

Milton-on-Stour Newsletter October 2026

Cherished in Love. Guided by Hope. Inspired with Joy.

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A message from Mrs Clifton



Wow! What a first term. It has been so action packed here at Milton with so many highlights. We have new fish tanks, library seating and books for the school. Our curriculum is now enquiry led and the children are becoming used to being authors, artists and scientists but a really special moment was when were invited to attend (from the sidelines) a wedding at St Simon and St Jude's Church. It was a real special moment seeing the bride arrive and listening to the bagpipes being played. The children all cheered and clapped as the bride arrived (she was very surprised) and the Hedgehogs had all made heart shaped flags to wave. It was rather unforgettable and we received a lovely message from the wedding party afterwards thanking all of the children for being there. Aren't we lucky to be part of such a lovely community!

Well done to all of the staff for completing their Pediatric first aid training on our Td day. It was a long day of practical and theory learning with an assessment at the end. Don't forget that within school hours we have an emergency defib in the entrance and emergency epi pens in the office should the need ever arise in the community.

The Schools Mental Health Team has been working with us this week to develop an action plan following the parent, staff and pupil surveys sent out regarding how we support children and adult mental health in school. Our Wellbeing ambassadors also met with the team to discuss what the children know about healthy mindsets. This year we will continue to develop our curriculum and resources to support the children. Actions so far: Buddies for younger children, ELSA provision, Stormbreak mindfulness and physical sessions, PSHE curriculum changes/ mindfulness times, quiet areas in the classrooms, a nurture club at lunchtimes, suggestions boxes, concentration tools, development of different roles around the school for children, and the start of the Rights Respecting Schools Award.

Recruitment and staffing-We are pleased that we have recruited a new deputy from January as Mrs Moore steps down from her post to concentrate on her family. Mrs Scammell will be joining us 3 days a week from January. She is well known to the school and a familiar face to the children . We have also appointed a new MDSA- Miss Kendall will be joining us next term each day.

Attendance- With our winter bugs in full force we have noticed a drop in our attendance which is now below National and is really unusual for Milton . Hopefully as the children have had their flu sprays we shall start to see our figures improve again. If your child is well enough to come to school and is on subscribed medication we can administer this - you just need to complete the authorisation form in the office. If they have sniffles and are feeling under the weather but well enough to come to school we will keep an eye on them and will contact you if we become concerned or you may want to pop in with calpol at lunchtime for them. Termly, I meet with the County Inclusion officer to discuss absence rates. If your child's attendance drops below 95% this is flagged, so I do urge that any medical appointments are evidenced and where possible made after school or in holiday periods. Unfortunately, holidays in term time are not approved and whilst we appreciate we are some distance to walk or drive from many homes, absence due to wet weather conditions is also unauthorised.

From Monday 2nd November our before school club will start at 8.00am and will be in the Pond- The children can access this via the playground. Gates open for everyone else at 8.45. From 8.45 the teachers will have planned learning for the children and it is a valuable part of the day, so well done to all of those children that come running through the gates as they open each day!

Invacuation/ Lockdown procedures - Well done to all of the children for demonstrating such a sensible approach to our lockdown drill this week. Some parents quite rightly have asked why schools now need to do this. This is part of Martyn's Law which has been introduced to all settings in order to prepare for emergencies following the Manchester arena attack. In our preparation we have discussed this as instances when we have to close the school down to

prevent swarms of bees, a loose dog and even the donkey wandering onto the premises which might cause harm should the get inside the school building. The children and staff responded brilliantly to the signal and the classrooms and buildings were secure and silent within moments.

Thank you to those parents who joined us for a Phonics information workshop to find out more about our new Phonics and reading scheme Little Wandle. If you were unable to attend and you are a parent of a Hedgehog, please contact Miss Baker and she will share information with you.

A reminder that clubs start in our first week back but pause during Parent consultation week. If you have not yet booked a meeting slot with your teachers please do so via Arbor.

Pupil Voice- We now have our School Councillors, Wellbeing Ambassadors, Sports Leaders and and Eco council working together to seek the views and support the children across the school. A few weeks ago the School council led a pupil voice on house names and all of the children were asked to make suggestions which were then voted on by all pupils. There was a landslide victory for Gem stones to replace the fruits as the house names as they represent strength, longevity , endurance and power. The children are now in the process of choosing their final gemstones before we have our first house event.

Disco -Thankyou to the PTFA for organising the school disco. A lot of fun was had by all with some brilliant costumes and even better dancing!

Have a wonderful half term everyone! Hopefully the weather will improve for us all at some point during the week.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Clifton

Class news



Hedgehogs

What a busy start to Autumn we have had in Hedgehogs!

We finished our enquiry, *What is an Artist?*, and enjoyed displaying our final pieces of artwork. We then moved on to our enquiry, *How Does Our School Change?*, where we looked for signs of autumn around our school. The children enjoyed autumn scavenger hunts in the forest area and then wrote about the things they had discovered.

We are currently exploring the question, *Where is My School?* We have investigated different types of maps, learned how to represent features using keys, and looked at places within our local area. The children have also been busy designing their own maps, carefully thinking about the landmarks and features they wanted to include and creating their own keys to represent them. Our role-play area has now changed into a Co-op and Costa, where the children have been enjoying acting out real-life experiences, serving customers, making drinks and using their growing communication skills during play.

In English, we have been reading *Leaf Man*, who wrote to us asking if we could make him a Leaf Man friend. We enjoyed writing back to explain all the things our leaf people could do. Then

something very exciting happened! We received pictures of Leaf Man in our local area, along with a letter asking us to plan an adventure for him and our Leaf Man. We worked incredibly hard on our writing and extended our ideas by using the conjunction **because** to explain our thinking in more detail.









Squirrels

Over the last two weeks, the children have been working incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum and should be very proud of their achievements.

In English, we have been reading *The Busy Body Book* and using it to support our learning about the human body. The children have written their own non-chronological reports explaining different parts of the body and how they work. They have worked extremely hard on these pieces of writing and have impressed us with their use of technical vocabulary, factual information and clear organisation.

In Maths, our Year 2 children have now completed their Place Value unit and have shown excellent understanding of numbers and their value. Year 3 have successfully completed their Addition and Subtraction unit, developing their confidence in using a range of methods to solve calculations and reasoning problems.

As part of our Enquiry learning, we have been exploring how to keep our bodies healthy. We have learned about the skeleton, muscles, and the brain and nervous system, and discussed the

important roles they play in helping our bodies move, grow and function. In Music, the children have completed their Glockenspiel unit. They have learned how to play *Hot Cross Buns* independently and confidently performed the piece to the class. It has been wonderful to see their musical skills and confidence develop throughout the unit.

The spellings for after half term have been sent home today. These can also be accessed on Purple Mash so that children can continue to practise regularly at home. Please encourage your child to spend a few minutes each week revisiting these spellings to help build their confidence and accuracy.

Thank you for your continued support. We are very proud of all the hard work, enthusiasm and determination the children have shown in their learning. We look forward to sharing more of their successes with you soon!

Badgers

What an exciting first term in Badgers! It has been pleasing to see the level of determination and hard work all of our pupils have shown throughout the term.

This week, the children have been brilliant artists. They have experimented with warm and cool colours to complete a piece of space art, using both harmonious colours and complementary colours. The class then focused on tinting and shading to enhance their work, carefully considering how these techniques could add detail and depth. Everyone was proud of their work, and the artwork was beautiful.

As mathematicians, the children have been subtracting using more than one exchange. They learnt the vocabulary *minuend*, *subtrahend* and *difference*, and began using these terms when explaining their calculations. The children were able to physically show what it looks like to exchange from the adjacent column when there is not enough in the column they are subtracting from. This practical work helped them to understand the process clearly before applying it to written calculations.

This term, we have been enquiring, 'What does Earth look like from the Solar System?' The children have explored this question as scientists and artists, developing their understanding through investigation, discussion and creative work. Their learning has included both scientific thinking and artistic expression.

Well done for all your hard work this term, Badgers!

New PE days: year 5 will be swimming on a Tuesday afternoon after the half term. Therefore, please can children come to school in PE kit on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Foxes

The last few weeks have been full of exciting learning opportunities and achievements in Foxes Class. It has been wonderful to see the children approaching each activity with enthusiasm and determination.

A number of children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the weekly iRock music sessions on Mondays. These sessions have given them the opportunity to develop their musical skills, build confidence and work together as a band.

In PE, the children have been putting their netball skills into practice through a range of matches. They have drawn upon the passing, movement and defending strategies learnt in lessons and have shown excellent teamwork and sportsmanship throughout.

Our English lessons have focused on biographies, with the children conducting research on a chosen astronomer. Using their findings, they have written informative and engaging biographies, which demonstrate their excellent research and writing skills. These will be ready for publication when we return to school and we look forward to sharing them with you.

In Maths, the children have been working hard on multiplication and division. They have particularly enjoyed using LBQ to support their learning and practise key skills. Children can also access LBQ from home using the access code found in their reading records. While this home learning is entirely optional, regular use can have a very positive impact on progress and confidence in maths.

In French, we have been exploring phonics and developing our understanding of French sounds and pronunciation.

We have also been busy creating designs for our Christmas cards. These have now been sent away for printing and will be available to purchase at a later date. We are sure you will be impressed with the children's creativity and look forward to sharing the finished products with you soon.

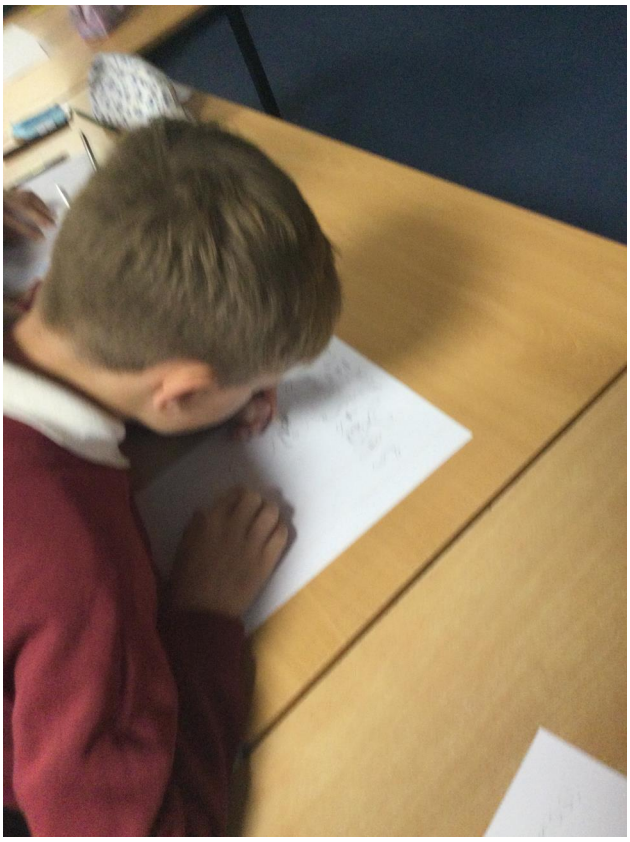
Finally, Blake in Foxes Class is taking on **five super challenges** to raise money for our school. Please take a look at the accompanying poster for more information. Physical posters will also be displayed around the school, and donations can be made easily using the QR code shown on the poster. We wish Blake the very best of luck with this fantastic fundraising effort and thank everyone for their support.

Thank you for your continued support. We are incredibly proud of all that the children have achieved over the past few weeks and look forward to another busy and successful term ahead.

New PE days: year 5 will be swimming on a Tuesday afternoon after the half term. Therefore, please can children come to school in PE kit on Tuesdays and Fridays.


human and divine
halos
teachings
pictures and images
Christingle
Bible
Jesus said, "I am..."
songs and prayers
creed


Wear yellow.
Say hello.
Feeling flowers
Wear yellow.
Say hello.





Harvest Service

Thank you to everyone who attended our Harvest Festival last week, the children sang beautifully and provided some lovely, autumnal poetry. The donations were dropped to the food bank this week and we raised 53kg worth of produce! Thank you for the donations.

Fundraising



1 - Blake has set himself 5 challenges which are to be completed over the next few months, one being to climb Scaffel Pike! Blake is a member of our school council team and wants to raise money for new equipment and resources at Milton School. This is an amazing challenge to be doing, Blake and we are very grateful for the funds that you are raising!

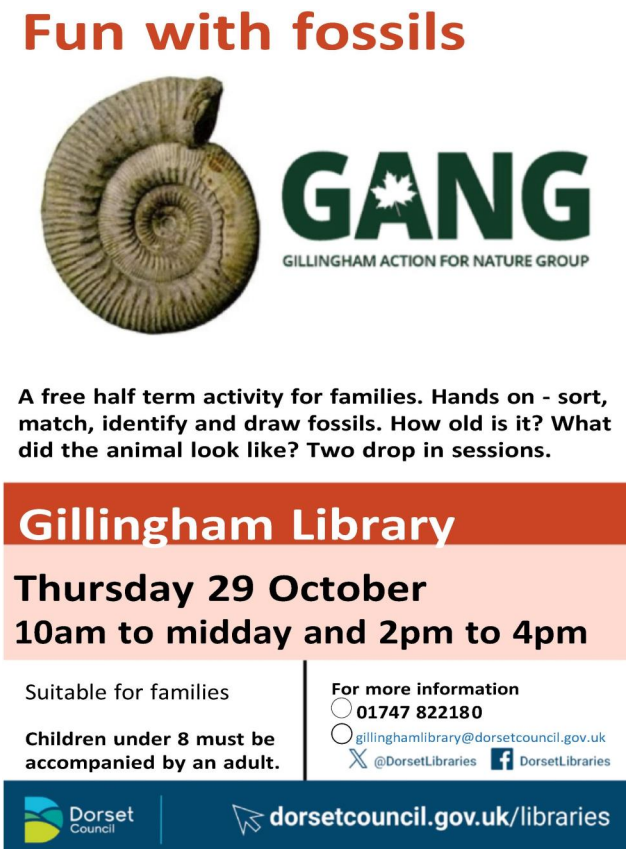
If you would like to donate, Blake's Just Giving page is here: [Crowdfunding For Good From JustGiving]

Reading Challenge!


Read for your school
Take part in our
Ready, Steady... Read!
from _____ to _____
Get sponsored, get reading and see what you can achieve
In partnership with USBORNE

2 - Thank you to those children who have signed up tour 'Ready, Steady, Read,' reading challenge! The money raised will spent on new books for our library. This will be taking place 2nd -9th November. Please collect your sponsorship and then payment will be paid through Arbor.

Fun with fossils - 2026





School Walking Challenge!

Well done to those children and parents who have joined the inter-schools walking competition! We are currently placed **14th out of 120 schools! We are climbing up the leader board!** If you would like to get involved, please sign up via the link below.

Schools Walk is a completely free walking challenge designed to bring the whole school community together — pupils, parents, teachers, school staff and anyone who would like to support the school can take part. Everyone simply collects their everyday steps for the school, helping it move up the national ranking.

The challenge begins on **15 September 2026 and runs until 30 April 2027**.

Taking part is very simple:

- Download the free Walk15 app.

- Join the Schools Walk challenge.
- Search for and select **Milton on Stour CE Primary School**.
- Start collecting everyday steps for the school.

Let's become the most active school in our area!



E-Safety Awareness

The NSPCC have produced a free Online Safety Workshop for parents and carers. Please follow the link below to watch:

[Free Online Safety Virtual Workshops | NSPCC]

Author of the month



Every month, class teachers nominate a student who has really excelled with their writing. This can be for a range of reasons including improvement with their writing or just because it was such an enjoyable read!

October's authors of the month are:

Matilda- for her biography on her chosen astronomer.

A huge well done to our October writers!

Key diary dates



Key dates

23rd October: Teacher Training Day

23rd October: Half Term

2nd November: Back to School

3rd November Year 5 swimming begins

2nd November - 6th November: Reading Challenge!

9th November: Parents Evening Week

24th November House Football

8th December: KS1 Christmas Performance Dress Rehearsal

10th December: KS1 Christmas Performance

16th December: Christmas Dinner Day

17th December: Christmas Service

18th December: Last Day of Term

MILTON-ON-STOUR CE SCHOOL

Love, Hope and Joy

Pickwick Academy Trust