

Congratulations to Kingfisher and Panther classes who had the best attendance this year.

Volume 4 Issue 15

Wednesday 24th July  
2013

Millbrook Primary School

Top Tips



## Millbrook Messenger

As we start our summer holidays our staff and Governors want to wish you and the children all the very best for a good rest and a wonderful holiday. It has been a busy year in school with many exciting events. The achievements of your children and the enjoyment and enthusiasm they show in taking all the opportunities that the staff plan for them has been a joy to be part of. Our school would not be what it is without the commitment of the whole school community.

We also want to say goodbye to Year 6 as they leave us ready to start their secondary schools in September. Also thank you to all the year 6 parents who have supported their children at all the leavers events this week.



**Congratulations to the following children who have 100% attendance this year**

Elliot Clack

Finlay Clack

Dylan Clark-Webb

Alexander Evers

Jessica Evers

Tommy Hellewell

Laura Holland

Georgina Robbins

Kerry Rutherford

Harry Williams

Jessica Wilson

Antony Woodward

### Staff Training Days

The following 3 dates have been set as staff training days and children are not required to attend school. Further dates will be announced next term.

#### Monday 2nd September

Focus on the School Development Plan

#### Friday 11th October

Focus on developing writing throughout the school

#### Wednesday 23rd October

Focus on school behaviour

### Swimming

As the swimming pool at the Link Centre was closed earlier this year the current year 3 children will continue to have swimming lessons until Christmas. After that the children that are in year 3 (current year 2) will start their lessons. Information and dates will be given out next term.



### Diary Dates

#### Monday 2nd September

Staff training, children not required to attend

#### Tuesday 3rd September

Children return to school

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& Pre-school**

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**Millbrook  
Messenger**

## **Attendance—Legal Changes**

Due to recent Government amendments to DfE regulations regarding absence requests from parents, **Headteachers are no longer permitted to authorise any leave or absence from school unless the circumstances are "exceptional" relating to a "one off" isolated situation.**

"Exceptional" circumstances no longer cover:

**Holidays of any description, unless necessitated by work contracts.**

**Family birthday celebrations.**

**Visiting relatives abroad.**

There are increasing numbers of requests to authorise absences for holidays. The school has taken a pragmatic approach in relation to these requests in the past and tried to balance educational and family priorities. However, the stance we have to take in the future has been made clear by the DfE. Even in the case of absence requests for family weddings for instance, only the day of the wedding can be authorised as it is deemed to be a "one off" situation. The school needs written proof of events or work contract. All requests for absences due to exceptional circumstances should be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance on the new absence form.

Unauthorised absences may result in a penalty notice. If a Penalty Notice is issued, the timescale for paying has changed to £60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days. The Governors will be writing again to you to clarify future policy and its application in September. More information about the amendments of the 2006 regulations in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 is available from: [www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance](http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance). These amendments will come into force on 1 September 2013.

The school currently has an attendance record of 94% for this year which is lower than we would expect. Most children are exceeding this percentage and have good attendance, however there are some families who have attendance of less than 90% this means that a child has missed half a day each week which equates to 4 weeks missed during an academic year.