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**WELLINGTON STREET, STOCKTON ON TEES**

**TS18 1QX, TEL: 01642 860055**

**Head Teacher: Mrs S Skillcorn**

27th March 2018

Dear Mum, Dad / Carer

**Ofsted Report**

I am very pleased with the Ofsted Report we received. We were graded as GOOD in all areas. If you haven’t already read the report, then please do. It really reflects the hard work and dedication of pupils, staff, governors and parents. As you know, we were inspected at the same time that The Beast from the East arrived but that didn’t make any difference to the very high standards set for your children.

**Snow**

Thank you for being patient during the visit from The Beast from the East! Despite every effort to keep the school open, we had no option but to close on the Thursday and Friday because it was too dangerous to travel. The food delivery van was unable to get through for children’s meals and not enough staff were able to make it into work. Staff made every effort. Some walked for over an hour and some drove for over 2 hours in horrendous conditions on the Tuesday and Wednesday. Their dedication to your children’s education is a real credit to the school. I hope you were able to spend some quality time making snowmen and sledging with your children – snow doesn’t come along like that too often – thank goodness!

**Sporting Success**

Last week some of our Y5/6 children represented Mill Lane at hockey. Both teams played with enthusiasm, perseverance and nothing less than the best sporting attitude. We are always so proud of our children when they represent our school regardless of the outcome! Our keepers made some excellent saves. Well done everyone.

**World Book Day**

Mill Lane had a great day celebrating World Book Day, a week later than expected. The children (and staff) were inspired and the work that the children produced was amazing! Thank you to everyone who helped their children to dress up for the occasion.

**The Importance of Reading**

As you know, reading is the key to learning and we place great emphasis on reading at Mill Lane as it helps with spelling, grammar, punctuation and English when writing too. Children whose parents listen to them read EVERY day progress so much more quickly than those who don’t.

Children who read for 20 minutes every day read 1,800,000 words a year.

Children who read for 5 minutes a day only read 282,000 words.

Children who read for 1 minute a day only read 8,000 words.

**Communication**

If you would like this or any other letter translating using ‘Word Translate’, then please see the office staff.

**Mothers’ Day**

Well done to the children who won our Mothers’ Day raffle prizes and thank you to everybody who bought tickets and donated prizes. We made an amazing £120.

**Extending the Curriculum**

As part of Children Challenging Industry Y5 enjoyed an excellent morning at Fujifilm in Billingham. Some of the children now want to be scientists when they grow up! Y3 went to Flamingo Land zoo as part of their predator topic. The children were very well behaved, learned lots and really enjoyed the experience. Nursery had a fabulous time when some farm animals come to visit. It was amazing!

**Attendance**

Just a reminder that IT IS AGAINST THE LAW to take your children out of school. Head Teachers are no longer able to authorise absences for holidays and the LA will fine parents for doing so.

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| Year Group | Attendance |
| Nursery | 87.17% |
| Reception | 94.35% |
| Y1 | 96.26% |
| Y2 | 96.41% |
| Y3 | 95.37% |
| Y4 | 96.28% |
| Y5 | 96.52% |
| Y6 | 97.36% |
| Total | 95.34% |

Unfortunately, some classes have slipped to below 96%. Please ensure that you send your children to school every day unless they need to see a doctor.

**Punctuality**

I am very pleased to say that lateness is rare. A form now needs completing and signing by parents if children arrive late for school. Please make EVERY effort to get your children to school on time as the first part of the lesson is often the most important and it is difficult for children to ‘catch-up’ if they miss it.

**A Message from Governors**

Governors are delighted that the school community can celebrate the GOOD rating of the Ofsted report. We would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support of your children through school. It was a pleasure to be able to speak to so many of you at parents evening. Thank you.

**Dates for your Diary**

*Thursday 29th March* School closes for the Easter holidays

*Monday 16th April* Children return to school

*Monday 7th May* Bank holiday

*Friday 25th May* School closes for half term holiday

*Monday 4th June* Children return to school

*Friday 20th July* School closes for summer holidays

School closes for the Easter holidays on Thursday. We reopen 9am Monday 16th April.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Skillcorn

Head Teacher