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National Support School
designated by



**National College for
Teaching & Leadership**

The Mill Autumn Update December 2019

20th December 2019

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

This letter is in place of our usual weekly school newsletter. I've tried to sum up the big headlines of this term for you-as briefly as possible, but we've been busy!

First can I start by saying an enormous thank you to you all on behalf of all of the staff, pupils and governors for your unwavering support of The Mill. We had a lovely surprise a couple of months ago with the news that we were ranked in the top 3 schools Crawley in this article here:

<https://www.mylondon.news/news/local-news/every-primary-school-crawley-ranked-17098149>

Attendance

Our school attendance is now at its best rate ever, above the national average and that is in huge part down to your dedication to bring your children to school and on time every single day. Thank you. Children with 98% and above attendance have all received certificates today. I'm very pleased to announce that the pupil drawn 'from the hat' of over 140 names of 100% attendees was Toby in Year 4 Miro class and he will get to be Headteacher for the day in January! You might remember Sara, one of our Year 6 pupils from last year won this prize and the children are very excited to see what this year's winner does when he's in charge for the day! He found out in today's Forever Proud assembly! Watch this space!

Reading

Our parent's evening in October as you know focussed on talking to you about your child's reading and how we teach reading. We teach the children that reading is the key to everything. Because we want to support you with understanding how we teach it, and to share with you how your child has progressed since the last time you met with their teacher, our next parent's evening will also have a reading focus. You will still be able to visit your child's classroom to see all of their other books and of course can at any point discuss your child with their teacher by contacting school. For those of you that are able, we also have our regular open mornings where you can come and visit your child in their classroom.

Website

After a long period of updating the school's website, we are now in a position to start putting all of the information you need as parents onto it. Thank you for your patience. We will still send links to letters and send out updates in the usual way but from now on, all dates, letters and school information you need will be on our website so please save it as a favourite and check in often! <https://www.themill-tkat.org/>

Headteacher

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Our wider curriculum

As well as our passion for ensuring the children thrive in the core skills for Reading, Writing and Maths, we are also very proud of our bespoke Mill wider curriculum, which includes the other National Curriculum subjects that schools are required to teach plus some special topics and units of work we have designed ourselves-just for our pupils at The Mill called Room 13, Games, Community and London. Please look on our website and explore <https://www.themill-tkat.org/>

EYFS area

Our EYFS outside area has undergone complete refurbishment and is finally finished (despite the rain in November!) and includes brand new climbing equipment, seating, play equipment and all-weather grass which will enable our youngest children to learn and play safely outdoors in all weather.

PTA

As always, our PTA have worked tirelessly to fundraise, and Autumn term has been a busy one for them. If you can spare any time or can offer to get involved in just one event, please contact the chair, Serena Cottee at pta@themill-tkat.org

Staff goodbye

We say goodbye, good luck and an enormous thank you to Mrs France, one of our teaching assistants and Mums. She has worked at The Mill for six years, and has been part of our KS1 team that teaches our youngest children to read-so she has had a real impact on many lives and will be greatly missed. She goes on to run her own beauty business and has already got hundreds of bookings!

Parent survey

Thank you to all of you who completed our parent survey. Results of the survey to be shared in the new year. We will repeat the survey in Spring term. The results were very positive and your feedback for what we can improve will help us to keep getting better.

All that remains for me to say on behalf of us all at The Mill is Happy Christmas 2019, enjoy a peaceful (and hopefully a little bit restful) break and best wishes for 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Sophie Gosden
Headteacher