

Millbrook Junior School

Churchill Way, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN15 5DP

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

01536 517049



Class Assemblies

January 31st

Dickens Class Assembly

February 7th

Bronte Class Assembly

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

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a restful Christmas and are ready for a busy term ahead.

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

Welcome to Mrs Ros Fombanu

This term we would like to officially welcome Mrs Ros Fombanu to our team. Ros is our new Family Support Worker who works Monday to Friday from 8am to 4.30pm.

She can support families in the following ways:

Listen and appreciate parent issues; offer suggestions and advice for individuals and families and sign post to other services available within the Kettering/Corby area.

Her role is also to provide support to children by listening and talking through worries they may have or any difficulties they may be experiencing. She works with children in groups and also individually. Some of the areas covered are detailed below:

- Emotional support
- Anger and Control
- Anxiety
- Key transitions, including moving between schools/classes
- Development of pupil self-esteem and confidence
- Friendship issues / bullying, including social networking
- Relaxation

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.

- Family issues: Bereavement, new baby in the family, parent's separation/divorce
- Early Help Assessment to support families during difficult times

If you have any concerns, please contact Ros. She has an open door policy and is happy to listen and provide support and a cup of tea or coffee.

Parent/Carer Evenings

Please note that Parent/Carer Evenings are **Tuesday 11th February 3.30pm to 6.30pm** and **Thursday 13th February 3.30pm to 6.30pm**. Details about how to book appointments will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Accelerated Reader Targets – Autumn 2

Well done to all 415 children who managed to reach their AR target in Autumn 2. 190 children also received a certificate for reaching an extended target! Well done also to Dickens Class, Darwin Class, Drake Class, Raleigh Class, Da Vinci Class, Monet Class, Picasso Class and Rembrandt Class where every child managed to achieve their Autumn 2 target. Well done everyone and keep reading!

News from our School Council

This week, the School Council has led assemblies to share with the rest of the school information about some important work they have been asked to do at the request of our Governing Board.

They have been working on their vision for what a Millbrook Junior School pupil should be like as a learner and as a person when they leave our school at the end of Year 6, after they have completed their journey through our school.

They talked about how they tackled the task and shared their ideas. This included how they would like to present their work as the "Five Hands of Millbrook Junior School." They also included their own interpretation of what the five hands represented.

A period of consultation and feedback has now begun, with pupils in their classes being able to give their ideas on what has been presented and to ask their School Council Rep any questions that they may have.

Governors will be coming in to school to talk about what has been discussed and it will be shared with all staff. At Parent/Carer meetings in February, families will have an opportunity to talk to School Councillors, look at their work and offer their views.

They are indeed very proud of what they have achieved so far and are looking forward to the end result, which will be shared with everyone.

Watch this space...

RSPB Bird Watch

Don't forget, this weekend is the RSPB Bird Watch. If you would like to take part or would like to find out more, please go to <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

Local Plan

Have you seen the Local Plan? Kettering Borough Council have submitted a Local Plan for public consultation. The consultation runs from **18th December 2019 to 12th February 2020**. The plan forms part of the North Northamptonshire Development Plan and includes local planning policies for Kettering Borough.

An interactive version of the site specific Part 2 Local Plan – Publication Plan is available to view on the Council's consultation portal:

<http://consult.kettering.gov.uk/portal>

The accompanying background papers and other associated documentation are also available to view on the council's website:

www.kettering.gov.uk

Staffed exhibitions will be held at the venues below:

Village Hall, Stoke Albany	Monday 20 th January 2020	5.00pm to 7.00pm
Marlow House, Desborough	Tuesday 21 st January 2020	5.00pm to 7.00pm
Municipal Offices, Kettering	Thursday 23 rd January 2020	5.00pm to 7.00pm

The exhibitions are intended to provide members of the public and stakeholders with the opportunity to ask questions; view display material; make comments in writing or find out more about making comments online via the consultation portal. Further information can be obtained from the Planning Policy team on 01536 534316

Safeguarding Matters – Difficult Conversations, advice from NSPCC

Unfortunately things do happen that can turn young lives upside down. Separation, illness and death obviously have a huge effect and talking about them needs to be treated very carefully. You should also be ready for things to get very emotional and perhaps distressing too.

So, before starting the conversation, there is a great deal to get straight in your own mind:

- when and where to have the conversation – choose somewhere that will be comfortable for you both with no interruptions
- if you have children of different ages, will you speak to them together or separately

- consider who else should you tell before your child, so they can be ready to give emotional support
- think about the sorts of questions your child is likely to ask you, so you can have the answers ready

When the time comes to break the news, remember to explain everything slowly, in words that your child will easily understand. It is also very important to make sure they know that they are not responsible or to blame in any way for what you are telling them.

Having difficult conversations is hard, but if you handle it well, it can bring you and your child closer together and help you to understand each other a bit more. So put a little time and thought into the planning and it will not just help to resolve or explain an issue, it could make your relationship even better too.

Go to the NSPCC website for further information and support on how to start a difficult conversation.

www.nspcc.org.uk

Special Mention

A huge well done to Oscar N and Tyler M. During the Christmas holiday the boys witnessed an elderly lady collapse in the street. They took charge of the situation immediately by calling an ambulance and waiting with the lady. They also made sure that they passed all details on to the paramedics. Seeing somebody collapse can be very frightening, but these boys acted without hesitation which undoubtedly prevented the situation from being much more serious. Well done boys! We are incredibly proud of the way in which you reacted and particularly the caring attitude you demonstrated, not only at the time but also by taking some flowers around afterwards to make sure the lady was feeling better. You are both a credit to our school!

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 or on our website. Thank you in supporting us to ensure your children have every opportunity for success in their education.*