



# Millfield Matters

Welcome to the December 2021 edition of Millfield Matters. We started this, in this termly format, last December when schools needed to operate differently under Covid restrictions and, as a consequence, parents had not been able to come into school to take part in school events. This year, we have still needed to work a little differently to normal but not in quite the same way as this time last year - thankfully!

In this edition you will see that the children have taken part in some fun and engaging activities to enrich the curriculum. We started off the year with two residential visits- PGL for Y6 and Whitwell for Y4 -and thankfully the weather was fine for both of them! We have been able to have visitors into School and take the children out on trips such as to Witchford Sporting festivals and to The Royal Opera House.

Unfortunately we have not been able to invite parents in to the Reception Nativity but, like last year, the children and staff in Reception have put together a wonderful Nativity Film. This can be viewed at the bottom of the Reception page on the school's website.

Have a really lovely Christmas and we will see the children back in school on Wednesday January 5th 2022.

With best wishes,  
Mrs Hannaford and all the Staff at Millfield



**Attendance target - 97%**

Whole School this term: **95.5%**

Class with the highest attendance: **56W - 97%**

Having trouble getting your child to school every day? Our Family Support Adviser, Mrs Sampson is happy to help- just give her a call.

**95.5%**

***Whole School  
Attendance Award***

***Autumn Term***

***2021/22***





# Autumn News from Nursery

We have covered a lot of topics during the term. We have ventured under the sea and zoomed up into space. The children really enjoyed making space ships and heading off to distant planets wearing their astronaut suits.



They experienced papier mache to make planets and used a variety of objects to make interesting patterns to print with.

Our key text after half term was 'Pumpkin soup' the children got to make soup. Cat, Squirrel and Duck characters from the story visited the school kitchen and made a terrible mess in there before delivering their soup to us. We made the animals cabin out of a box and had a musical band. The children enjoyed using the ukuleles and the other instruments on offer.

The children decorated the cabin and it is now used as a cosy reading den. We went on a hunt for sticks and had a wonderful time pretending sticks were other things. A highlight was using them as horses, we raced and rode around the mound staying out of danger from bears and sharks.



More recently we have learnt about animals and what their young are called.

# Autumn News from Reception

Wow what a busy first term we have all had! The children are now experts at 'Exploring and Learning' and have certainly been challenging themselves. It's been great to see how settled they have become and to see their enthusiasm and love for school.

Our first big idea 'Boxes' was a great way to discover the children's interests. It's amazing what a box can be!

We were very brave and looked for spiders. We found out lots about them and built our own webs and spiders using lots of different media.

We were very excited about having some pets visit school, including Mrs Bidecant's dogs, Mrs Johnson's rabbit and hamster, and Dylan's snake.

We loved having holes 'appear' at school and we came up with some great ideas about what or who could have made it!



We enjoyed our 'archaeologist's camp' and discovering interesting rocks and fossils. We loved creating our own ammonites and becoming mini archaeologists.

We showed lots of interest in our 'Autumn' theme and even made our own pumpkin patch. A special thank you to everyone who brought in their pumpkins from home.



Our favourite book this term has been 'I want my hat back' by Jon Klassen. We took turns to pretend to be the bear and rabbit and came up with some interesting questions to ask them. We even had our own hat shop in school with a range of special offers!

Recently the children have loved being involved in our 'Nativity film'. The children have enjoyed dressing up, being storytellers, musicians and dancers and they are all very excited about sharing with the rest of the school and you at home.

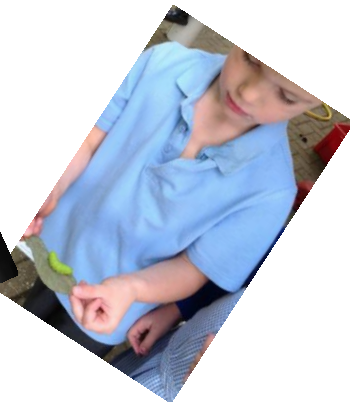
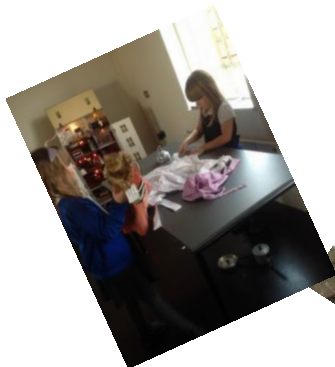
We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you back in school in January for another bust term with lots of exciting learning opportunities.

The Reception Team



# Autumn News from Year 1

We cannot quite believe we are at the end of our first term in Year 1. You have made us proud every day with your resilience and determination to learn. To begin the school year we studied animals and humans. You particularly loved exploring skeletons and teeth and finding out what animals eat; from this you produced some fantastic work to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding.



This half-term we have been exploring toys, both old and new. We enjoyed being shopkeepers and learning about the history of Lego. You certainly enjoyed the trip to Ely Museum and we loved seeing how you engaged with the staff and equipment available. We also spent a whole day doing art and you created some amazing pieces to celebrate Bonfire Night.



You've worked so hard this term and transitioned incredibly well into Year 1. Have a wonderful Christmas break and well earned rest.

The Year 1 Team

# Autumn News from 2A

As we come to the end of another half term, it's time to reflect on our experiences so far in Year 2. This half term we have been learning about old toys and books and you have all worked incredibly hard with your 'can-do' attitude. You have been engaged and motivated, and I am so proud of you all! The highlights for me were our art days where you created some fantastic paintings and our school trip to Ely Museum. It was wonderful watching you laugh and smile, and playing with the toys. Have a lovely Christmas and I will see you in 2022! Mrs Ashley



It has been a pleasure to teach you 2A on a Friday. I agree with Mrs Ashley that you have worked hard with great focus and determination. I particularly loved seeing your creativity in our PE (Dance) lessons and your ideas on how to bring your toys to life through dance were just brilliant! The Robot whole class Dance was my favourite! Have a wonderful Christmas and see you next term. Mrs Clough



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# Autumn News from 2S

As we reach the end of the autumn term it's time to reflect on the learning we have experienced so far in year 2. This half term we have been learning about the history of old toys and books and I am so proud of how hard you have all worked. I especially enjoyed our Art days where you made beautiful autumn paintings that included your favourite teddy bear.



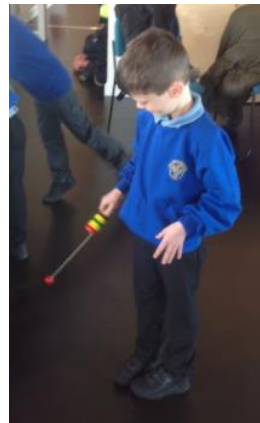
*'Playing with the cup and ball was a bit tricky.'* Toby

*I made lots of colourful marks.* Teddie

*'I loved painting.'* Boresa

*'The old bricks were made from wood and stone.'* Oliver

*'I found lots of autumn colours.'* Sofia



However, the highlight of the term for me has to be our trip to Ely Museum where you had great fun playing with old toys and learning old fashioned playground games. It was fantastic to see you all having so much fun engaging with your learning! Have a lovely Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in 2022!

Best wishes,  
Miss Sibson

# Autumn News from 34B

This term has been a busy one and we have enjoyed exploring our LCC question 'Who eats who and how?' It was particularly good fun making poo! We carried out an experiment to show what happens in the human digestive system and this involved a pair of tights, some orange juice and digestive biscuits. Please ask your children to explain the rest! We also used the text 'Book of Bones' to find out about the skeletal systems of different vertebrates. This included the hammerhead shark, the great whale, the giraffe and the African bush elephant. We then used the information to write our own poems.



In the previous half term, our focus was on the LCC question 'Stone Age Life - is it for Me?' where we learned that many of the tools we use today began their life in the Stone Age. Our WOW day involved creating our own cave paintings using natural materials to make our own paint and brushes.

We now look forward to the new learning challenges that the new year and Spring term will bring. This has been a fantastic term!

Have a wonderful Christmas and a well deserved rest. See you soon in 2022!

*Myles - I really liked writing the poems because it was really fun and I've never written a poem before.*

*Alexarose - I liked when we read the Christmas Pine in book club and in the classroom.*

*Honey - I like that we are doing lots of fun activities such as going outside to find items to make stone age art*

*Esmae - I really enjoyed learning about the digestive system because there was some parts of the body that I didn't realise we had!*

*Scarlett M - I really enjoyed when we made feces because we got to pour orange juice into the bag.*



# Autumn News from 34L

This term has been a busy one with a school focus on Pleasure for Reading. Our library corners in the classroom have been transformed and we have enjoyed our weekly Millfield Book Club where staff have shared some of their favourite texts with the children.

In Y3/4 in our first half term we focused on the Stone Age and we discovered that many of the tools and weapons we use today began their life in the Stone Age.



In the second half term we enjoyed exploring our LCC question 'Who eats who and how? It was particularly good fun making poo! We carried out an experiment to show what happens in the human digestive system and this involved a pair of tights, some orange juice and digestive biscuits. Please ask your children to explain the rest!



We also used the text 'Book of Bones' to find out about the skeletal systems of different vertebrates. This included the hammerhead shark, the great whale, the giraffe and the African bush elephant. We then used the information to write our own poems. Painting has been a focus of Art and it was a fun day when we used different materials including pasta, straws, cotton buds, cotton wool etc. to 'paint' the bones and skeletons of humans and animals. We also used watercolour paints to design our own snails.

We now look forward to the new learning challenges that the new year and Spring term will bring. Have a wonderful Christmas and a well deserved rest. See you soon in 2022!

I liked finding out that the bumblebee bat is the smallest bat in the world and it was discovered in 1973. Oscar

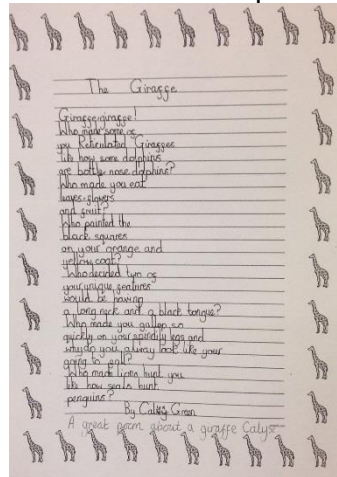
I enjoyed painting the bones because I could use all the different techniques to make shapes, patterns and textures. Oliver

I liked learning about the tools from the Stone Age such as the axes and the bows and arrows and designing my own weapon. Bella

I enjoyed the Stone Age WOW activity because we got to try and make our own cave paintings using natural materials that we found in the playground including berries, mud and leaves for paint and brushes. Uane

# Autumn News from 34N

This term has been a busy one and we have enjoyed exploring our LCC question 'Who eats who and how?' It was particularly good fun making poo! We carried out an experiment to show what happens in the human digestive system and this involved a pair of tights, some orange juice and digestive biscuits. Please ask your children to explain the rest! We also used the text 'Book of Bones' to find out about the skeletal systems of different vertebrates. This included the hammerhead shark, the great whale, the giraffe and the African bush elephant. We then used the information to write our own poems.



In the previous half term, our focus was on the LCC question 'Stone Age Life - is it for Me?' where we learned that many of the tools we use today began their life in the Stone Age. Our WOW day involved creating our own cave paintings using natural materials to make our own paint and brushes.



We now look forward to the new learning challenges that the new year and Spring term will bring. Have a wonderful Christmas and a well deserved rest. See you soon in 2022!

Carlia- I liked exploring different colours for my snail's shell.

Ella- My favourite part was finding out facts about different animals to write about.

Lola- I enjoyed putting the orange juice into the bag then squeezing it into the tights!

Calyx- I think my snail turned out well after trying a new technique of blending.



# Autumn News from 56A

As always, this term has flown past and I can barely believe it is almost Christmas! The Year 6 children have been to see The Nutcracker ballet in London, which truly is a Christmas story. Each and every child was mesmerised. This unique opportunity will be something they remember for a long time. An amazing experience!

5/6A have, as always, been engaged and enquiring in their learning and have seized the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and skills through the learning challenges we have undertaken.



Drawing and painting were the focus of our art work this term. The children were able to become immersed in their artwork as we completed focus days each half term. Our drawings were based on the book 'Moth' by Isabel Thomas, and the results were stunning. In our painting sessions we used acrylic paint to create build colours and textures to create abstract art on the theme of 'Space'.



In science we have explored the origins of life on Earth and inheritance of characteristics in humans and animals. We had great fun experimenting with 'beak types' and different 'foods' to see which adaptation would allow birds to pass on their characteristics most successfully. The children were excellent scientists and engaged wonderfully in scientific thinking and enquiry.

Our second science learning challenge was based on Earth and Space and I would like to thank you all for the amazing projects that your children created. These have been displayed in school for everyone to enjoy. The children were engaged and enquiring about this fascinating topic leading to many Google searches by both them and me!



As a school, we are focusing on ensuring that children find reading fun and that they choose to read for pleasure. I have redesigned our classroom to create social spaces for the children to read and we are encouraging children to read for pleasure by displaying books that are tempting! Some of our current favourites are the Roman Garstang series by Mark Lowry, the Amulet graphic novel series by Kazu Kibuishi and Eric by Shaun Tan. I know lots of children have enjoyed exploring new types of books this term because they have been telling me! Some of the comments include

"I never thought I'd enjoy a graphic novel but I loved Roller Girl - can I read it at lunchtime?"

"Would it be ok to take this book out at playtime I need to finish it"

"Can you read The Jam Doughnut book to us please! It's so funny how does the author think up those things?"

"I loved that book so much have you got anything else like it?"

I've already read the first and second book in that series!

Enjoy your Christmas holidays, read together and I look forward to seeing you in 2022!

Mrs Atkin

# Autumn News from 56K

This term always seems so quick as we zoom towards Christmas. Although we have taken some tests, we have had lots of fun too! The children have really seized the opportunity to be astronomers, biologists, naturalists and sci-fi writers as well as keen mathematicians. Our book corner has been revamped and the children are enjoying reading for pleasure: we have a range of fun books but more “Ripley’s Believe it or Not!” and similar are always welcome!



*It was good to learn new types of paint. The acrylic was sticky.*

*I liked doing my own alien and reading about other aliens.*

*I thought making things abstract was weird but then I liked it!*

In science we have explored the origins of mankind and inheritance of characteristics. We looked at what we inherit and what we learn - why animals adapt to fit their environment better. We wrote some fabulous “Just So stories” to link to this. We also looked at our solar system and the children made some really inspiring projects about it which have been displayed these past weeks. Linked to this, the children wrote some scary stories about the invasion of the Earth based on “War of the Worlds” by H G Wells and made them into books of their own.



We are trying to engage the children creatively and have produced some beautiful artworks based on the Futurist art movement of the early 20th century, introducing the children to cubism and abstract art.

Lastly, the children have begun to learn how to code using Scratch which they are really enjoying.

I am sure next term will be equally packed. As ever, we are appreciative of all the efforts the students make.



# Autumn News from 56W

This term has flown by and 5/6W have had a brilliant start to the school year! The children have been working hard and have been fully engaged in their learning challenges. In science, we have explored evolution and inheritance and had great fun experimenting with 'beak types' and different 'foods' to see which would allow birds to see which adaptation would allow birds to pass on their characteristics most successfully. In the second half term we have been focusing on Earth and space and the children have made some amazing projects which will soon be on display at the front of school.



In English, 5/6W have enjoyed writing science-fiction stories based on 'The War of the Worlds' and made them into books! We have also written stories based on 'Just So Stories' and linked this to our topic of evolution and inheritance.

Drawing and painting were the focus of our art work this term. The children were able to become immersed in their art projects as we completed focus days each half term. Our drawing focus took inspiration from 'Moth' by Isabel Thomas and in our painting lessons we used acrylic paint to create abstract art on the theme of 'Earth and space'. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and created some incredible pieces of art.



Throughout this term there has also been a focus on reading for pleasure. Our book corner has been transformed and 5/6W have enjoyed listening to the weekly Millfield Book Club where staff have shared their favourite books. I know the children have enjoyed exploring new types of books and sharing their love of reading through our weekly 'Let's talk books' question.



*The Royal Opera House trip was incredible and I liked the elegant dancers - Annie*

*I really enjoy learning about shading and tone in art! - Oscar*

*"I really enjoyed learning about abstract art and using acrylic paint!" - Victoria*

Enjoy your Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you in 2022! Miss Wright

# Autumn Music with Mrs Clough

We have had such a wonderful Autumn Term of Music at Millfield. As well as weekly music lessons for all children from Reception to Year 6 we have had weekly singing assemblies, a visit from Rocksteady music school, our 'Christmas Choir' have sung for Littleport WI and The Grange and we have lots more planned for the Spring Term.



Our youngest children in Nursery have enjoyed exploring instruments by shaking, rubbing and tapping. They explored loud, quiet, fast and slow playing and enjoyed listening to different rhythms.

In Reception the children have enjoyed music as part of their 'Exploring and Learning' time and played drums, boomwhackers, glockenspiels and other mixed percussion instruments. Recently they have been listening to different styles of music and dancing to the beat as well as playing instruments loudly, quietly, quickly and slowly. They have sung familiar songs, thinking about high and low sounds, and added instrumental accompaniments.



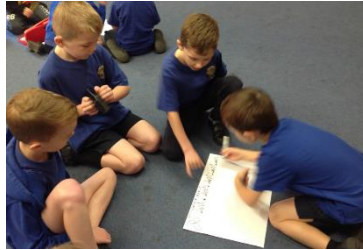
In Key Stages One and Two the children have worked extremely hard and are developing their musical skills every week. We have listened to different styles of music including pop, folk, jazz, classical and 20th century orchestral. The children are becoming more confident at using musical vocabulary such as dynamics, texture, pulse, tempo, pitch and structure when talking about music and they are able to express likes and dislikes. It is so wonderful to be able to sing in our lessons again and the children have all sung in unison, in a round and had the opportunity to sing a solo. Instruments are a big part of our weekly music lessons and all children have experienced playing and performing this term.

In Year 1 the children loved singing and dancing to the song 'Dem Bones' which linked in with their LCC topic and choosing an instrument to represent each bone was lots of fun! They have also explored lots of percussion instruments including the boomwhackers which gave us the opportunity to discuss tempo, dynamics and pitch.





In Year 2 the children have loved playing different rhythms and familiar pieces of music on the Boomwhackers. They have also had the opportunity to improvise using mixed percussion instruments and to create/compose their own music linked to their LCC topics of 'Animals' and 'Toys'. The children recorded their compositions in such creative ways to reflect dynamics and tempo. I was very impressed!



In Years 3 and 4 the children have been learning to play the ukulele. They have learnt to play single string notes, fretted notes and chords as well as learning about the different parts of the instrument. They have enjoyed playing along to music, a favourite track was 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight.' They had a go at composing their own pieces of music using single string notes and mixed percussion instruments too.



In Years 5 and 6 the children have been learning to play the recorder. They have played rhythms on the notes they have learnt, been reading the notes on the musical stave, improvised using different notes and really enjoyed composing their own musical pieces on the recorder while using mixed percussion instruments as an accompaniment.



It is so fantastic to see the children enjoying music and to hear them talking about music outside of their music lessons! Confidence when singing and playing is growing all of the time and that is just brilliant! Happy Christmas and I look forward to an exciting and musical 2022. Mrs Clough

# Reading for Pleasure at Millfield

Throughout school, reading areas celebrate our love of reading and are full of tempting texts for the children.

All staff have tried to change their reading areas so that they recommend specific genres for children to continue reading a genre they love or for them to try something new. Some classrooms show the children's tempting choices of text from the library, so they can share and recommend an exciting new text with their peers. Books are displayed around the room for the children to read and share tempting texts and some reading areas have voting station for the children to vote for their class reader everyday. Now there is a fantastic reading area in school for reading annuals!

Every Tuesday adults in school have, and continue to, take it in turns to share a text or book they've loved with all children during Millfield Book Club. So far, we've heard a range of texts from non-fiction pocket books to poetry to beautifully illustrated picture books. The children have thoroughly enjoyed listening to a range of texts but have clearly had their preferences.

*Lexie-Rae 34N - Our book corner is good because there's a lot of space and there's lots of books to choose from.*

*Libby 56W - I really enjoy book club. Sometimes when a book is read, I like the sound of it and it gives me ideas of what to read next.*

*Harper 1R - I liked October, October because I liked the little owls.*

*Sebastian 1N - I think our reading area is exciting because it's got some of the books and things I'm interested in like dinosaurs.*

*Sapphire 56A - There's always a book of the week and various authors to choose from. The graphic novels are really good!*

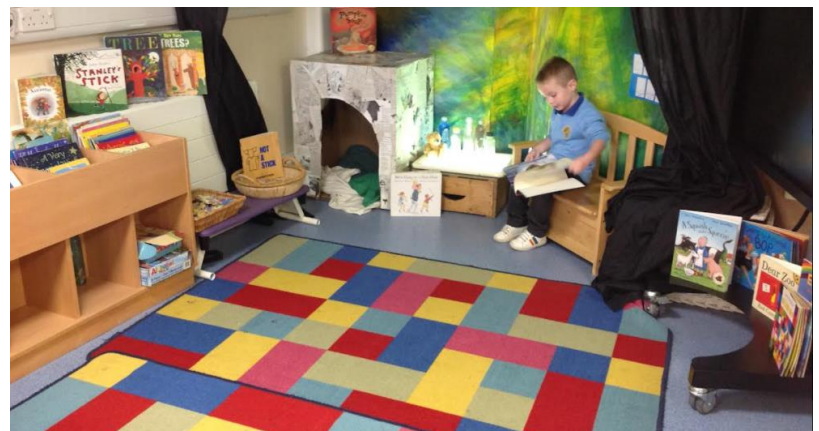
*Aurelia 2S - I loved listening to 'Ocean Meets Sky' because the front cover and pictures look very detailed.*

*Jorji-Mae 34L - I enjoy reading in our reading area because I can share a book with my friends.*

*Logan 56K - I like book club because I think it's quite cool and I like hearing different adults read to us. There are a wide variety of genres each week and it's great!*

*Fearne 2A - I like book club because every time we get to listen to a different story.*







# Autumn Year 4 Camping Trip

## Year 4 Whitwell

Year 4 had a fantastic time on their residential trip to Whitwell. The three-day, two-night visit was packed with fun activities.

A particular highlight was the river dipping and the bat walk. The children and staff also enjoyed orienteering, fire lighting and natural art activities in the vast grounds of Whitwell. Each evening, the children set up for dinner, enjoyed delicious home-cooked meals around the fire and helped tidy away.

What a fantastic group of year 4 children!





# Autumn Year 6 PGL Trip

Year 6 had a brilliant time on their residential trip to PGL. The three-day, two-night trip was packed with many exciting activities including: raft building, giant swing, trapeze, archery, zip wire and aeroball! Year 6 showed fantastic resilience and determination when faced with new challenges and should feel incredibly proud of everything they achieved.

