

Thursday 30th March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

March 2023 Newsletter

We are very nearly at the end of the Spring Term and finish for the Easter Holiday Break at 3.20pm tomorrow - Friday 31st March. School re-opens on Monday 17th April with a reminder that gates open at 8.40am, doors open at 8.45am and ALL pupils should be IN class BY 8.50am (and not coming through the gates at 8.50am) ...thank you to all who regularly are 😊.

As you read on you will see that March in school has – as always – been busy; a lot has been happening and I don't see the Summer Term months being any quieter! (the diary dates at the end of this Newsletter might suggest this too!).

I would just like to take this space to remind all that whether it is the Summer, Autumn or Spring Term that **there is a school Dress Code** for our pupils and that irrespective of the time of year we do expect **all** to adhere to it.

There are, of course, some amendments for the Summer Term (if we do get a bout of beautifully warm weather) but essentially our school uniform has remained unchanged for many years and so what is expected is well-established...

Trousers/ skirts and pinafore dresses - Grey (not black or blue); skirts and dresses should be knee-length

Sweatshirts/cardigans - School blue, *preferably with the school logo*

Zip-up fleece - School blue with the school logo (worn as an outdoor garment)

Polo shirts - Pale blue (with or without the school logo)

Socks - Grey short or long socks, grey tights

Shoes – Black; heels should be low; no strappy sandals, knee-length boots or sports trainers with an obvious logo

In the Summer/warmer months, pupils may choose to wear:

Girls: Summer dresses - pale blue/white checked or striped; white socks are an additional option in the Summer months

Boys/girls : Shorts - grey, knee length or just above knee

The above, and what we expect pupils to wear for their PE kit, can be found on our school website: www.mountfieldslodge.leics.sch.uk and then click on the 'Parents' tab and scroll down to 'Uniform'.

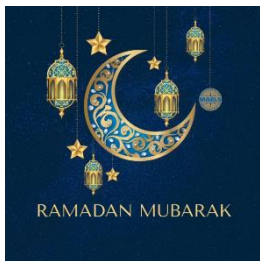
Simply, for PE Kit I will stress, once again, that football strips of 'favourite clubs' are NOT the school PE kit – nor are brightly-coloured, sparkly trainers! Enough said!



There couldn't possibly be a Newsletter without some mention of Parking...you would probably wonder what was happening if there was! I would just say that the camera car was out again last week and is booked to come out again in the coming weeks. It will be incorporating Oaklands Drive and Holt Drive in its 'drive pasts' as these are areas that we are having reports of parking problems in; please be aware. Parking a short distance away from school and walking the last couple of minutes is always going to be the 'best bet'.

Mrs Mock and I were only commenting last week on how beautiful the walk along The Greenbelt is for many of our pupils walking to and from school; I am sure you will agree, if you come that way, that at this time of the year it looks lovely. Parking a little way from the school and walking along here makes a unique start to the school day.

At any time of the year is school, there is movement of staff in schools, and in a school with a staff of 96 that is highly likely. To this end there will be a new face on the Office Reception desk when we return on Monday 17th...**Mrs Brown** will be replacing Mrs Alexander-Hardy each Monday and Tuesday as sadly Mrs Alexander-Hardy is leaving us. Our sincerest thanks go to her for being part of our team for a number of years; she will certainly be missed. Someone else who will very much be missed is Mrs Ghent, our Pupil Mentor. Mrs Ghent has been with us for 18 years and is a valued member of our staff team. We, of course, wish her well and hope she enjoys all that the future holds for her. **As of yet we do not have a new Pupil Mentor to take on Mrs Ghent's role, but be assured that this is something we will be looking to do.**



All that is left for me to say is '**Happy Easter**' to those who recognise this Christian festival of celebration, and a belated '**Ramadan Mubarak**' to those who celebrate this time of reflection and worship.

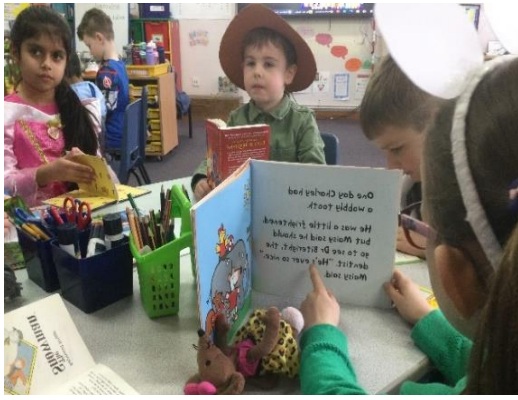


We look forward to seeing all of you back with us on **Monday 17th April.**

Kind regards,

Michael Hoare, Head Teacher

Please read on for more important information about our school:



World Book Day 2023

Thank you everyone who dressed up, donated and participated in World Book Day 2023! We had a lot going on throughout the day and everyone agreed that there was a real reading buzz around the school.

We had some fantastic and original costumes from pupils and staff, with everyone referencing their favourite books or authors. We managed to get our key stages together for assemblies in the morning and to see everyone's costumes. Our theme for the day was sharing stories together. Thank you to everyone who sent in photographs of themselves sharing stories with family, friends, pets and favoured toys. We have displayed these on our library walls so that children can see them when using the library.



Sharing stories together also happened during our break and lunchtimes with a host of staff sharing excerpts of their favourite books with children around the school.

Our mystery book swap was a huge success with children wrapping up a book to donate and sharing only the age group, genre and first line. Children delighted in choosing their new book and everyone agreed it felt a little bit like Christmas unwrapping them!



DEAR stands for Drop Everything and Read! Mr Hoare was on hand with the school hand bell, ringing it throughout the school day, after which silence drifted across the school whilst everyone, from office staff to the smallest pupils, settled down with a good book for a few minutes.



Finally at the end of the day we had a phenomenally successful 10p book stall. Thank you to those who donated books, and to those who



bought. We made **£37** which we will use to buy new books for the library.

Thank you again to those who helped make World Book Day 2023 a great success for Mountfields Lodge.

Mrs Scattergood

Sports Update

Leicestershire Schools County Cross Country Finals

Following their success in the recent Area Cross Country Trials, twelve children were selected to represent North Charnwood in the Leicestershire Schools County Cross Country Finals at Market Harborough Showground in early March. With fields of between 80-100 of the best Cross-Country runners from across the County in each of the races, our children faced some tough competition. They all raced with great enthusiasm and determination to achieve their best possible positions and despite feeling nervous, enjoyed the challenge of this higher level of competition.

Well done to all our area representatives:
Year 3's – Bea and Ralph; Year 4 – Ethel;
Year 5's – Kaiya, Georgia, Esme and Harriet; Year 6's – Elsie and Joseph.

Quicksticks Hockey Success!

Mountfields Lodge took two Year 5/6 mixed teams to the recent Quicksticks Hockey tournament which included 18 participating teams at Charnwood College. Both teams won two of their three games with our first team drawing their third game and enabling them to progress to the quarter final stage. Unfortunately, a defeat for our second team in their third game meant they were eliminated from the tournament at this point.

Our first team, spurred on by tremendous support from their team mates, beat Hall Orchard (1,0) in a tightly fought quarter final. Then some fantastic defence work by Rebecca and Frankie in our semi-finals game against Sacred Heart meant we held the game to a 1-1 score until almost the last minute when Riley scored a superbly -timed goal. A 2-1 victory led to our place in the Final against



St Paul's! With very tired legs and freezing cold hands in bitterly cold weather conditions, our team rallied again but were beaten this time (2,0 by St Paul's) but secured a well-earned silver medal.

Well done to all our players: Frankie, Riley, Tobi, Nathan, Rebecca, Macy, Tom, Dexter, Rocco, Harriet and Freya. I am so proud of how you played and also of how you all conducted yourselves on and off the pitch.

Netball Qualifiers

Seventeen teams took part in a recent Year 5/6 Netball tournament. With our Year 6's being away for their Residential trip, it was left to our Year 5's to solely fly the flag for Mountfields Lodge! Despite their lack of experience at the new BEE Netball format, they managed to win their first 2 games, draw their third and only lose one - their fourth game. This meant they finished 2nd overall in their group and so will progress to the Netball Finals night next week where we wish them lots of luck when they come up against the other 3 group leaders. Well done Harriet, Noah, Baden, Harry, Flora, Macy, Aaliyah, Aryahi and Martha.



Mrs Newport

Basketball County Finals

On Tuesday 21st March I had the pleasure to fill in for Mr Evans and take the year 5/6 basketball team to the County Finals. The event was held at the Morningside Arena in Leicester, home of the Leicester Riders Basketball team. This was a big step up with the team now facing 10' hoops for the first time in a school's competition. There was a nervous wait as the team were the third scheduled match but they soon settled and came out 8-4. The second match was a little more convincing and MFL were always in control winning 9-2. Team MFL then turned on the style with Asher finding his groove, routing their opposition 16-4. The final match in the group stage came against Kibworth who had looked impressive so far. This was a very physical encounter against a very solid defence and opportunities for both teams at a premium. This showed in the 2-2 score line that put both teams into the semi-finals. The semi-final was another close affair with MFL falling behind for the first time in the tournament but sadly their last buzzer effort was shot but was not counted, meaning we lost the match 4-3. The team had to dust themselves off quickly to this loss as they were straight into

action for the 3rd / 4th play-off match. This was another tough game at the end of a long tournament but saw MFL triumph 4-3. Well done to all the team of Harry, Noah, Kush, Tobi, Rory, Asher and Josh.

Mr Woolley

Gymnastics County Final



On Wednesday 22nd March, our Year 4 Gymnastics team travelled to Oakham Gymnastics Centre for the County Finals representing not only the school but also North Charnwood.

The competition was tough with some very talented gymnastics competing for their regions. Our team showed great commitment to the competition practising in school and also putting lots of time in at home to ensure they could remember routines. They supported each other really well and were a pleasure to be with.

The team of 4 (Anayah, Ellie, Darcy, Isabelle) faced a challenge when unfortunately, Darcy fractured a bone in her foot and was unable to compete. This meant our remaining three had to score for each event, every point counted! Darcy was still part of the team and despite her disappointment at not being able to compete she was able to support the team from the Spectators Gallery so a big thank to her.

The team were 6th overall and I was very pleased with and the scores we received; each gymnasts' individual performances showed an improvement from the first-round competition.

Well done Team Mountfields!

Y2 Residential:

On Thursday 23rd Year Two went to Beaumanor Hall. On the first afternoon, we had a 'Robin Hood' experience, during which time the children made dens, charged through woodland and tried their hand at archery. The next day, we had our Victorian experience, linked to our curriculum learning. This involved going to a Victorian classroom and finding out about how life was for a servant. Across the two days, the children engaged in a number of brilliant activities. They represented themselves and the school fantastically, throwing themselves into everything they did with gusto.

Y6 Residential See Mr Wilson/Mrs Tomlin

On March 22nd, sixty-five Year 6 children and 5 members of staff set off for Condover Hall in Shrewsbury for three days of adventure and fun.

While there, they took part in a wide range of activities from archery to abseiling, fencing to climbing and many more. The children all tried something new, with many persevering to overcome challenges. Despite the sometimes showery weather, all of the children kept up their enthusiasm and represented Mountfields Lodge superbly, behaving in a way that made everyone proud.

Here's what some of them had to say:

'Even though some of the activities were scary, everyone really enjoyed them'

'The food was yum-tastic with lots of options for everybody. We really needed it after a full day of wonderful activities.'

'I really loved the climbing wall because you could go as far as you wanted and felt safe.'

'The sensory trail was so much fun because you had to work as a team and we giggled a lot.'

'I liked the giant Cluedo because there was lots of activities to do inside the mansion to help you solve the crime.'

'I would really recommend Condover Hall to anyone because it's an exhilarating experience for anyone and everyone.'

'I really enjoyed it! I would definitely recommend it! If I had the chance to do it again I defiantly would. I loved it so much. Teachers, please book it. It is the best experience ever your class will love

it. The food is great we ate all our food in a '5 star' restaurant it was amazing! We had breakfast lunch and dinner and the opportunities were incredible. There was abseiling and archery and canoeing and giant Cluedo was fun; everyone dressed up as fruit. There was a sensory trail and there

was fencing and there was an egg protector activity. There was also a climbing wall and a buggy building competition and loads more!'

Mr Wilson, Mrs Tomlin, Miss Redgate, Mrs Harrison and Mrs Wright would like to thank the children for a fabulous three days, and the parents for helping to make it happen.

Children's Mental Health

This term Mountfields has welcomed a new member to our team. Sadie Williams is a Mental Health Practitioner employed through the Leicestershire Primary Trust and is part of a team of practitioners across the county helping to improve the mental health of our young people. There are currently 100 schools benefiting from this involvement across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.

Sadie offers support to our children who are experiencing:

- Low mood
- Worry
- Anxiety and avoidance
- Sleep difficulties

Sadie can provide techniques and strategies to support our children, either on a 1:1 basis or eventually, as the project expands, in groups. Sadie works alongside parents and staff in school.

Sadie has a team of practitioners supporting her which includes Senior Clinicians and Clinicians. Sadie is trained to deliver evidence-based early-interventions which include Low Intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (Li-CBT).

Support from Sadie comes via class teacher referrals to the SENCO in school.

More information is available here - <https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/service/mental-health-support-teams-in-schools-mhst/>

They also signpost parents to this website for self-help information

- <https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/mental-health/resources/conditions/young-people/>



Family Fund

Helping disabled children

<https://www.familyfund.org.uk>

Family Fund grants are available for families on a low income, raising a child or young person aged 17 or under with a long-term disability, disabling condition or life-limiting illness. Grants depend on available funding.

To decide if your family is eligible for a grant, Family Fund look at your income and the impact of disability on your child.

You'll also need to confirm your UK residency status if you are not a UK national (we may ask for a residency card or similar), and that the main carer has lived within the UK for six months or more.

Your income

Family Fund focuses on supporting families on a low income. You are likely to be eligible for a grant if your family's main carer receives one of the following:

- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Housing Benefit
- Pension Credit

You need to send Family Fund a copy of your most recent benefit entitlement (this can be a letter or a screenshot), showing the name of the main carer of the family, and your current address.

You can still apply if you don't receive any benefits, but we'll just need you to provide some extra information about your household income, or to speak to someone to confirm your family income and situation. Unfortunately, we are not usually able to award a grant if you have a significant level of household income, savings or capital.

Eco Committee News

As a school we are taking part in the **Great Big Spring Clean** over the last two weeks of term and are hoping that the children can not only take part in this at school but maybe in their local area too over the Easter holidays (***with parental support and advice of course!***).

Thank you for your continued support in helping to educate our/your children about litter and encouraging them to look after their environment and become 'Litter Heroes' 😊



THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

17 MARCH - 2 APRIL 2023

Join **Keep Britain Tidy** this Spring, as the **Great British Spring Clean** returns for its eighth year.

This year, we're calling on people across the country to join us, and take action to make the neighbourhoods, parks, and open spaces around us places to be proud of.

Last year, **#LitterHeroes** from around the country pulled on their gloves, grabbed their litter-pickers, and pledged to join our **#BigBagChallenge**. Together, we removed almost half a million bags of rubbish from the environment.

When we all join forces and take the same action at the same time, the difference we can make is huge. That's a difference to our planet, to the wildlife we share it with, to our communities, and to our own health and wellbeing.

Go to keepbritaintidy.org and make your pledge.

BENEFITS OF GETTING INVOLVED

85%	74%	76%
of participants felt more pride in their local area after getting involved.	of participants agreed that taking part helped to improve their mood.	of participants felt empowered to make a change for good.

THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN. **KEEP BRITAIN TIDY.**

Red Nose Day Bake Sale

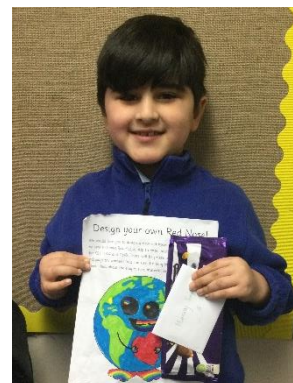
A huge thank you to all who donated cakes for the **Comic Relief Red Nose Day Bake Sale on Friday 10th March**. All the cakes that were brought into school were sold in the *cake sale frenzy* at break-time on that day!



Design a Red Nose Competition:

Well done to all that entered the red nose competition. We had a total of 90 entries and they were all wonderful. The school council chose the winners and runners up. Drum roll please.....

Year 1/2 **Winner: Manraj, Class Ruby**
Year 1/2 Runner-Up: Imad, Class Jade
Year 3/4 **Winner: Hammad, Class Quartz**
Year 3/4 Runner-Up: Jennifer, Class Onyx
Year 5/6 **Winner: Georgina, Class Larimar**
Year 5/6 Runner-Up: Charley, Class Amethyst

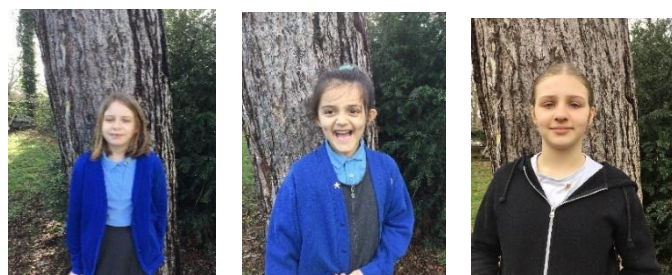


The winners' have been awarded a £5 Waterstones Voucher, and a chocolatey prize, and the runners-up received a chocolatey prize! Thanks again for all entries, the money for the entries will be well used by Comic Relief, I'm sure. We will send the winning entries off to Comic Relief to see if they will consider using one of our designs.

We raised a total amount of £526.90 for Comic Relief

Our School Council:

The School Council is a group of children elected by their classmates. There is one representative from each class in KS1 and KS2. The councillors have an important role to play in representing the voice of children from their respective classes. They meet at least fortnightly and recently have become even more involved, adding the pupil voice to the school development plans and making decisions about Red Nose Day and how the money raised would be distributed. The councillors are also going to think about some community projects for the summer term. Thank you, School Council, you are doing a great job!





It's been a busy half term with a school disco, leavers' hoodies and t-shirt orders and the preloved uniform and Krispy Kreme doughnut sale! Thank you so much for supporting these events and a special thank you to everyone who helped - we couldn't have done it without you.

We trialled new timings for the disco and it worked really well for the children. The halls were less crowded and the children still had plenty of time to enjoy themselves and spend their money at the sweet stall. We appreciate that it was a pain for parents/carers having less time between drop off and collection so thank you for your patience. We made **£713.00** from this event!



The Krispy Kreme doughnuts proved popular and made **£153.00** with the preloved uniform taking £60.60.

So, what are we doing with this money?

We've already given school £800 to help towards transport costs for the year; this has contributed towards the recent residential trips for Year 2 and Year 6 and Young Voices earlier in the term. We also contributed £1,000 towards the theatre company visit. We've ordered leavers' t-shirts for Year 6 and we'll be buying bookbags for the children starting at Mountfields after the summer. We've agreed to pay for enrichment activities for Foundation, Years 3 and 4 and 6 - we don't want to give too much away before school send out details! Other plans include a new banner flag for sports events and maintaining some of the outdoor equipment in KS1 playground.

Summer Fete - Saturday 1st July, 1-4pm

After last year's incredible event we can't wait to do it all again! Please get the date in your diary as we'd love to see you there.

Helpers We can only run this event if we get lots of helpers on the day. Please get in touch if you would like to be involved - either on the day or in the planning. Email mountfieldspsa@hotmail.co.uk or leave a message at the school office and we'll contact you.

Raffle prizes wanted

Do you have your own business or work for a company that could donate a prize to our raffle? Last year we had lots of amazing prizes and the raffle made over £2,000! We'll give a shout out to all the companies who donate on our Facebook page and in the fete programme. Last year we had 1,000 people through the gate so it's great publicity. We'd also love to hear from any businesses who would like to sponsor the fete in some way. Contact us by email or leave your details at the school office.

Easter Holiday Opportunity for Free School Meal Pupils:

The Smart Inclusive Group is a provider for Leicestershire County Council and this Easter they are providing FREE HAF Club sessions including meals for those young people who are on **"benefit" related free school meals in Loughborough** for those aged 5 years to 16 years old. There are 13,500 families in Leicestershire that are eligible and need this support.

The SMART sessions Promote positivity, healthy living and fun and active sessions throughout Easter. They are an OFSTED registered provision who state that they *'offer a safe, nurturing environment and because of their experienced SEN specialists, they are able to accommodate any young people that may require additional support.'*

To book places
email Bookings@smartinclusivegroup.co.uk

As a school we are not endorsing this organisation, although we have had a number of families access them, we are just letting you know that SMART exists, the rest is up to you!

Please see the flyer for more details



A PLACE FOR FUN & FRIENDSHIPS

WELCOME TO SMART HOLIDAY CLUB, THERAPY & RESPITE SERVICES

Your child's welfare is always our top priority!

CBT THERAPY
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
RESPITE CARE
SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SESSIONS & SUPPORT
HOLIDAY CLUB

Located at Trinity Methodist Church,
Roydon Road, Loughborough, LE11 2EH
www.smartinclusivegroup.co.uk
bookings@smartinclusivegroup.co.uk
07 79412 8224

Supporting
Motivating
Artistic
Resilient
Talent
The Inclusive Group

Diary Dates Summer 2023

Date	Event
w/b Tuesday 2/5/23	Y2 Assessment Week(s) begin (May 2023); exact test dates tba
w/b Tuesday 9/5/23	Y6 Test Week (4 days)
Monday 5/6/23	Y4 Multiplication Check (3 weeks)
Friday 9/6/23	Y5 Sleepout Under the Stars
Monday 12/6/23	Y1 Phonics Test Week (1 week)
Monday 19/6/23	EYFS Stay and Play
Monday 26/6/23	
Tuesday 20/6/23	Y3/4 Sports 'Day' 9.30am
Thursday 22/6/23	Y1/2 Sports 'Day' 9.30am
Friday 23/6/23	EYFS Sports 'Day' 9.30am
Friday 23/6/23	Y4 Sleepout Under the Stars
Wednesday 28/6/23	Hobbies Afternoon
Thursday 29/6/23	Y5/6 Sports 'Day' 9.30am
Friday 30/6/23	Reports sent home
Saturday 1/7/23	PSA Garden Party
Friday 7/7/23	Transition Day
Tuesday 11/7/23	Leavers Performance 6.30pm
Wednesday 12/7/23	Leavers Performance 2.00pm
Wednesday 12/7/23	Y6 Leavers Picnic

Although every effort is made to ensure dates are not moved, this is sometimes unavoidable and necessary.