



Newsletter 17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful week of festivities we have had in school. Santa visits, class parties, Carol concerts with the Vicar and Elise and the wonderful Christmas performances. From our Sunshines and Rainbows, to our Year 6 pupils, children have performed amazingly over this past week and are an absolute credit to the school. They certainly got us all into the Christmas spirit. Thank you to parents and carers who came to watch, buy raffle tickets, crafts and refreshments. All the money goes back into making more plans for the children for next term. Thank you, PTA, for all your help at each of the concerts too.

I also want to thank everyone for your co-operation with the Covid restrictions we had to have in place, these ensured that the events could take place with the safety for all still at the forefront. It was lovely to have an audience for our children again. We hope you enjoyed the performances as much as we did!

Christmas Dinner Day

Yesterday the children (and staff!) enjoyed a yummy Christmas dinner in their festive jumpers. The kitchen staff worked incredibly hard to plan and prepare this lovely dinner for everyone. The smiles, giggles, lovely manners and 'thank yous' were all greatly appreciated by the catering team.

Communication with parents

Every week parents receive this weekly Newsletter with key information and diary dates on and this also goes onto the school website too under the News tab. In the spring term we are looking at ways in which we can move to a more paperless approach (to be more environmentally friendly) so please ensure you regularly check the school website and class pages. The Spring term calendar is also on there too which outlines all key dates for the next term. <https://themillacademy.org.uk/>

If you do have any questions you would like answering or would like any information, please speak to class teachers/a member of staff on arrival or at pick up times, call into the main reception or alternatively, please give the school office a call.

Social Media

St Mary's Academy Trust proactively supports the work/life balance of staff and as such we encourage staff to respond to emails and queries within working hours. Emails received after 4pm may not be read before the start of the next working day. This is the expectation across the nine schools. This also applies to our communication on social media sites. Please can I ask that **staff are not messaged on an evening/out of working hours** on the Facebook page or on any other platform. This page was devised purely for important updates (eg any changes in clubs, important notices, alerts, weather warnings, school closures etc) and for information sharing. We now use the school Twitter account (which links directly to the school website) for information sharing. Thank you for your co operation with this request.

Attendance

Yesterday we celebrated all children who had achieved 100% attendance for the Autumn term, a big well done to all! Thank you for your continued support with improving our attendance rates and also with reducing late arrivals too this term. We know that Covid has impacted upon a small number of our families over the last half term in particular. Our updated risk assessments and procedures will continue to be in place as we move into the Spring term following all advice from Public Health.

Am Nursery	93.5%
Pm Nursery	90.5%
Reception	87.4%
Year 1	98.7%
Year 2	96.6%
Year 3	89.4%
Year 4	92.3%
Year 5	87.3%
Year 6	88.7%

Diary Dates

Please see the spring term calendar for all next terms dates (on our website)

We return back to school on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

Year 6 Crucial Crew trip is also on the first day back – Please remember warm coats and packed lunches!

Thank you

Finally, I would like to thank all our parents, carers, children, staff and community for the warm welcome and wonderful support I have received during my first term as Headteacher at The Mill Academy. I am beyond proud of the achievements made by everyone so far this year. Thank you to all and I look forward to what is in store in 2022!

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and a very Happy New Year.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Chambers

Headteacher.