

Congratulations to Kites and Seahorse classes who had the best attendance last week.



## Millbrook Messenger

### Top Tips

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new pupils and parents that have joined us for the first time in both Foundation Stage and other year groups, everyone has settled in really well. Also welcome back to all our other children. They have all settled back into school in a positive and happy way. They have come back with a great attitude and are looking very smart. Thank you for your part in that, it makes for a great start to the year.

1. Phone the school by 9am if your child is ill on 872800. **If they are sick or have diarrhoea they must not return to school for 48 hours.**
2. Make a note of the diary dates. Check out the calendar on the website.
3. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school.

### KS1 Reading Corner

This is our amazing new KS1 Reading Corner. Thank you very much to Millbrook Friends for donating the money, Mrs Thornett for her fabulous artwork and Miss Williams for coordinating the whole thing!



### Celebration Assembly

Parents and carers are welcome to attend our Celebration Assembly which is held every Friday at 2.30pm. We celebrate the achievements of your children, both in and out of school and give out the weekly attendance cup, along with various certificates and awards.



### Staying Healthy at Millbrook

Our first House competition of the year, Cross Country, will be taking place for children in Years 1 - 6 on Friday 30th September. This is the 5th year of this competition and Fire were the winners last year. It has always been a very successful event which will be taking place within the school day. Children are encouraged to bring a t-shirt in their house colours to wear as part of their running kit.  
( Fire—Red, Earth—Green, Water—Blue, Air—Yellow)



### Diary Dates

Friday 30th September -  
Cross Country Competition

Wednesday 5th October —  
School Photographs

Thursday 6th October—YR 6  
PGL information evening 6pm

Monday 10th October  
Oliver Twist Performance

11th—13th , 18-20th October  
Yr6 Bikeability Course

Friday 21st October —  
Harvest Service 9.15am at  
Freshbrook Church

# Millbrook Primary School & Pre-school

Worsley Road, Freshbrook, Swindon SN5 8NU

Millbrook  
Messenger

**Phone:** 01793 872800, **Fax:** 01793 882589, **Website:** www.millbrook.swindon.sch.uk  
**Email:** secretary@millbrook.swindon.sch.uk **Twitter:** @MillbrookPri

## Parking and Road Safety

We would like to remind all parents **not to park** in the school car park and to use either the church or Tesco/Community Centre car park when bringing children to school. **The disabled parking bays in the school car park are only for the use of blue badge holders.**

We have received complaints from local residents and would ask that you are considerate to other road users when bringing your child to school. Please do not park on the double yellow lines, especially in front of the large emergency gates, on Gainsborough Way, as this puts children at risk when crossing the road and prevents access to the emergency services should we need them.

Thank you for your support during our " School Crossing Campaign " for Gainsborough Way. Swindon Borough Council have now agreed plans for traffic calming measures.



### HARVEST FESTIVAL COLLECTIONS



Each year Swindon Foodbank gives food out to about 5,500 people who are in crisis and this means we need 65 tonnes of food to meet this demand. Many are struggling to feed their families for many reasons such low wages, sickness or being without any money at certain times due to the cost of living. Please help us to stop hunger in Swindon. No-one in Swindon should be hungry tonight.

So the next time you go shopping please pop in a tin or two for Swindon Foodbank and then drop it in the box either at the store or if there is not one there take it to at your local church. Thank you very much.

Swindon Foodbank would be very grateful for donations of:



• Long Life Fruit Juice	• Baked Beans
• Tinned Vegetables	• Coffee
• Long Life Milk	• Tinned Fish
• 500gm Sugar	• Tinned Fruit
• Tea Bags (40)	• Tinned Rice
• Tinned Pudding	• Soup
• Cooking Sauce	• Biscuits
• Tinned Meat	• Cereals
• Tinned Tomatoes	• Tinned Meals
• Rice/Pasta	• Tinned Potatoes



This year we have a new "Call to Action" action to help fund the service – it's called "POP ON A POUND". We are doing this because it costs over £70,000 a year to keep the charity operating so if you are able, please think about sello-taping a coin to a tin or packet that you are donating and join in with the "Pop On A Pound" campaign to help fund this vital crisis service.

*Thank You.*

Swindon Foodbank (Registered Charity No. 1112328)  
c:\user\cherylb\documents\foodbank\communications\leaflets, posters etc\harvest festival poster 2.docx

## School Photographs

On Wednesday 5th October Stanley Baker Photographers, our school photographer, will be in school to take photographs. During the school day children will have their photos taken on their own and with their brothers and sisters. If you would like a photo with other family members these will be taken on a **first come first served basis from 8am – 8.45am** on the day.

## Harvest Festival - Friday 21st October

We are holding our Harvest Festival service at Freshbrook Church on Friday 21st October at 9.15am and all parents/carers are welcome to join us. For the service we would like the children to donate items to support the work of Swindon Foodbank. Please see details on the flyer for items to donate. Please do not send in any fresh food or out of date items. A member of the Foodbank team will be at the service to talk about their work in Swindon.

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### Admissions September 2017

**Year 7 & Foundation Stage 2 (Reception) Class September 2017**

**Remember to submit your application before the closing dates.**

**Secondary School applications must be received by the  
Admissions Department at Swindon Borough Council by 31st October 2016  
and FS2 applications by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

We have arranged some dates for parents of prospective September 2017 Starters to look around the school and ask any questions that they have on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 11.15am, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 4.30pm, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 1pm and Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 10am. Please contact Mrs Cox in the school office to arrange your appointment.

### The next two Staff Training Days for 2016–2017 are;

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – LACT Schools  
Monday 13 March –LACT schools

### Class Assembly Dates 2016–2017

Parents and carers are welcome to attend their child's class assembly on the following dates, all take place at 9.15am.

Wednesday 16 November	Hawk Class
Wednesday 23 November	Falcon Class
Wednesday 30 November	Badger Class
Wednesday 18 January	Otter Class
Wednesday 25 January	Foxes Class
Wednesday 1 February	Kite Class
Wednesday 8 February	Dolphins Class
Wednesday 8 March	Starfish Class
Wednesday 15 March	Turtle Class
Wednesday 22 March	Seahorse Class
Wednesday 29 March	Ladybird & Bumblebee Classes

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## Attendance

The government deem any child with **attendance below 90% to be persistently absent**. As part of this process we will write regularly (termly) to inform all parents when their child's attendance falls below 93%. We do appreciate that there will be times when children will be off school and there are times when this is unavoidable. To put this into perspective 90% attendance is equivalent to missing half a day of school per week or half a year of schooling in five years of primary education. This also includes schooling missed through arriving late for school. The chart below helps to explain the effect poor attendance can have on your child's education.

School starts at 8.45am and any child arriving between 8.45am and 9.00am will be marked as late in the register. If a child arrives after 9.00am this is marked as an unauthorised absence. Headteachers are not permitted to authorise any leave or absence from school unless the circumstances are "exceptional" relating to a "one off" isolated situation.

GOOD	<p><b>Your child's attendance is above 97%</b></p> <p>As well as being an excellent attendee your child will have the best opportunity in "<i>Achieving Excellence and Fulfilling Potential</i>" which is our school aim and vision for your child. Your child is likely to achieve and have real opportunities for the future.</p>
SATISFACTORY	<p><b>Your child's attendance is between 93% - 97%</b></p> <p>The national threshold is 95%. The government's aim is for children to miss less than 10 days per year.</p>
CONCERN	<p><b>Your child's attendance is between 90% - 93%</b></p> <p>Attendance below 93% may mean a referral to the Education Welfare Service.</p> <p>Your child is missing so much time that it will be difficult for them to keep up with their school work.</p>
SERIOUS CONCERN	<p><b>Your child's attendance is below 90%</b></p> <p>Your child will have missed more than 18 days, approximately half a day per week, each school year.</p> <p>Following an Education Welfare Service referral Parent/Carers may face a fixed penalty fine as your child's attendance is below 90% and they are "Persistent Absentees."</p> <p>Your child is missing so much time that it will be almost impossible for them to achieve what they would be capable of achieving if they were in school full time.</p>