****

**WELLINGTON STREET, STOCKTON ON TEES**

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

**Head Teacher: Mrs S Skillcorn**

27th February 2019

Dear Mum, Dad / Carer

**Half Term**

It is lovely to see the children back at school following the half term holiday. The weather was amazing for this time of year.

**Sporting Success**

Mill Lane Primary School was presented with another award this month. We were awarded the School Games **GOLD** Award for the third year running. Another fantastic achievement for the school. Our Y6 Basketball Team came away with silver medals from the finals – an amazing achievement. Year 4 children took part in a multi school, netball skills tournament. The children had a fantastic time and learnt lots of new skills that they hope to use in future netball competitions. Mill Lane’s A team (netballers) competed against other schools in our cluster. With great sporting attitude and excellent passing skills, the girls won all games except one, where they drew. They have now qualified for the next round. A team of Year 5 girls took part in a netball tournament at Durham University, Queen’s campus. The girls worked exceptionally hard and won every match except one, where they managed a 0-0 draw. We are so proud of you all and look forward to you representing Mill Lane in future tournaments!

**Extending the Curriculum**

Dr Brennon visited our Year 6 class and kindly brought in scientific props for the children to experiment with. He spoke about the systems of the human body. The children were particularly enthused when learning about the circulatory system and they had the opportunity to observe a lamb's heart being dissected in order to gain a deeper understanding. Y1 enjoyed a trip to trip to Drake book shop and the whole school learned a lot about water safety when the RNLI came to talk to them in an assembly.

**Internet Safety**

We celebrated Internet Safety Day with age appropriate assemblies and class work that focussed on keeping safe online. By making small changes to privacy settings you can keep your children safe. You can google this or ask School staff how to do it.

Please talk to your children about downloading **age appropriate** movies and TV programmes and **playing age appropriate games** and always monitor chat rooms that your children may use through their games or social media such as Snapchat and Facebook. **Unfortunately, some of our children have already had access to ‘Momo’ at home which is described as a ‘suicide challenge’ and it has left them very scared.** Please check our school website for more online safety information[http://www.milllane.org.uk/e-safety/](http://www.milllane.org.uk/e-safety/?fbclid=IwAR0L9ss3tI4IlzssbL82l7vLUFog42XZcY2ZoUNTynrb5Mexbgk0lXJfofQ)

**PTO**

**Attendance**

Which is well below the national average of 96%

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year Group | Attendance |
| Nursery | 90.3% |
| Reception | 92.8% |
| Y1 | 94.7% |
| Y2 | 95.5% |
| Y3 | 96.7% |
| Y4 | 94.2% |
| Y5 | 95.8% |
| Y6 | 96.9% |
| Total | 94.6% |

Please continue to send children to school unless advised by a doctor to keep them at home. If you are in doubt, please ask school staff. Our school nurse is always available for advice as well and can be contacted on 03333202302. We will always contact you if they are too unwell to stay and are always happy to modify the day to accommodate them eg keep them in to play with a friend at playtime.

Thank you for taking your holidays during the 13 weeks children have off school and not during term time. It makes such a difference to their learning and progress when children are in school every day.

**Parent Consultations**

As always, parent consultations were very well attended this week. It was lovely to welcome you into school to share your children’s hard work, successes and progress with you. If you were unable to attend this week, please speak to your child’s teacher for another appointment.

**My Money Week**

This week children have been involved in My Money Week. Children have looked at different aspects of saving, debt, interest and the general costs involved in running a household. Years 2, 4 and 6 also took part in workshops run by Primary Enterprise World and look into topics linked to the community.

**£1 Book Shop**

Our wonderful £1 book shop was so popular at the end of last year that stocks ran extremely low. However, Mrs Stanyard has been putting together a new order and the Book shop will reopen before the end of term.

**Dates for your Diary**

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

*Tuesday 23rd April* Children return to school

*Monday 6th May* School closed for the 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 (18th is a Training Day)

*Wednesday 6th September* Children return to school

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Skillcorn

Head Teacher