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**WELLINGTON STREET, STOCKTON ON TEES**

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

**Head Teacher: Mrs S Skillcorn**

27th March 2019

Dear Mum, Dad / Carer

**Website**

Please check out the new language option on our school website. You can choose to read the website in the language of your choice. Simply click on the box that says 'select language' on the top right hand side of the home page and scroll to your choice. This can be found at www.milllane.org.uk

**Baby News**

I am very pleased to announce that Mrs Lee gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Benjamin Edward. Congratulations to Mrs Lee and her family from everyone at Mill Lane.

**Red nose Day**

Thank you to everyone who wore something red for Red Nose Day and made a donation. We made £118 for this wonderful charity.

**Sponsored Kick**

A huge thank you to everyone who handed in sponsor money. We raised an amazing £808 for school funds. Our sports coach, Jamie Poole, will be handing out prizes soon.

**Residentials**

Residentials are so good for children’s social skills, independence and learning experiences. They remember them for the rest of their lives. At Mill Lane we like to give children the opportunity to go away with their friends once they are in KS2. We alternate their opportunities. In Y3 and Y4 they had the opportunity to go on a 1 night/2 day residential to Robin Hood’s Bay last year and London this year. In Y5 and Y6 they had the opportunity to go on a 2 night/3 day residential to an adventure park last year and a 3 night/2 day residential to Disneyland, Paris this year. No child from this school will miss out on any key educational trips or opportunities because of money. School very heavily subsidizes these trips and staff do lots of fundraising events. We are hoping to repeat these opportunities every year.

**End of Term Raffle**

We are holding an end of term raffle. Amazing prizes include, 2 free tickets to Flamingo Land, a £20 voucher for Carpaccio’s restaurant, 2 free admissions for Jump 360, a £10 gift Voucher Danielle’s Beauty Box, a fabulous Easter Hamper, and lots and lots of Easter eggs. It will be drawn Friday 5th April.

**Clothes Sale**

Mill Lane are holding a new and nearly new children’s clothes sale on Friday 29th March 9:00am—11:15am. 2 items for £1. Please feel free to pop in, have a cuppa, take a look and grab yourself a bargain or two or three or four!

**World Book Day**

Mill Lane had a great day celebrating World Book Day. The children (and staff) were inspired and the work that the children produced was amazing! They enjoyed their learning experiences at/from Drake The Book Shop and I hope that they all enjoyed the book they chose with their free £1 book token.

**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.

Reading TO children 6 or 7 times a week puts them almost a year ahead of those who are not being read to.

**£1 Book Shop**

The £1 Bookshop will take place on the last Friday of term.  If your child would like to purchase a book from our selection they should bring £1 into school on Friday 5th April.

**Sporting Success**

Our A team girls netball team represent Mill Lane in the netball finals. Class 7 and 8 had a fun day learning new skills for Kurling and competing in a friendly competition with other schools.

**Extending the Curriculum**

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) came to school to teach about water safety. Richard from Drake’s The Book Shop came to talk about reading and what we can learn from books. Mill Lane had visitors into school to teach our children about the importance of Fair Trade. Reception went on an educational visit to Tweddle Farm. Class 7 and 8 were lucky enough to work with Laura Ince-Henry from Groundwork NE & Cumbria to plant 75 trees in the local community. Year 3 visited Flamingo Land Zoo as part of the Predators topic.

**National Science and Engineering Week**

We celebrated National Science and Engineering week. Each class was set the challenge of learning about how problems caused by global warming, over population, water pollution, animal extinction, recycling waste and non-renewable energy sources have caused havoc for Stockton by 2219.  Children had great fun and managed to save our future.  Well Done children at Mill Lane!

**Reminders**

Smoking, vaping and mobile phone use is not permitted on school grounds. Please check for head lice every 5 days and treat immediately.

**Movie Night**

Next Thursday after school we will be holding a Movie Night for Y**2** to Y6 children. There will be a charge of £1 to cover the cost of popcorn, a drink and a hot dog (Halal). Other after school clubs will be cancelled for that evening.

**Punctuality**

Punctuality is monitored. I am very pleased to say that lateness is rare. A form 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.

**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 and/or take them to court. Children have 13 weeks off throughout the year when holidays CAN be taken.

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| Year Group | Attendance |
| Nursery | 89.0% |
| Reception | 93.2% |
| Y1 | 94.8% |
| Y2 | 95.6% |
| Y3 | 96.8% |
| Y4 | 94.5% |
| Y5 | 95.8% |
| Y6 | 96.6% |
| Total | 95.3% |

Unfortunately, some classes have slipped to below 96%. Please ensure that you send your children to school every day. They should ONLY be kept off school if they have seen a doctor and the doctor advises it. If it is just a cold, headache, temperature or tummy ache etc, please send them in and we will monitor them. We have a First Aid trained member of staff in every classroom. We can also keep them in to play quietly with a friend at playtime and during PE.

**Dates for your Diary**

*Friday 5th April* School closes for the Easter holidays

*Tuesday 23rd April* Children return to school (Monday 22nd is a bank holiday)

*Monday 6th May* Bank holiday

*Friday 24th May* School closes for half term holiday

*Monday 3rd June* Children return to school

*Thursday 18th July* School closes for summer holidays (19th, 22nd & 23rd are PD Days)

**Communication**

If you would like this or any other letter translating, then please see the office staff.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Skillcorn

Head Teacher