

School Newsletter

June 2017



What an action-packed and memorable year it's been! Well done to all Mills students for studying, working, and playing so well together, and congratulations to our graduating K2 and K3 students. We are very proud of your achievements, and wish you success and joy as you progress to primary school and Year 1 next year.

School Director's message

Dear parents and children,

There was so much fun and learning during our recent International Day as we celebrated together and shared engaging *show and tell* presentations on countries including Australia, Cambodia, Canada, China, Greece, India, Japan, Philippines, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, and South Korea. What a whirlwind exploration of our wonderfully multicultural world!

We also joined together to congratulate our K2 and K3 students when they presented a delightful graduating ceremony on 16 June. It is a major step for the children when they progress to primary school or to K3/Year 1 at Mills, and we wish them success and joy in their new adventures. We hope they will fondly remember their journey with us at Mills. We will miss them!

All Pre-Nursery to K3 children have celebrated achievements recorded in their recent academic Progress Reports and they will soon take home their portfolios, which are brimming with vitality, creativity, and newly discovered skills and knowledge that they can extend into the future.

Many Mills and also external students have taken advantage of our popular and highly successful co-curricular programme this year, which has supported their learning in varied areas including phonics, reading, writing, science, technology, mathematics, and much more. They have achieved first-class results in the London College of Music (LCM) exams, performed on a professional theatre stage, and exhibited their artworks during the wonderful Kids' Gallery Festival Week this year too!

Throughout the year we've ensured all of our students have had abundant time to play and explore together, whilst also allowing sufficient time for them to focus on academic activities that provide the foundation skills needed as they advance to higher classes, higher expectations, and higher levels of achievement next year. I remain confident that we have prepared them well, and they are motivated and ready for the challenges ahead.



It's time now to reflect on all that we have achieved together this year and take some well deserved rest. We're already planning for 2017 – 2018 and it looks set to be another successful year as we continue to aim for excellence in all that we do at Mills!



I'd like to thank our dedicated teachers, efficient administration team, and hard working auxiliary staff, for upholding the spirit and philosophy of Mills and trying their very best to aim for excellence in all that we do for the children. Good teamwork and collaboration is central to the success of the school and I wish also to thank our parents for kindly giving their time, resources, skills, and valuable feedback to me this year. I look forward to continuing to work closely with you to ensure the very best for each and every one of our students. As the school continues to grow we are delighted to be welcoming several new teachers to Mills in August. We would also like to thank the following teachers who are leaving Mills at the end of this academic year: Ms Emma, Ms Joice, Ms Kate, and Ms Sylvia, and wish them the very best for the future.



Please note that for those of you returning to Mills for the new school year, the start dates are:

- **15 August for Pre-Nursery classes**
- **23 August for K1, K2, K3 classes**

Students joining K1, K2, and K3 may be interested in our Extended Learning Programme from 9.00am – 12 noon each day from 15 – 22 August, which will provide preparation for the coming year. Please ask if you would like further information.



Thank you for entrusting your children's education to our care this year. Enjoy your summer break, and we look forward to seeing many of you again at Mills for more hard work and play in the new academic year!

Best wishes,
Ms Deirdre

Playgroup

Dear Playgroup Junior and Playgroup parents,

This month we have enjoyed the theme of *Fabulous Food*. We've explored all of our favourite sweets and treats through some classic nursery rhymes, going grocery shopping during playtime, and creating some extra fluffy (and deliciously tempting) artwork to add to our collections!



The end of the year has come so quickly, and it has been an absolute pleasure having you and your children as a part of the class. It has been a great honour to be a part of your child's journey, and to watch their personalities develop and confidence in class continually grow.

We hope to see some of you over the summer period, and back in full swing come the new school year!

Big summer hugs,
Ms Kate



Pre-Nursery (PN)

Dear Pre-Nursery parents and children,

Our Pre-Nursery children have done so well throughout the year. They've grown and developed self-help, language, and social skills, have made new friends, and explored and learned so much through a variety of exciting and challenging experiences. It has been a great pleasure to have the children in our class this year, and we thank you for entrusting them to our care. We also thank each of our parents for giving their support and time – in the classroom, at birthday parties, and at special events. You have been a fantastic group of parents and we appreciate all that you have contributed this year!

During the final theme of the year, *Noisy – Crash Bang Boom*, the children have explored the world of musical instruments. They had fun trying to use and name different musical instruments, and it gave them an opportunity to discover which instruments require sticks, blowing, strumming, and pressing with fingers. The children also enjoyed playing musical games such as Musical Chairs, and learnt how to keep in time to beat, tempo, and volume in different songs.

In art, the children used recycled materials to create fun musical instruments including guitars and shakers. As the students are growing and becoming more mature, they are beginning to use these pretend toys to facilitate dramatic play with their peers. They are learning to develop their language and social skills, using their imagination and with the help of toys.

It has been a phenomenal year and we are so proud of all that the Pre-Nursery children have achieved. Good luck to you all for the next academic year! Have a wonderful, relaxing, and restful summer.

Lots of love,
Ms Emma, Ms Sylvia, Ms Rhawnie, and Ms Michelle



K1

Dear K1 parents and children,

It has been a wonderful year as we've witnessed the children become more mature and independent, and achieve a number of milestones. We have created a lot of memories together with all the amazing school events and fun activities that have happened in class, and it has been a pleasure to teach them.

The children have shown a lot of interest in our last theme of the year *A Long Time Ago*. They have been learning to name dinosaurs and to recognise their special features, such as spikes and claws that they used to protect themselves, and how to distinguish the different types of dinosaurs. They loved role playing with the dinosaur toys and drawing in the cave – which is their secret corner! During music and movement lessons, they have enjoyed listening to dinosaur sounds and pretending to be these two- or four-legged creatures, by stomping around in time to the musical rhythm.



Our *Alphabet Books* are now complete and we are continuing to practise singing phonics songs so that the children will remember the names and phonic sounds of the letters. They have put great effort into practising how to write the letters and made simple letter-related artworks to complete their books. It's great to see their writing skills have improved throughout this academic year. They are also more interested in exploring the sounds of the letters and words while they are reading with their friends.



Art sessions are always a delight for the children! They have been getting so much enjoyment out of their art projects and they are certainly learning how to put effort into their work. They especially loved making their dinosaur feet and tails. Over the last few weeks, they have been learning new techniques such as paper mâché, and whilst some children were a little hesitant getting 'messy' at first, they rose to the challenge and found that once they started it was lots of fun.



K1 students always make us proud! They have been helping more in class and taking responsibility for their belongings. Most of them are able to put aprons on by themselves and help each other. At the moment, they enjoy using marks, lines, shapes, and recognisable letters to create their pictures, and they always have something to say about their work.

Each child has brought something unique to the classroom this year; they have such different personalities, interests, and learning styles, and it has been wonderful to see them grow as individuals!



Hugs and kisses,
Ms Jean, Ms Wanna, and Ms Kate

K2

Dear K2 parents and children,

The year has come to an end and we have had so much fun learning and growing together. We were very fortunate to have such a lovely group of children and we can say without a doubt that the students have blossomed into independent young learners.



We are very proud of each and every one of them, and wish them the best of luck whether they are going to K3/Year 1 or primary school next year.

They had such a lovely graduation ceremony and we would like to thank them for working so hard during the rehearsals.



In the final two weeks we will be doing revision and completing the workbooks for K2. In preparation for K3/Year 1 the students will focus on their reading and writing skills. The Phonics Workbook 2 and Literacy Workbook will only be completed halfway, as the students will continue with these books during K3. For students who will continue at Mills, these books will be kept at school. Students who will leave Mills for primary school will receive these books to take home on 30 June.



We are looking forward to seeing some of the students again during our Summer Workshops and Extended Learning Programme (ELP). We hope that the children enjoy their summer holidays, and that they will be refreshed and ready for primary school and K3.



Thank you once again, to all students and parents for contributing to this year's academic activities.

Have a lovely summer holiday!
Ms Franziska and Ms Jasmine

K3

Dear K3 parents and children,

What a fantastic year it has been! K3 have been working so hard and giving their best in the final push before the year comes to an end. This month we have been focusing on our new topic of *Outer Space*.



In English, they have completed various tasks that help them with their spelling and writing of sentences. They have focused on getting to know and use different pronouns and prepositions, as well as the use of capital letters and full stops. As a class they have been working on putting things in alphabetical order. This has been tricky and has taken some time, but they are getting the hang of the steps to take when doing it. They have now completed their My Spelling Book and we have had time to do some revision also.



In Maths, they have been busy working on bar graphs, picture graphs, and how to use a tally system. They have enjoyed collecting data and have then presented the data in graph form. We have continued with our mental math activities in class, and the students have made great improvements in this area.

In Art, the class papier mâché balloons and then painted them to create planets from the solar system. These were displayed together and admired by many visitors to our classroom.



In Design and Technology, they have also had a lot of fun getting their hands messy whilst creating their very own 'magic school bus' based on a video they watched about the solar system. Each bus is unique as the students were encouraged to design something using their own ideas. They have also enjoyed using the Smartboard in class to play games related to the current topic. This was seen as a reward for good work or good behaviour.

During Science lessons, the children have been learning about the order of the planets in our solar system, as well as different facts and information about each planet.



For International Day, they enjoyed learning about different countries such as Scotland, Cambodia, Russia, and India. I held an oral quiz with them afterwards to see what they had learnt and remembered.

It has been my absolute pleasure teaching the K3 students this year. They have all worked so hard and always have the ability to put a huge smile on my face. I wish them all the best of luck as they progress to primary school and the exciting new chapter of their lives.

Kind regards,
Ms Tracy



Mandarin

Playgroup and Playgroup Junior

During the theme of *Fabulous Food*, the children learned the names of fruit including *apple, banana, strawberry, orange* and *peach* through topic-based games. They learned to sing *The Fruit Basket* song, chose their favourite fruit, put it on the plate, and told the teacher the name of it.

Sze Laoshi (Ms Yan)



Pre- Nursery

The children have been studying the theme *Noisy - Crash Bang Boom* and have learned about various instruments such as the tambourine, castanets, maracas, and piano. They have also explored the different sounds of the instruments and experienced the fun of playing them. What fun!

Sze Laoshi (Ms Yan)



K1

In this month's theme *A Long Time Ago*, the K1 children explored the world of dinosaurs. They also learnt about some Chinese artworks, such as *traditional masks, fans, and blue and white porcelain*. They learned the names of different dinosaurs and used pictures to develop an understanding of the characteristics of several common dinosaurs including *Tyrannosaurus Rex, Brachiosaurus* and *Triceratops*. During their exploration of Ancient China, they enhanced their understanding of Chinese traditional culture through Nüwa mythology, the production of Chinese masks, and the study of Chinese pictograms.

Joice Laoshi (Ms Joice)



K2

During the theme *I Can Move*, the children discovered the fun of sports through stories, games, and visual art activities. They reviewed the games we played at Sports Day and this has deepened their understanding of different sports. They practised using various sports equipment and shared information about their favourite sports with their classmates. During art activities, they learnt how to make artworks based on the shape and form of sports equipment. The K2 children have enhanced their ability to communicate and cooperate with others, and they have also learned about the importance of following rules and doing warm-ups before exercising in order to have fun and play safe.

Fan Laoshi (Ms Selina)



K3

During the theme *Outer Space*, the children learned through stories and pictures that Earth is one of the planets in the galaxy. They have also learned about the other planets in our solar system, such as Saturn, Jupiter, and Venus. The children then acted as astronauts and explored different planets. They studied the names of the planets and the Sun in Chinese, and role played landing on the Moon like the astronauts. Now they can all use Mandarin to tell us what have they seen on the Moon!



Sze Laoshi (Ms Yan)