



MBHS PRIMARY FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

Friday 8th October 2021

Message from the Leadership Team

We have reached the end of another busy week, one which has seen a number of visitors across our federation. All those who have been on our two sites have been really complementary about the children, particularly the way in which they are enthused by and excited to talk about their learning. We have also had some positive feedback from our visitors about the work of the staff across both sites, the quality of the relationships they have built with the children, their commitment to support all children as best they can, and their thoughtful approach to their roles. A big thanks goes to our hard-working staff as we near the end of this first half term.

We had a wonderful day yesterday with children across the federation dressing up for our Super Hero day! There were many different costumes across the two school sites including some Marvel and DC characters but also some 'superheroes' from real life such as doctors and family members!

The children have recently named their classes after famous authors - ask your child what their class is called. Throughout the year we will take part in special class celebration days and undertake work on these authors, including character mufti days, re-writing some of their famous stories and writing letters to them to ask for author advice.

On the subject of books, please make sure that your child brings their book folder to and from school every day. They should always have a reading-stage appropriate book in their folder and be reading it daily at home.

General reminders

Conduct Outside School

While waiting for pupils when dropping off and picking up, can we please remind parents and guardians to refrain from smoking and to use polite and child-appropriate language. Children walking into school or waiting outside should be able to do so safely, and some parent conduct at this time means this is not the case. Dogs should not be brought onto the school grounds.

A reminder too that the children are your responsibility until they enter their school sites at the time when gates are opened. A small number of children have been playing unsafely on the street outside the gates, some without adult supervision.

Please also avoid parking on double yellow lines or near the crossing point in front of the schools - traffic control and PCSOs do patrol at this time to support us in keeping children safe.

Contact books

All children have red contact books to allow for the communication of messages between home and school. Please use these if you have messages to pass on to your child's class teacher. It is not possible to speak to teachers at the beginning of the school day as they are focusing on settling their class and starting learning. You can however speak to a member of the leadership team.

Even at the end of the day, teachers must focus on safely delivering the children back to families. Please do not try to engage them in lengthy conversation. They may be able to answer brief questions, but for more significant queries, please contact our administrators who will pass your query on to the most appropriate person: high.st.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk; primary@millbayacademy.org.

Change of drop-off arrangements on the Millbay site

You will have noticed that we have changed the gate we are using at the Millbay site at drop-off time. This is to better support the calm arrival of the children to their classrooms. From now on, all children will enter the Millbay site through the gate that was previously used just by the walking bus and the year four children.

Walking Bus

As you know, we have had to make the difficult decision to restrict the walking bus to children with **primary aged** siblings over both school sites. We have been using nearly all of our support staff to ensure the walking bus children are transported safely to and from each school and, as a result, we do not have the staff in classes working with children. By reducing the service to siblings only, we can reduce the staff capacity that we need to implement the service and make sure that TAs are in class with the children.

After the half term break, from 1.11.21, we will only offer the service to the children registered for breakfast club and after school club.

Please get in touch with any queries.

Attendance

Here are the attendance results for this week. Please be reminded that children should be in school for registration by 8.55am and that the school gates open at 8.40am on both the Millbay and High Street Site. If you are not able to bring your child/ren for any reason, please inform the admin team as soon as you can on the day of absence.

Year One - Leea	85%	Year One - Will	89.3%
Year Two - Sinead	92.4%		
Year Three - Miss Gilbert	96%	Year Three - Miss Pearse	97.1%
Year Four - Craig	95.9%	Year Four - Jess	86.5%
Year Five - Ian	89.2%	Year Five - Miriam	83.6%
Year Six - Dani	92.2%	Year Six - Joe	96.6%

Well done to Y3 (Miss Pearse's class) for the best attendance this week!

Please be reminded our target is 96% attendance for all pupils - if your child is late this will add to the overall rate of absence so please ensure your child is in class at 8.55am each day.

Dates for your diary

- Thursday 14th October - Year five trip to Lydford Castle
- Thursday 21st October - Last day of half term
- Friday 22nd October - Trust INSET day

News

Every week, we share a sample of the children's learning to give you a glimpse into the classrooms. This week, enjoy photos from our exciting [year-four Roman day](#), which saw year-four welcome a real-life visitor from the past! And from last week, check out [year-five's science learning](#); the children have been getting very hands on with forces.

Web links

For up-to-date information about all aspects of our MBHS federation, please check the [Parent Hub](#) on the Millbay Academy website, which gives easy access to key information including the following:

- The School Day
- Attendance
- Term Dates
- Uniform
- School Meals
- Wrap Around Care
- Walking Bus
- Primary Learning Spaces
- The Primary Team
- How to Contact Us