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WELLINGTON STREET, STOCKTON ON TEES

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Head Teacher: Mrs S Skillcorn

17th July 2019

Dear Mum, Dad / Carer

I cannot believe we are at the end of yet another very successful year for Mill Lane Primary School. As a staff, we work incredibly hard. We offer your children many, many amazing learning opportunities and experiences that most other schools do not. At Mill Lane we believe that all children have a right to an excellent quality of education and we are committed to ensuring that all children achieve their full potential.

Staffing

This year we sadly say goodbye to Mrs Fletcher, Mrs Conlin and Miss Dowd who are moving on to pastures new. Mrs Fletcher wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone and a sad goodbye. We wish them all the very best for the future. We welcomed Mrs Lee back from maternity leave this week and we welcome Mrs Milburn in September.

Facebook and Twitter

You can find Mill Lane Primary School on Facebook and Twitter. We often post photographs and updates so that you are able to see all of the wonderful opportunities that we offer your children.

Free

Unlike other schools, Mill Lane provides free sweatshirts, book bags, breakfast, fruit, PE bag and PE kit for all of our full-time children. Parents need only provide a pair of black plimsolls to be kept at school for PE.

Holiday Clubs

Stockton Parish Church are running a **FREE** Holiday Club during the summer holidays for children and it is being held here at Mill Lane Primary School. It runs from 6th – 30th August each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10am – 1pm. Activities include dance, drama, gardening, cooking, craft, storytelling and games. For more information, please contact parent governor, Lydia Gurney 07796 202612. There will be free food, snacks and drinks included.

Residentials

Y3 and Y4 enjoyed a great residential trip to London and Y5 and Y6 enjoyed an amazing one to Disneyland Paris. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves, had fabulous experiences and totally exhausted their teachers! As with all of our trips, they were very heavily subsidised by school. Teachers gave their own time very generously to raise over £9000 from various events such as sponsored slims, Boxing Day dips, bag packing and school fairs to enable children to have these wonderful experiences with as little cost to parents as possible. The summer fair raised an incredible £1,168 this summer and a great time was had by all!

PTO

Governors and Staff at Mill Lane Primary School are committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in our care

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Extending the Curriculum

Thank you to everyone who attended the Camp of Champions family event. It was lovely to see so many families. Y6 enjoyed a rewarding post-SATs treat with a visit to Jump 360 and Creams and Y2 enjoyed a post-SATs trip to Saltburn. Class 7 & 8 enjoyed Bell Boating on the River Tees. Y4 had a marvellous trip to Blue Reef Aquarium and Y5 visited The Life Centre as part of their summer topics. Nursery enjoyed a lovely visit to Ropner Park. Thank you to everyone who came to see our AMAZING school performance of Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. We have a number of very talented children who definitely have futures in the performing arts. Our children enjoyed a respectful day when they visited Stockton High Street for Armed Forces Day. Mill Lane recognised International Refugee Day with a whole school day of activities based on Nicola Davies' story 'The Day War Came'. Mill Lane enjoyed a visit from NED's Mindset Mission where they enjoyed learning about the power of NED - Never give up, Encourage others, Do your best. Y5 worked with Alan from Johnson Matthey during a special chemistry lesson. The children learnt about catalysts that speed up chemical reactions, carried out their own investigation into chromatography and learned about working in the chemical industry. We are definitely developing scientists of the future!

Sporting Success

EYFS had a wonderful time at their sports day! Lots of fun was had with welly throwing, scoring goals and the egg and spoon race being the favourites with the children! Class 8 and one child from Y5 qualified for the next round of an athletic events at Middlesbrough Sporting Village. All pupils enjoyed taking part in their different events and won medals. The children were true ambassadors for Mill Lane Primary and set an excellent example of brilliant sporting attitude. Destination Judo came into school to give pupils a taste of Judo. Pupils were taught skills and shown how to respect one another and work safely together. Y4 & Y5 boys represented Mill Lane in the next round of the cricket tournament. They won two out of their three games and unfortunately just missed out on the semi-finals by 6 runs. We definitely have some future world cup winners among them! One Y6 boy and one Y6 girl were nominated for a School Sports Partnership award for contributing to school sport throughout the academic year. These two amazing children received trophies for their dedication and fantastic sporting attitudes. Well done to both. The staff took on the Y6 children in games of netball, rounders and cricket where there were some outstanding performances from both children and staff!

Splash offer 10 swimming lessons for children and adults £37.90 instead of £52.65 for families who are in receipt of benefits.

Attendance

Attendance and punctuality remain an issue for Mill Lane Primary School and we do everything that we can to improve both. National expectation is 100% and National Average is 96%. You can see your child's attendance on their school report. Please only keep your child off school if a doctor has told you to do so. Head teachers are NOT allowed to authorise absences from school and the local authority regularly take parents to court and fine parents for absences and holidays.

Year Group	Attendance
Nursery	87.7%
Reception	93.3%
Y1	94.7%
Y2	95.6%
Y3	96.2%
Y4	93.9%
Y5	96.1%
Y6	95.7%
Total	95.4%

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Packed Lunches

It is vital that children eat healthily in order for them to concentrate in school. School provides free healthy breakfasts at the start of the day and free fruit at playtime. School Dinners offer a balanced meal. If you decide to provide a packed lunch then please make sure it is a healthy one with enough food for a growing child. Please do not send chocolate, sweets or lollies.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 18 th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly at 1:30pm
Thursday 18 th July	Break up for the summer holidays
Wednesday 4 th September	Children return to school
Friday 25 th October	Break up for half term
Monday 4 th November	Children return to school
Friday 20 th December	Break up for Christmas holidays
Monday 6 th January	PD Day
Tuesday 7 th January 2019	Children return to school

Thank you

Thank you for your continued support. Occasionally, I have to speak to parents about bad language, aggressive or inappropriate behaviour on the school yard which will not be tolerated. I hope that you understand that rules are there to keep our children happy and safe. If you have any compliments or complaints Mrs Skillcorn and Mrs Cole are always happy to discuss them, our door is always open.

Finally, we say bon voyage to our wonderful Y6 children who are ready for the next chapter in their lives. We wish them well at their new schools and know that they take fond memories from Mill Lane that will last a lifetime.

Have a wonderful summer with your families and we look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Skillcorn
Head Teacher