



It will not have gone un-noticed that there have been considerable delays to the completion of the outdoor learning space at the front of school. We were unhappy with the product at handover stage and had some health and safety concerns too. We are delighted that the building company have agreed to complete our required adjustments and we look forward to a completed project! We cannot wait to (finally) enjoy an official opening of this valuable new space.



## This Week's Shooting Stars



- All of EYFS** Representing our school so beautifully on our school trip
- Mia P** Writing a fantastic moral in relation to our core text, Hansel and Gretel
- Elenor** Her amazing football skills and achievement
- Kaylan** Carrying out a careful investigation in science
- Rania** Engaging, descriptive writing in English
- Sara** Determination to achieve in all her learning
- Shaan** Showing great focus and listening by asking great questions about vocabulary
- Isla** Improved confidence in contributing in lessons
- Amar M** Achieving highly in his suspenseful writing
- Mia L** Exemplary work for Black History Month
- Aman** Fulfilling his Head Boy duties with excellence. A wonderful role-model.
- Beau** Fulfilling her Head Girl duties with excellence. A wonderful role-model

A **Head Teacher's Award** has been awarded to **Ali H** for excellent French work and **Krishnan** for working diligently in Maths - demonstrating his understanding of adding and subtracting fractions with exceptional confidence and skill. Well done also to **Tobias** for a phenomenal fraction calculating maths robot! We are so proud of you all.

**Golden Tea** is an opportunity for children to show the work they have completed this week of which they are most proud, whilst enjoying juice and biscuits together. The following children will meet with Mrs Wilson during Monday morning break-time next week.

**Mia L**

**Aum**

**Oye**

**Yugo T**

**Drama club and lessons** We are delighted to inform you that Miss Martin has been successful in her auditions for a new production called 'Cold War' which will be performed at the Almeida Theatre. We have recruited a replacement for her - Mr Taylor - who is in the process of completing all pre-employment checks and training and will be joining us after half term. Mrs Botchwey will continue the Drama club until his arrival and the individual LAMDA lessons will be re-scheduled on some additional days after half term. Thank you for your understanding.

**New Menu** After half term, Mrs Jacobs will be rolling out the new winter menu. Preparing and cooking food for 120 people, ensuring it is tasty, healthy and suitable for all is a challenging job and we are grateful for her hard work. Mrs Jacobs will be trialing some of the new dishes by sharing little samples of some of the dishes next week, in order to receive feedback (no pun intended!) before the new menu is rolled out after half term.

**This week** In Monday's assembly we considered the importance of thinking about Black History whenever we study any unit of work and not just in October but that it is also important to highlight Black History this month because there is still work to do to ensure everyone is treated equally.

**EYFS** have been practicing the correct formation of letters, exploring length measuring who is the tallest and who is the shortest in our class. We will keep this data and compare later on in the year and see how much the children have grown. They also had an exciting time visiting the science museum. They looked at a pumpkin on Thursday to identify the different parts and today they have been making pumpkin soup just like in the book that they have been reading this week 'Pumpkin Soup' – delicious!

**Form 1** For English this week, the children designed their own gingerbread house and then wrote full sentences independently, making sure to use an adjective and 'and'. The children have also looked at what morals are and what morals can be learned from the story of Hansel and Gretel. The children have continued to look at 1 more and 1 less than a given 2- and 3-digit numbers in Maths. We have also been comparing numbers using the greater than, less than and equals symbols. For Science, the children have been learning how to look at the different leaves on trees to work out whether they are deciduous or evergreen. In Topic, the children used their compass knowledge to direct each other around the playground. They used their knowledge of maps to create their own, which the other children then used to direct themselves around. Form 1's DT was very exciting this week; the children have worked in small groups to construct a small habitat out of lolly sticks.

**Form 2** have been learning how to write a formal letter, developing their understanding of multiplication and division and carried out an experiment to test the suitability of different materials for various uses. Amongst other things, they discovered that card spoons don't last very long! The children have also been researching the countries involved in the Rugby World cup and have found some interesting facts.

**Form 3** have been writing diary entries from a character's point of view (Odysseus, a crew mate and Scyllar the dragon). In Maths they have been make 'the whole' with fractions. In Science they looked at water resistance and surface tension by floating paperclips on the surface of water. In RE they looked at the similarities between Islam and other faiths and created a poster to promote tolerance and respect of other people's beliefs. In Topic the children continued writing Ancient Greek Myths and loved hearing about Theseus and the Minotaur. They also discussed how many Greek Myths were designed to instil the values of humility in their protagonists. The children also listened to each other's presentations for Black History month. Today the children have been comparing Greek and African vase design and learning to make a clay pot.

**Form 4** have carried out a science investigation into evaporation - testing whether hot, cold or tepid water evaporates more quickly. We also did a virtual tour of the National Gallery looking at stories within different paintings and making our own copies of these famous works of art, in preparation for our trip on Monday. In maths, we learnt about long multiplication methods and applied these to solving word problems. In English, we looked at conjunctions, clauses, commas, personification and alliteration, trying to use these elements in our own writing. Our homework was a description based on the Iron Man. We also began to research Black History through the personal story of Floella Benjamin's book 'Coming to England.'

**Form 5** In English lessons, we have been learning to describe a setting using high-level vocabulary whilst stimulating different senses. We have also looked at building suspense in our sentences to engage the reader. In Topic lessons, we have looked at the ethics behind using animals to test space travel and had a class debate on the pros and cons of this process. In Science, we have been studying the Moon's phases and using unique methods to represent this such as using cookies to create a lunar month. In Maths lessons, Form 5 have been learning about factors and multiples.

**Form 6** In Maths, Form 6 have been simplifying and collecting algebraic terms. In their Guided Reading, the children have been analysing the poem 'The Caged Bird' by Maya Angelou in line with National Poetry day. In Topic, they have been researching different species in the Polar Regions and how climate change has impacted their survival. On Tuesday, Form 6 enjoyed their trip to the Science museum including the wonder lab for their unit on light. In Dance, they are continuing their storytelling through interpretive dance. They have also been thinking about significant figures of Black British History (from the Moors to Baroness Amos).

**Next Week** All children will be conducting their wonder sessions in which they generate questions for their learning next half term.

On Monday, Form 4 are visiting the National Gallery and the children in school will have a visit from Zengha Wellings-Longmore from the RAF museum who will be telling the fantastic story of Sam King and other WW2 Heroes to continue our focus on Black History Month.

On Wednesday we are celebrating British Values Day in school. Please be aware that whilst we try to intertwine our special event days with the children's learning, this can mean adjustments to the lessons they have in the day. This week Upper School children will still have their Gymnastics session at Hendon Leisure centre so children will need to be in their PE kit.

Also on Wednesday – Please remind your child to bring in their Topic homework.

On Thursday we will have the Topic Homework walk about which you are welcome to join from 8.10 – 8.40. On Thursday, Form 4 and their parents are invited to the Longtown residential information evening at 3.45pm. Friday is the last day of the half term and children return to school on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

**Apologies for any confusion** This week Mrs Mbah introduced Black History month in Monday's assembly and told the children about the projects they would be doing on Wednesday afternoon - asking them to have a little think about who they might like to study and said they could look up a few facts ready for the lesson. This was not a homework per say but rather a 'be mindful of what's coming up' comment. We understand this has caused confusion as several children have come home with a 'homework' request to parents without any communication from the school and some even did the whole report they were supposed to do in school on Wednesday. We are very impressed with the effort, love how diligent they have been and how enthusiastic the children are about Black History Month, however, that was not Mrs Mbah's expectation.

We often mention things the children can do at home in assembly to expand their knowledge - such as last week when Father Steven talked about vegetables, the children were encouraged, next time they are at the supermarket, to try and find out the name of a vegetable they didn't know before or in the Autumn assembly, Mrs Mbah suggested looking for signs of Autumn and said they could take a photo or draw a picture. If children do something above and beyond, they get rewarded with House points, shooting stars etc. but these are optional extras and not a homework expectation.

**Synagogue Visit** On Thursday, as part of their R.E and Worldviews curriculum coverage, Form 1 and Form 5 visited the Mill Hill Synagogue sukkah. They were very lucky to have Mr John Mitchell, an experienced educator, to talk to the children about the Festival of Sukkot. The festival reminds Jewish people about a time when they did not have permanent dwellings and so they built temporary huts in which they lived and slept. The sukkahs are often elaborately decorated with fruit and vegetables as well as pictures and paintings. Mr. Mitchell introduced the children to the 'lulav' and 'etrog' and the four species of plants which remind Jews of the variety of fruit and vegetation that was on offer in the Holy Land. Form 1 children also delivered some beautiful pictures related to sukkot which they and the Form 2 children had drawn. These will be displayed in Mill Hill synagogue.

**Football club** Please be reminded that this is a sport club and children must be in suitable attire. This can be their PE kit or a Football kit and children will have the opportunity to change before the club starts. Any child not in PE kit will not be able to take part. Children who regularly forget their kit will forfeit their place in the club.

### **Dates for your Diary**

<b>9th October:</b>	National Gallery (Form 4)
<b>11th October:</b>	British Values Day
<b>11th October:</b>	Topic homework due in
<b>12th October:</b>	Topic homework walk about

<b>12th October:</b>	Longtown information evening for parents and children at 3.45pm (Form 4)
<b>W/b 30th October:</b>	IEP Meetings
<b>1st November:</b>	British Library (Form 4 & 5)
<b>6<sup>th</sup> November:</b>	Flu Vaccines (opt in only – Reception – Form 6)
<b>8th - 10th Nov:</b>	Longtown residential (Form 4)
<b>8th or 9th November by invitation:</b>	Come learn phonics with me (EYFS)
<b>10th November:</b>	Remembrance assembly at 10.45 – parents welcome
<b>W/b 13th November:</b>	Anti-bullying and interfaith week
<b>13th November:</b>	Diwali celebrations in school
<b>13<sup>th</sup> November:</b>	JLE Exhibition – morning only (Form 5)
<b>14th November:</b>	RAF Museum (EYFS)
<b>20th November:</b>	Form 4 class assembly at 9am – parents welcome
<b>21st November:</b>	Verulamium trip (Form 6)
<b>30th November:</b>	Natural History Museum (Form 3)
<b>W/b 4th December:</b>	No clubs this week
<b>7th December:</b>	Topic homework walk about – 8.10am – 8.35am Parents welcome
<b>7th December:</b>	Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch, Chanukah doughnuts and crafts.
<b>8th December:</b>	FoSMS Charity Silent Disco – after school until 5.30pm – More details to come!

#### **Autumn Term 2023**

Half Term Break: Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Oct - Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Oct

Term Ends: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023

#### **Spring Term 2024:**

Return to School: Wed 3rd Jan 2024

Half Term Break: Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Feb to Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Feb

Term Ends: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

#### **Summer Term 2024:**

Return to School: Tue 23rd April 2024

Half Term Break: Mon 27th May - Fri 31<sup>st</sup> May

Term Ends: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024

#### **Autumn Term 2024:**

We are delighted that so many children love to share their outside school achievements with their friends in school. This week we send congratulations to –

**Amar M** - Guitar Grade 1 with Merit

**Avi M** – Red award in Swimming

**Oye** – proudly showed his football medals he has been awarded

**Sara** – shared her magnificent tennis medals

What talented children we have!

We wish Miss Hurst and her partner our very best wishes as she begins her maternity leave today – unfortunately earlier than expected due to some medical complications - but we know she will be a wonderful mummy and we look forward to meeting Baby Hurst.

This week Mrs Mbah attended an ISA networking event where she was informed of a scam that is being targeted at parents with children in independent schools. We are also aware of this scam being sent to at least two of our senior feeder schools.

Fraudsters are becoming more sophisticated in their approach to targeting potential victims, so please be alert to the risk of receiving a fraudulent email.

- Please check the email address used – the address is often very similar to the School’s correct email, but not identical. Any official all school emails will always come from [office@stmartinsmillhill.co.uk](mailto:office@stmartinsmillhill.co.uk). Individual teachers or staff members will never blanket email about financial matters.
- Emails could be sent directly from [maria.jacobs@stmartinsmillhill.co.uk](mailto:maria.jacobs@stmartinsmillhill.co.uk) but these will usually be regarding non-payment of fees. Occasionally Mrs Wilson may also email regarding financial matters [Joanna.wilson@stmartinsmillhill.co.uk](mailto:Joanna.wilson@stmartinsmillhill.co.uk). Please do not hesitate to call the School to confirm the validity of an email if you are unsure.
- The School has no plans to change its bank account. If you receive an email asking you to change the bank account to which you pay the fees, please contact us immediately to check if this is legitimate.
- If you receive an email which looks fraudulent, please share it with us – unfortunately if something looks too good to be true, it usually is!