monet Class Assembly

These assemblies start at 9.00am. You are all welcome to join us to celebrate our children's learning.

P.A.T.H

Please remember to use PATH meetings to speak to the class teacher. (Parent/Carer and Teacher Hours) every Monday from 3.30pm until 5.30pm.

Appointments can also be made during this time to meet with Senior Leaders of the school.

Please do take the opportunity to come along and have a chat. We care about your children and want to work with you to get it right.

You can make an appointment with the class teacher directly or by phoning/emailing the school office.

If you have a complaint, please make sure you follow the school Complaints Policy which can be found on the school website.

Book Fair

The recent Scholastic School Book Fair raised £1572.44. This means that we can add £1572.44 of books to our school library. Thank you very much for your support.

The next book fair will be from Travelling Books and will take place from 2nd March to 5th March in time for World Book Day on Thursday 5th March.



Christmas Arrangements

On **Monday 16th December**, we invite you to join us at The Church of Christ The King where we will be holding our traditional evening celebration from 6.00pm until 7.30pm. This is a ticket only event. Each child taking part will receive two tickets (per family) and any spare tickets will be available from the school office.

On **Tuesday 17th December** we begin our 'in school' celebrations by wearing our Christmas jumpers and enjoying a party in our year groups. All children are asked to bring in a small donation and wear a Christmas themed jumper (if you do not have a Christmas jumper, normal mufti will be fine). All monies raised will be sent to Thandigudi to purchase sports equipment for the children to use.

On **Thursday 19th December**, we would like to invite you to join us for our less traditional celebrations when each year group will show their own Christmas performance. Parents/carers, grandparents, aunts and uncles etc. are all invited to attend. The times of the performances are as follows:

- 9.00am to 10.00am Year 6
- 10.00am to 11.00am Year 5
- 11.00am to 12.00pm Year 4
- 2.00pm to 3.00pm Year 3

This is a non-ticketed event. Please just turn up at the allotted time for your child's year group.

Scout Post

Once again, we are supporting the Scout post. If you would like to post your Christmas cards via the Scout post, we have the Scout Post bucket in reception. It is 30p per card and they deliver in the following locations:

Barton Seagrave, Desborough, Loddington, Pipewell, Braybrooke, Geddington, Mawsley, Pytchley, Broughton, Grafton Underwood, Newton, Rothwell, Burton Latimer, Isham, Old, Rushton, Cranford, Kettering, Orlingbury, Warkton, Cransley, Little Cransley, Little Oakley, Orton and Weekley

Cards should be addressed with the following information:-

Recipient's name, Number of house/Name of street, Town, Postcode (if known)

The bucket will be collected on **Monday 16th December**.

Lost Property

As a school, we seem to be accumulating a lot of lost property that remains unclaimed. Not only is it costly to keep replacing items, we are also concerned about the environmental impact of waste clothing that mostly ends ending up in landfill. Please take the opportunity, over the Christmas break, to get out your child's school uniform and make sure everything is labelled clearly. Make sure all items are labelled, especially footwear, bags and coats. Next term we will be providing laundry pens and if we come across any unnamed items we will be asking pupils to write in their names during school time.

The Sun Books for Schools Offer

Don't forget to keep collecting the tokens from The Sun newspaper between Saturday 23 November and Saturday 18 January. We need to collect 3,500 tokens in order to receive a free pack containing more than 100 books.

If you read The Sun or know someone who does, please collect the tokens and send them into school by the end of January 2020. Thank you.

Safeguarding Matters – Private Fostering

The nationally accepted definition of Private Fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative'. This is a private arrangement made between a parent and a carer for 28 days or more.

Close relatives are defined as step-parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts (whether of full blood, half blood or marriage/affinity).

Many private fostering arrangements remain unknown to the local authority. This is a cause for concern as privately fostered children and young people, without the safeguards provided by law, are a particularly vulnerable group.

There are many reasons why children and young people are privately fostered, for example:

- parental ill health;
- children sent to this country for health care or education by parents living overseas;
- children living with a friend's family as a result of separation, divorce or arguments at home;
- children at boarding schools who do not return to their parents during holidays
- teenagers living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend;

- children on holiday exchanges or living with host families for a variety of reasons;
- children brought from abroad with a view to adopt;
- children whose parents work unsocial hours;
- children whose parents are in prison;
- children whose parents are serving in the forces.

Notifying Northamptonshire Children's Services of a child that is privately fostered

Northamptonshire Children's Services must be informed of all private fostering arrangements. Professionals that become aware of a child that is being privately fostered will encourage the parent/carer to inform Children's Services of the arrangement or contact Children's Services themselves if they think parents/carers may not have done so already.

If the answer to the questions below is 'yes', then it is likely that a private fostering arrangement is in place, and you will need to contact the local authority.

1. Is the child/young person under 16 years (or under 18 years if disabled)?
2. Are they being provided with accommodation by someone other than a parent, relative or a person with parental responsibility?
3. Are the parents in agreement with the arrangement?
4. Has the child/young person been accommodated for a period of 28 days? If not, is the intent to accommodate for a period of 28 days or more?
5. Are the child's/young person's parents/persons with parental responsibility living in separate accommodation from the child/young person?

If you think you know a child who is being privately fostered, please contact The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) who will deal with enquiries and notifications about private fostering. Their e-mail address is mash@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk or call 0300 126 1000.

Special Mention

Many of our children take part in activities or clubs outside of school. If your child has participated in something special or has achieved something noteworthy, please let us know by emailing in through the website or by dropping into the school office so we can share it in our newsletter and celebrate the news with you.

Regular notes:

Safeguarding: *If you have any concerns about the welfare of any child in our school, or you wish to discuss aspects of safeguarding, please speak with our Designated Safeguarding Lead or one of our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. Alternatively contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub on 0300 126 1000.*

Attendance: *Please remember that schools are not allowed to authorise holiday in term times. Leave of Absence forms should be completed. There is no entitlement to leave during term time and it will only be approved under exceptional circumstances which need to be explained and evidence produced. Failure to comply with this will mean a referral to the Local Authority which may result in a fine and court action. Please refer to the school attendance policy which is available from the school office. Thank you in supporting us to ensure your children have every opportunity for success in their education.*

