

A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 3rd February 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe that it is only one week until the February half term. Time marches on, and when you get to my age – it actually flies! I am sure that all the children are looking forward to having a restful break. However, we still have one more week in front of us, and I am sure that there will be plenty of learning to do combined with exciting activities. May I take this opportunity to say thank you once more to all parents/carers who took the time to write to me following my resignation - it really means a lot and it made me quite tearful and reflective. I will miss our Woodside community so very much.

On Tuesday, I was privileged enough to help during our Breakfast Club. What a great facility! Mrs Russo and Mrs Baldowska provide a fabulous choice of breakfast for the children. We had toast, pancakes, grapes, cereal etc. Children interacted and played well, and I participated in a Monopoly game with Olivia and Isabel -thank you girls! What a fantastic way to start any school day as well as my workday. Thank you to Mrs Baldowska and Mrs Russo for making Breakfast Club such a lovely place for the children.

On Monday, one of our pupils (Tiffany) spoke to the children regarding the importance of keeping classrooms and common areas tidy and free from rubbish. Thank you Tiffany- such an important plea, as you quite rightly concluded that keeping our school tidy is everyone's responsibility. Children can make sure that all rubbish is put in the correct bins and that food items are not dropped on the floor. Thank you, boys and girls, for your cooperation –it is very much appreciated by all of us.

Our Year 3 pupils visited the British Museum on Tuesday. I know from their class teachers that the children enjoyed the trip tremendously. It complemented their history learning about Ancient Egypt. All of the children, as always, were a credit to our school as they behaved impeccably and engaged with all the learning activities provided by the museum. Many thanks to all our volunteers who helped on a day, as this meant that we had small groups and were able to travel on the London Underground – a huge undertaking by all. This was an important life learning lesson for all our pupils, which in turn, also enabled the cost of the trip to be lower than it would have been if we decided to travel by coach. Thank you and well done everyone!

On Thursday, our Year 3 pupils took part in the Tag Rugby tournament. All of our Woodside children were complemented on their fantastic listening skills. Well done Year 3 -what an exciting and eventful week this has been.

Today our Year 5 pupils took part in a cross-country event at The Misbourne School. All the children did brilliantly—we are so proud of them all! They wore our new cross country kit. The purchase of this was made possible through the kind sponsorship of CGI. Please click [here](#) to view a selection of the photos taken.

As parents are aware, our school remained open during the last teachers' strike. The second strike is scheduled for the 2nd March 2023, and as I stated previously, I may not be able to guarantee that every class will remain open. Please can you start thinking about alternative arrangements for that day – it is just in case the school or some classes will have to close. I will endeavour to keep you fully informed and give you as much notice as practically possible.

I would like to give parents plenty of notice regarding our next parent/teacher interviews. We have 28.03.2023 (Tuesday) and 30.03.2023 (Thursday) scheduled as our two afternoons / evenings designated for those meetings. Please put those dates in your diary and our office team will be in touch after the half term break regarding booking your slot through MCAS.

Can I please remind anyone who is interested in the Teacher Recruitment Fair on the 4th February 2023- to please see the flyer link [here](#). Please consider this very noble and worthwhile career. Why don't you attend to find out more and who knows -it may just change your life!

I have also enclosed the Proud of Bucks Award flyer. Parents/carers are welcome to nominate any young person who they consider to be a Young Community Champion. All details on how to nominate are included in the attached flyer.

I hope that you all have a wonderful weekend. Six Nations Rugby starts this weekend so from me -good luck England!

With my warmest wishes,
Dorota Milner, Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
7.2.23	GB Athlete Visit
10.2.23	Break the Rules Day!!
13.2.23 — 17.2.23	Half Term break
21.2.23	PTA Meeting 8-9pm via Zoom
23.2.23	Bags to School collection
1.3.23	Year 5 Trip to Living Rainforest
4.3.22	Cross Country Event—Little Misenden
6.3.22	Easter Hamper Raffle Tickets go on sale via Classlist
10.3.23	After school Bingo evening! All years welcome! More info to follow
20.3.23- 24.3.23	Year 6 Residential
27.3.23	Easter Hamper Raffle Draw!
28.3.23	Parent/Teacher Interviews (Day 1)
30.3.23	Year 3 Dance Festival at Dr Challoner's
30.3.23	Parent/Teacher Interviews (Day 2)
31.3.23	Break up at 1.30pm on Friday 31st March. No Hideout Zone afterschool club on last day of term. Breakfast club is still available. Return to school Monday 17th April.
1.5.23	Bank Holiday
5.5.23	Year 4 Tri Golf Festival at Chiltern Hills Academy
8.5.23	Additional BANK HOLIDAY- His Majesty's coronation
9.5.23	Year 3 Tennis event at Dr Challoner's
17.6.23	PTA Summer Fair—SAVE THE DATE
	Link to 2023/24 term dates on website

House Point Totals

This Week	325	323	246	312
Since Start of Term	3610	3855	3321	3806
	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar

A word from Mrs Milner continued...



Do you have a Young Community Champion in your school or club?

Help our Community Boards say thank you to people and groups that have made a difference for their community in 2022.

We're looking for young people (under 21) who have made a clear and positive impact in their local community or towards their peers during 2022 to win 'Young Community Champion' in your area.

Nominate them today for a Proud of Bucks Award!

There are also categories for adults and community groups. Find out more: buckinghamshire.gov.uk/PoB-awards

Nominations close Sunday 12 February



Community
Boards

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Nominate now!

Mrs Harrison's Weekly Curriculum Update

Curriculum update

It's always a busy week in the classrooms here. School trips and sports events aside, there is always so much going on in every year group as a part of our rich curriculum. Here is a flavour of what some children have been up to this week.



As a part of our PSHE curriculum, we teach the children basic first aid and Mr Appleby has been sharing his expertise with our pupils in years 3 and 6. Thank you Mr Appleby!



Miss Croot led an assembly about Rosa Parks this week. The children talked about segregation, fairness, equality, the Civil Rights Movement and having the courage to speak out for what is right. This Saturday marks Rosa Parks Day in honour of the stand she took.



Explorers Club, led by Mrs Cave- Hawkes, were busy this week exploring our grounds and making mini beast hotels.



Year 5 have been immersed in their new art unit to create sculptures using pipe cleaners, foil and Modroc. I don't think it's been an easy process, but the figures are looking great. I'm looking forward to seeing the finished designs.



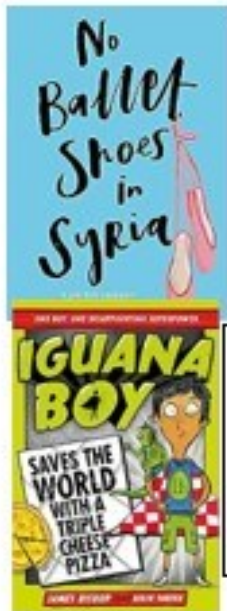
Evelyn in year 4 has made this amazing paper recycling robot named Bobby. The children have loved feeding Bobby their paper scraps all week. Thank you Evelyn for your innovative idea and for making paper recycling fun!



The children in Year 4 have read 'The Proudest Blue' by Ibtihaj Muhammad as a part of their PSHE lessons. They have produced some beautiful reflections in their class PSHE book and their 'respect' homework is proudly on display.

Mrs Harrison's Weekly Curriculum Update continued...

Book recommendations of the week



Aya is 11 years old and has just arrived in Britain with her mum and baby brother, seeking asylum from war in Syria. Aya joins a local ballet class and shows exceptional talent. She even has the potential to earn a prestigious ballet scholarship. But at the same time, her family must fight to remain in the country and find Aya's father who was separated during the journey from Syria. Captivating writing, authentic ballet details and an important message championing the rights of refugees, it's a story filled with hope, warmth and humanity.

Something light-hearted: Dylan has wanted a superpower for as long as he can remember but he's bitterly disappointed when he becomes Iguana Boy. He thinks being able to talk to iguanas is a bit rubbish! But when supervillain Celina Shufflebottom kidnaps all of the superheroes in London, Dylan has to work out how to use his team of chatty iguanas to save the day- and maybe he will even become the super cool hero he's always wanted to be.

Book Club



We are inviting any child who would like to read the following books, to join Mrs Milner and myself at a book event in school in March. The book for years 3 and 4 will be Dragon Mountain by Katie and Kevin Tsang and the book for years 5 and 6 will be The Explorer by Katherine Rundell. We hope to discuss the books together, talking about what we all liked or disliked, the characters, the plot and our highlights. After this, we will be making our own dragon warriors (years 3 and 4) or Amazon paintings (years 5 and 6) and posting our thoughts and reviews in our newsletter and on our website. More information to follow!

Celebrate
SUCCESS

CELEBRATING OUR CHILDRENS TALENTS

Huge congratulations to the following children who took part in the Oxford University Computing Challenge and receive awards. They have done amazingly well, considering the event includes children right up to year 8!

Will.P and Avaneesh received MERIT while both Akhil and Amelia A received an award.



Safeguarding

The 7th of February 2023 marks the Safer Internet Day. Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity to focus on online safety with your child, whatever their age. This year's learning is based around the theme 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. Having conversations with children about their online lives can help parents gain a deeper understanding about what they love doing and what they are concerned about. It also gives children the confidence to open up if things go wrong and gives parents the opportunity to support them when they need it the most. Internet is here to stay and when used responsibly has many benefits; however, we all have duty to safeguard our children against any harmful influences, including cyberbullying, Tik -Tok challenges ect.

Here are 5 steps parents take to have ongoing conversations with children about their online lives to help them navigate it safely (taken from the Internet Matters)

Step 1 -Make it Easy to Talk- Create the right environment

Conversations about online safety do not have to be awkward or feel like a lecture. Talking while you're already spending time together — like during a meal, while driving in the car or as a part of a bedtime routine — is a great way to make discussions about online safety feel natural.

Listen to what your child has to say and give them time to form their words, even if you have concerns. Listen more than you speak, so they can see that you're actively listening to them. Ask them open-ended questions to help encourage more meaningful responses. Enclosed are the safety tips for parents: [Age 6-10](#) and [11-13](#).

Step 2 -Do the Work Before You Talk- Understand what to talk about and when

When having conversations, make sure you're informed. Explore the apps and platforms they use and read up on common online safety issues they might face. Understanding common issues and interests by age can also help you direct the conversations you have towards things you might worry about.

Step 3 – Start the Conversation Off Right- Use the right words and keep it age-appropriate

Help your child build their digital resilience by understanding where to start. For instance, your concerns for a younger child might differ from older children. So, it's important to start off with the right context.

Additionally, getting to know your child's interests can help you use the right language. If you know the different terms they use to communicate, what the names of their favourite video games are or who the different characters are, you'll be better able to connect with them. They'll also understand what you're talking about and see that you have invested time into their interests.

Step 4 -Tackle Tricky Topics- Find simple ways to approach tough topics

Sometimes both parents and children alike might shy away from tougher topics like sexting, online relationships, grooming and more. However, conversations about harder topics are just as important as those about screen time and bullying. They play a key part in helping children recognise risk and harm online.

Talk about reality versus media.

Discuss how social media and mediums like pornography distort reality. Talk about the unrealistic standards portrayed online and how that is created for views or financial gain, not reality. Encourage them to think critically about content they see online to consider whether what they see is real.

Talk about the impacts of online content

Some content might leave young people feeling depressed, anxious or unsure. Algorithms that promote self-harm, fake news or other harmful content may impact how users think and feel about the world around them. It's important they understand where to go if they need support such as talking to a trusted adult or contacting someone on Childline.

Step 5 -Learn Together- Use online tools to help develop understanding

Whether tackling fake news, discussing gender stereotypes or exploring online safety platforms, going on these journeys together can help you learn just as much as your child. Discover how they approach different situations, what they think about key safety issues and help them learn how to approaching risky situations to avoid harm.

Wellbeing

I have been horrified at the recent occurrences of dog attacks on children. The latest attack occurred in Milton Keynes, where a four-year-old girl was mauled by a family dog. I am a dog lover myself and, in the past, owned a German Shepherd. Dogs and children can be great friends and having a dog can help children develop kindness, understanding and respect for living things. Dog companionship can improve a child's social skills with people while caring for a pet can also encourage responsibility. However, as you know dogs are not toys and always have potential to harm, especially a child and it really does not matter whether a dog is large or small -the risk is present. No matter how lovely my dog was (and my dog was a loyal, gentle family dog) I never trusted my dog 100% around my young children. So the message needs to be – please never leave children unattended with a dog – even for a few minutes! Dogs may be protective of their toys and bowls or food, so children should always keep a safe distance around these. Never let your children approach dogs they don't know. Always ask the owner if it's okay for their dog to be petted. Apologies if I am stating the obvious but it is better to be safe than sorry.

Amersham Library Cover-To-Cover Club

Amersham library run a free book club every Tuesday from 4.00pm - 4.30pm for children aged 7-9yrs. Please click [here](#) if you would like to know a bit more about this club.

Child COVID Vaccinations

We have been sent some useful information regarding a COVID vaccination drop-in for children aged between 5-11 yrs on Saturday 4th February at The Hive in High Wycombe. Please click [here](#) to view more details.

February half term activities at Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury

This half term from 13 to 18 February at Discover Bucks Museum in Aylesbury we have a fun-filled week of activities planned for families, many of which are inspired by our current exhibition *Your Amazing Brain*. Please click [here](#) and [here](#) for more information.