

# Millhouse News



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## General Information

### Re-opening Plans

We are currently working on plans to be able to reopen the school safely in line with the government's announcement at the weekend. This will initially be for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. We are aware that the government has also said for Nursery children to come back as well, however, we are focusing on the above year groups first and will then work out how this can work for our nursery children. We are aiming to have a plan to be able to send out to parents in these year groups at the start of next week at the latest. As you can appreciate, there is a lot to consider and organise in a very short amount of time!

The guidance for provision for critical key workers has not changed and although more of you may be returning to work in the coming weeks, we are not able to offer any provision unless your child is in one of the above year groups or your role is considered critical to the COVID-19 emergency.

## Home Learning

### Sir Linkalot Spelling App

Sir Linkalot is an award-winning spelling app that is revolutionising how to spell hundreds of tricky words, all the way from *was*, *they* and *one* up to *fulfil*, *manoeuvre* and *onomatopoeia*. Each word is given a video with actions and mnemonics to help children remember the spellings. A recent case study found a 70% improvement in 1,000 students using the app.

To try it out, go to [www.sirlinkalot.org](http://www.sirlinkalot.org) to get the code.

In addition to the app, you can join Sir Linkalot and Countdown's Susie Dent every week day at 2pm on the Sir Linkalot Facebook page or You Tube channel for more spelling fun! For starters, look at this first lesson on words inside words.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwVgGhXde8>

Happy linking and spelling!

## Staff Update

Here's what some of the teachers in Years 3 and 4 have been doing...

In Year 3, Miss Morgan has been going for lots of runs in the woods near to her home. Miss Hinson has finally decorated her bedroom after moving into her house and has been having some intense PS4 competitions with her boyfriend! Miss Cross has undertaken some online training to learn more about teaching children with dyslexia.

In Year 4, Miss Joyce has been doing lots of exercise and has been on lots of bike rides with her fiancé and step-children. Mrs Free has been enjoying the sunshine in her garden and homeschooling her children and trying to keep them busy. Mrs Fawell has been cross-stitching and going for walks with her family.



## SEND Support

Why don't you set up a home cinema?

You could give the children £1 in 10p coins and let them 'spend' the money on treats to have whilst watching the film. For example, you could charge 50p for 100g of popcorn and get the children to weigh out the correct amount. That way the children are not only learning about money, they are also learning about reading scales.

The children could even earn the money to spend in the shop by completing chores around the house. A great way to learn life skills!



## **Well-Being**

### **Diabetes Care Award**

We are pleased to say that we have been nominated for and are applying for the Good Diabetes Care in School Award. As some of you know, we have a pupil, Grace in Year 5, who is diabetic and her family have nominated and asked us to apply for award. We are really proud to be doing this and are proud of Grace and how she manages her diabetes. We will keep you updated with our progress!

### **Stress Busters and Calming Activities**

Attached with this newsletter, are some different activities that can be used by children (and parents) to help them calm and de-stress. By taking a few minutes throughout the day to do some of these will help make a calmer and happier household and will benefit everyone's mental health!

If you are concerned about you or your child's emotional well-being, please email the school office ([admin@millhouse.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@millhouse.essex.sch.uk)) for the attention of Mrs Haken and we will try our best to support you.

## **Try Something New!**

Have you or your child tried something new whilst we have been away from school?

Why not learn a new song!

Young Voices (the organisation that runs the school choir arena concerts we take part in) have set up an online challenge to learn the song 'Power in Me' and then take part in their massive online choir concert on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Sign up by following the link below (Mrs Logan and Mrs Haken are joining in too!)

<https://www.youngvoices.co.uk/powerinme>

## **Speech and Language Opportunities**

We are always striving at school to develop children's Expressive Language (the act of talking and interacting) as they move through the year groups. Good Expressive Language enables children to be able to make their wants and needs known, debate points of view, develop their use of vocabulary in writing and engage in successful conversations with others.

- Tips to help develop Expressive Language at home:
- Encourage children to extend and use longer sentences.
- Encourage children to join their ideas/sentences using and, but, so, because etc.
- Learn new vocabulary and its meaning and use it in a sentence.
- Instead of writing a story, make one up and tell it to someone verbally.
- Play games that encourage the use of descriptive language such as Heads up, Articulate and guessing games which require giving clues such as I Spy and Guess the object.

## Star Value – Respect

### **Our very own NHS hero!!!**

Taylor in Yr5 has been extremely busy making pompoms to raise money for the 'NHS Charities Together'. So far Taylor has raised an amazing £315!!!!

This is a fantastic achievement Taylor and you should be extremely proud of yourself!



# Celebrations!

Look at some of the fantastic learning and achievements from some of our pupils! If you upload pictures or work to Google Classroom, it may appear on here! Also, if anyone is celebrating a birthday or another special occasion or does something really special, email your year group teachers and they will make sure it gets mentioned.

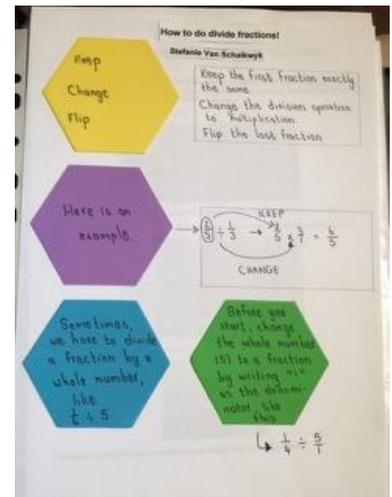
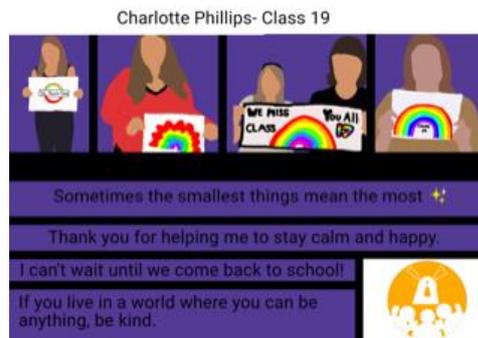
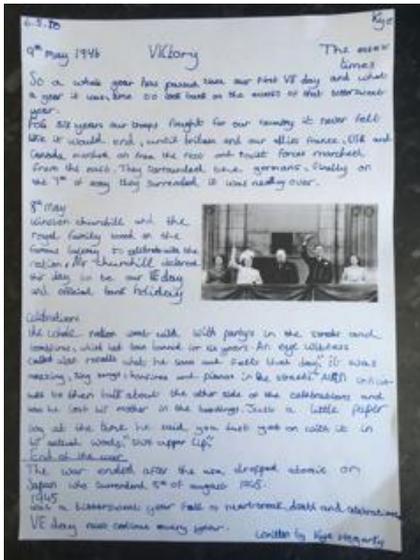


Colby and Sophia in Year 1 have been baking and reading this week.





Years 2 and 6 have been busy bees this week!



Happy birthday to anyone who has their birthday this week!

Special birthday wishes go to Mrs Archer and Mrs Carey who both have their birthdays this week.

We would like to send birthday wishes to people but don't always know when they are, please let your child's year group teachers know if it your child's birthday and we will give them a mention!