



Spring Term 1 2024

January 8th 2024

Great Milton C of E Primary School

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Happy New Year!



Happy New Year to all of our families, we hope you have had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed some good quality family time together. I would like to thank you all for your generous gifts, cards and positive words at the end of last term.

There were lots of highlights last term, ending with the fabulous nativity and the wonderful carol service at St Mary's church.

This term has started busily and classes have hit the ground running with brilliant learning. Keep an eye on your child's class page on the [website](#) and our Instagram page for updates. The [calendar](#) on the website is also kept up to dates when new events are added.

Going forward, I will be sending regular ParentMail updates out and posting photos on Instagram, rather than collating everything into a newsletter, which is time consuming and not read by many. We will try this for the term and see which is more effective and efficient.



Welcome to new staff



A very warm welcome to Charlie, who is our new cook. Charlie spent some time in the kitchen with Zoe before the holidays and spent the INSET day yesterday organising her kitchen and getting to grips with things.

We also welcome Miss Nelms to our Support Staff Team. Lauren was successfully appointed as a TA at the end of last term and impressed us all with her knowledge, experience and positive approach to the role.

Staffing in Y4 and Y5 for the Spring Term

Have I mentioned before what a fantastic staff team I have here at Great Milton?

Sally Pietropinto will be teaching in Eagle Owls Monday to Thursday this term, with Mrs Sansom and myself covering on Fridays. Sara Marah will be teaching Boreal Owls Monday to Friday this term. I would like to thank Sally and Sara for agreeing to increase their teaching days until Easter, when we should have recruited a new year five teacher.

Kim Wells will be teaching in Tawny Owls on Mondays.

After School Club Staffing

After School Club is now being lead by Nikki Howlett and Ella Sansom. They are fully trained in Health and Safety and Safeguarding. They are supported by school staff on the following days:

Monday: Mrs Howlett; Mrs Grayshon; Miss Sansom

Tuesday: Mrs Howlett; Mrs Grayshon; Mrs Hawksworth

Wednesday: Mrs Sansom; Mrs Grayshon; Mrs Bennett.

Thursday: Mrs Sansom, Miss Sansom, Mrs Batson.

Arrangements for collection and contact:

We are setting up an extension line with our telecoms company to allow parents to contact ASC staff between 3.30-6pm. In the meantime, if you call after 4.30pm, the call will transfer to the phone in the hall after 7 rings.

In line with our on site safeguarding, all visitors must be announced and supervised at all times by a member of staff. For this reason, please press the intercom button, announce who you are collecting and wait for a member of ASC staff to bring your child to you. School staff exiting the building have been reminded not to buzz you in on their way out, so as not to breach our safeguarding procedures; this is not meant to cause offence!

School Lunches





1 - Rhubarb and apple crumble with custard (or without).




2 - Tuna pasta bake or Chunky Bean & Veggie Chilli with rice, both with vegetables.

As the week has gone on, the new ordering system has proved highly successful and more efficient during service. I know the roll out has not gone as smoothly as we were hoping (does it ever?), but I promise it will be worth it! Every child has received the lunch they had pre-ordered and Charlie has gauged the amount needed for the rest very well. I would like to thank Mrs Biel for trouble shooting all of the issues during the Christmas holidays and to thank all of you for your patience.

The hot lunches have gone down a treat this week! Wednesday's roast received a big thumbs up and Thursday's pasta bake and rhubarb and apple crumble with custard led to lots of clean plates and smiles all round.


In this cold weather, consider ordering a hot lunch for your child. You can view the menu [here](#).


National Online Safety
 #WakeUpWednesday

12 Social Media Online Safety Tips FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

With Christmas only a few weeks away, many of you will be using social media to share your excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.

- 1 DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS**
 Make sure that you set your profile to private so that people you don't know can't find you online. Always tell a trusted adult if a stranger or somebody you don't know sends you a message or a friend request.
- 2 NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW**
 Keep your personal information personal. Sometime people online aren't always who they say they are and might ask you to share things that you don't feel comfortable sharing.
- 3 DON'T SHARE EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF OTHERS ONLINE**
 This could really upset them and could get you into a lot of trouble. Always think twice before posting anything on social media and treat people online as you would in real-life.
- 4 NEVER SEND NAKED PICTURES OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS**
 This is illegal if you are under 18 and you could get into trouble with the Police. If you are being pressured by someone, always say no and tell a trusted adult. Even if you think it is innocent fun, the photo could be shared with other people and you won't be able to control who else sees it.
- 5 CREATE A POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION**
 Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of your digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real-life if it is negative.
- 6 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME**
 Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as much as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just what's on social media.
- 7 BLOCK ONLINE BULLIES**
 Sometimes people might say nasty things to you online or post offensive comments on your pictures or videos. If this happens, always tell a trusted adult who will help you block them from your profile and support you in taking further action.
- 8 REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
 If you see something on social media that you don't like, offends you or upsets you, you should always report it to a trusted adult. You should also report it to the social media app who will be able to remove the content if it is against their user policy and can block the person who posted it.
- 9 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE**
 Before downloading any new social media app, always check the age-rating. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain content that isn't safe for you to see.
- 10 ALWAYS SECURE ALL YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES WITH A PASSWORD**
 This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your profiles without your permission. Make sure your passwords are memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share them with your parents just in case you forget them.
- 11 ASK PARENTS TO SET-UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA**
 When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult to help you set it up for the first time. This will help you control who sees what you post, who can contact you and make sure you are able to enjoy using the app safely and securely.
- 12 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY**
 Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.


www.nationalonlinesafety.com
 Twitter - @natonlinesafety
 Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

Following on from my E-Safety workshops last term, I have uploaded some documents and links in this section. The workshop focused on our school approach to E-Safety, details of which I will send out in a ParentMail. You can find this information on the [E-Safety](#) page of our website. and I will be sending out weekly information via ParentMail every Wednesday. The poster will also be shared on our Instagram page. The first poster for this week is for all those who received an electronic gift for Christmas.

Alongside our regular work on E Safety throughout our curriculum, we will be celebrating National Safer Internet Day during the week beginning 6th February with Online Safety Workshops for KS1 and KS2.

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**National Online Safety**
#WakeUpWednesday

12 Social Media Online Safety Tips

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KiVa



As a KiVaSchool, we plan regular anti bullying lessons across KS2 to teach children what to do if they think they are being bullied and to empower children to stand up for themselves and others in a confident and assertive way. Our next KiVa week is 15th-19th January. You can find a parents' guide to bullying [here](#) and read all about our [KiVa programme](#) on our website. Miss Taylor and Mrs Sansom head our KiVa Team.

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The KiVa program is being implemented at our school!

KiVa stands for **against bullying or antibullying**. The KiVa program is a model funded by the Finnish ministry of education and developed by the University of Turku in order to reduce school bullying. **KiVa has been shown to reduce bullying and to increase well-being at school!** In Finland almost all elementary schools are implementing the KiVa program.

During KiVa lessons the students will learn about ways to fight bullying

KiVa is visible in many ways in the daily life at school. The students will take part in the KiVa lessons (10 lessons, each consisting of two 45-minute sessions). The lessons include discussions, group work, short films about bullying and role play. Their content proceeds from general topics such as the importance of respect in human relationships to the mechanism and consequences of bullying. Many lessons concentrate on the role a group can have in maintaining or stopping bullying; the students think about and practice different ways to resist bullying. The lessons are supplemented by the KiVa antibullying computer game. KiVa posters in the school halls ensure that the program is constantly visible.

"It's good to be at a KiVa school!"



"There's no bullying at a KiVa school"



The **KiVa Parents' Guide** is available on the KiVa website at <https://data.kivaprogram.net/parents/>

The KiVa team and the class teacher tackle the bullying cases together

Each school has a taskforce, the KiVa team, which consists of at least three teachers or other members of the school staff. Together with the class teacher they tackle the acute bullying cases. The school staff has been familiarized with ways to implement the KiVa program and to tackle bullying cases.

If you suspect your child is being bullied or you have a reason to believe that s/he is bullying others, please contact the school so that the matter can be dealt with as efficiently and as soon as possible! Discuss bullying together with your child even if s/he is not bullied or does not bully others. It is important that you and your child together think about what to do if someone is being bullied at his/her school!

www.kivaprogram.net



Turun yliopisto
University of Turku



Ministry of
Education
and Culture

Parking...





Look at the state of this poor chap! It is a good job that this is not an actual child! Look at the damage done by vehicles outside our school gates; on the yellow zig zags which should be clear at all times! These figures are the same height as some of our actual children and a lot more reflective than an actual child.

As a school we are working hard to improve the parking and traffic situation for the residents of Great Milton as well as for the safety of our whole school family. Staff are at the end of the drive daily to keep everyone safe. If you are challenged about your parking, please respond respectfully- we all need to work together! Mrs Drummond received some very unpleasant verbal abuse from 2 parents last term. **This is NOT OK.** School staff speak respectfully to all parents and we deserve the same in return.

A polite reminder...

I would like to remind all parents of the importance of safe and respectful parking through the village. As you come into the village from Wheatley (Lower End) the road is very narrow so if you park opposite a driveway, residents may get blocked in. Please be very mindful about where you park.

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters:

- The Bull has given permission to park in their car park- please use it
- Park further away and walk into school
- Car share
- Use the bus if registered to do so
- Do not park on the Zig Zags AT ANY TIME

- Drop older children at the bottom of the drive so they can walk up
- Give Y5 and Y6 permission to walk home/to the end of the drive and ease congestion in the afternoons
- Check that your car is not blocking any driveways or narrow parts of the road
- Drive slowly and carefully through the village- **20MPH is the speed limit.**

We have reopened the gate into the rec, which means you can park in the smaller roads away from the high street and walk across the rec. If you do not know the village very well, ask a parent who is more familiar. You will still drop at the gate and a member of staff will route them to the playground and into class. Please do not give your child permission to play in the park before school, especially if you are not there to supervise them. We will monitor this decision and adjust it if necessary.

Huge thanks to the vast majority of parents who are already parking carefully and respectfully.

'In Memoriam'





We had some very sad news just before the end of last term. Our colleague and friend, Chrissy Flynn, passed away suddenly during a hospital operation in Tasmania; where she moved to with her husband after leaving our school. Chrissy taught Year 5 at Great Milton for the 2018-2019 academic year. Despite being here for a short time, Chrissy had a hugely positive impact on both the children and staff alike. She was a wonderful person and will be remembered for her wisdom, her wit, her kindness, her energy and her passion for teaching young people. She will be missed by so many.

Dates for your Diary...



Dates

Additional dates will be sent out, once decisions have been made and events confirmed.

The calendar on the website is updated regularly. [Current Term Dates 2023-24](#) can be found on the website.

January 2024

Monday 8th: INSET Day

Tuesday 9th: Term Starts

Friday 12th :No Celebration Worship

Monday 15th-Friday 19th: KiVa Week 4 in school (KS2)

Tuesday 23rd: Snowy and Boreal trip to Science Oxford

February 2024

Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th: Online Safety Workshops

Friday 9th: Term ends @ 3.30pm

Monday 12th-Friday 16th: Half Term

Monday 19th: Term Starts

Friday 23rd: No Celebration Worship

Monday 19th-Friday 23rd: Kiva Week 5 in school

Wednesday 21st: Sportshall Athletics Y5/6 @ Wheatley Park School

Thursday 29th: National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) for Elf and Hawk

March 2024

Wednesday 6th: Girls football tournament @ Wheatley Park School

Monday 18th- Friday 22nd: Kiva Week 6 in school

Tuesday 26th: Snowy and Boreal Easter Performance (time TBC)

Wednesday 27th: Snowy and Boreal Easter Performance (time TBC)

Thursday 28th: Term ends @ 1.30pm.

Friday 29th- Friday 12th April: Easter Holidays

April 2024

Monday 15th: Term Starts

Friday 19th: No Celebration Worship

Tuesday 16th: Parents' Evening 4-7pm

Thursday 18th: Parents' Evening 4-7pm

Monday 22nd-Friday 26th: Hawk Owls Residential trip to Longridge

Monday 22nd-Friday 26th: KiVa Week 7 in school

May 2024

Monday 13th-Friday 17th: Y6 SATs Week

Monday 20th-Friday 24th: KiVa Week 8 in school

Friday 24th: Term ends @ 3.30pm

Monday 27th- Friday 31st: Half Term

June 2024

Monday 3rd: INSET Day

Tuesday 4th: Term Starts

Friday 7th: NO Celebration Worship

Tuesday 11th: Swimming starts for Snowy Owls

Monday 17th-21st: KiVa Week 9 in school

Wednesday 19th: Eagle and Hawk Archery @ WPS (TBC)

Wednesday 26th: Hawk Owls TopLinks @WPS

July 2024

Tuesday 2nd: Elf and Hawk Buddies trip to Science Oxford

Monday 8th- Friday 12th: KiVa Week 10 in school

Monday 8th- Friday 12th: Y6&5 Production Performances (days and times TBC)

Thursday 18th: Hawk Owls Leavers Service at St.Mary's Church, 1.45pm

Friday 19th: End of Term Celebration Worship @2pm

Wednesday 24th: Term Ends @1.30pm

September 2024

Monday 2nd -Tuesday 3rd: INSET days

Wednesday 4th: Term Starts

Contact Us



As always, please contact us via the office email address or call us.

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