

Congratulations to Falcons and Ladybirds classes who had the best attendance last week.



## Top Tips



# Millbrook Messenger

## Staff News

We are delighted to hear Mrs Lympany's good news that she is expecting a baby. We wish her and her husband all the best. She is planning on leaving at the end of May, all things being well. We will advise you nearer the time when we appoint a teacher to cover her maternity leave.

## Uniform

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school events outside normal school hours. A couple of issues have arisen recently.

On health and safety grounds children should not wear jewellery in school. The exceptions to this are stud earrings in pierced ears, watches and small objects of religious significance. We ask the children remove these objects during PE and games. **If children wear earrings they should be able to remove and replace them independently or they should not wear them on days that they have PE or swimming.**

We are unable to take responsibility for any jewellery, watches or precious item brought to school should they be lost or damaged.

The school wants all children to grow into healthy adults. The wearing of shoes with heels, flip-flops or sling-backs can be especially dangerous and children or parents will be approached by teachers to change them if the need arises. Plain black sensible flat shoes, suitable for active playtimes, should be worn.

## 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.**

Children can be dropped off by the parents but parents must not park. It can get very busy in our car park as we have several taxis and other vehicles that need to use the disabled bays so please show consideration for other drivers.

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.

## Diary Dates

**Wednesday 8th February**

Dolphin Class Assembly 9.15am

**Thursday 9th February**

Millbrook Friends Infant and Junior Disco

**Friday 10th February**

Last day of term school

**Children return to school on Monday 20th February**

**Wednesday 8th March**

Starfish Class Assembly 9.15am

Parents Evening 3.30-6pm

**Thursday 9th March**

Parents Evening 3.30-6pm

**Monday 13th March**

Staff Training Day

# Millbrook Primary School & Pre-school

Worsley Road, Freshbrook, Swindon SN5 8NU



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## Parent's Evening

Parent's Evening will take place on Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th March from 3.30 pm—6pm. Online booking will open after the half term holiday. Please check your emails and texts on Monday 20th February for the login details.



## Attendance

Congratulations to the 67 children who currently have 100% attendance this year.

Since September 2015 the government class a student with attendance below 90% as a persistent absentee, regardless of whether the school has authorised this absence or not. This equates to approximately half a day a week or 18 days of absence across the school year ( see the chart below) . At the moment 35 children fall into this category and parents will have received letters regarding their child's attendance. Please can we remind you that school starts at 8.45am, and children arriving after 9am will receive an unauthorised absence mark for the morning.

Our attendance is monitored by the Education Welfare Service and by law, all children of compulsory school age must receive appropriate education. Should your child not attend the school where they are registered , or are absent without a satisfactory reason, then the Education Welfare Service may have to consider taking legal action against you under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. Failure to ensure a child's regular attendance at the school where they are registered is a criminal offence which carries a fine of up to £1000 per parent per child.

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|-----------------|--|
| 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 90% may mean a referral to the Education Welfare Service. You will receive a letter from school to inform you that child's attendance is a cause for concern.</p> <p>Your child is missing so much time that it could 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 over the school year. 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." 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> |