

Millhouse News

3rd March 2023



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Dates & Reminders

Monday 6th March – Reception Health Checks
W/B Monday 6th March – Book Fair after school every day.
Thursday 16th March – Governor Monitoring morning
Friday 17th March – Red Nose Day
Tuesday 21st – Thursday 23rd March – Literacy Trail (Year 2 & 3 parents)
Friday 24th March – school discos (more information to come)
w/b Monday 27th March
Bikeability training
Science Week
Friday 31st March – Spring Cross Country Fun Run (whole school)
Last day of term is 31st March. Children return to school on Monday 17th April.

Parent Information

Red Nose Day

Children are invited to come into school wearing something red on Friday 17th March. Donations can be made on ParentPay.

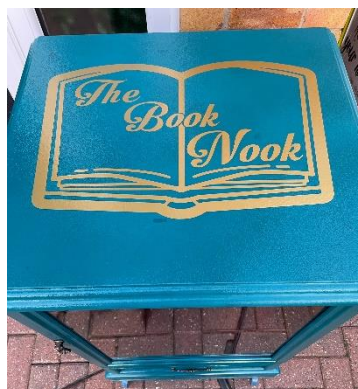
Parent SEND Roadshow

If you are a parent of a child with SEND, Essex County Council are running a Parent/Carer SEND Roadshow on Wednesday 26th April, at The Holiday Inn Basildon, between 9.30 and 3pm. This event is an opportunity for families to drop-in (no booking is required) to speak to professionals from a range of organisations including representatives from the SEND Quadrant Teams, Health and social care, as well as SENDIASS, Preparing for Adulthood, the Youth Service and the Multi-Schools Council. They also have local charities/organisations represented including Essex Family Forum and Families in Focus.

World Book Day

The children and staff had a wonderful World Book Day! Please see the separate newsletter for this event.

Mrs Lionel has set up a free lending library in her local area. Anyone can come and choose a book for free (or can swap one for another). This is on Claremont Road which is just over the road from our school.



Attendance

A number of parents have spoken to us recently about our attendance procedures and that they don't understand them or think we are trying to make lives difficult. This is not the case. We want to see the children in school every day (as is the government's expectations) and our procedures come from the legal rules and Essex County Council's guidance which we are obliged to follow. Here is some clarification on them...

1. Parents are legally responsible for making sure their child attends full time education.
2. If your child is absent from school, you should report this using Studybugs (information on our website about this).
3. Only the school can decide whether an absence is authorised.
4. If a child's attendance drops below 95%, we will send parents a letter to make them aware and ask them to ensure attendance improves.
5. There may be occasions when a child has had a single period of illness but has very good attendance at all other times. In these cases, we will monitor but not send a letter home.
6. If a child's attendance drops below 90%, they are considered to be 'persistently absent'. In these cases, we will invite parents to a meeting at school to discuss ways to improve attendance. This will include how the school can support the child and family.
7. Legal Warning Letters are issued when a child's attendance does not improve or is below 85%. These are written by Essex County Council and cannot be re-worded.
8. If a legal warning letter is issued and there are any unauthorised absences, we are expected to apply to Essex County Council for legal intervention. This may be a penalty notice (fine) or a prosecution (potentially leading to a criminal record or prison term).
9. We are not allowed to apply for more than one penalty notice in a 12-month period so if parents have already been served with a fine for irregular attendance or unauthorised leave of absence, it will be stepped up to a prosecution.
10. The school does not make money from the fines – this goes to Essex County Council to use for administrative purposes – nor do we issue the fine, again this is Essex County Council.

Although some of this seems quite severe, it is always a last resort. We want to work with and support parents to get their child into school. If you receive a letter from us or are invited in for a meeting, please don't ignore it or refuse to engage with us as this isn't helpful and will impact negatively on your child. We want the best for all the children and for them to achieve their potential they need to be in school every day.

If you have any questions or worries about your child's attendance, please speak to their teacher, Mrs Duggins, Ms Slade, Mrs Kavanagh or Mrs Haken / Mrs McGarry.