

OLD MILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



COMMUNICATION

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@old_mill_primary_school

www.facebook.com/OldMillPrimarySchool

Our school website hosts a wealth of information about our school, including our curriculum, policies and procedures:
<https://www.oldmillprimary.co.uk/our-school>



Our communication with parents continues to be via Ping - please ensure you have the app downloaded, notifications switched on and check messages regularly.



NEWSLETTER

September 2025

MESSAGE FROM MRS. SMITH-STEWART

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very positive and happy start back after the summer and as always it is 'all systems go' here at Old Mill!

Children have used their voices to vote for the House Captains, School Councillors and Eco-Warriors for this academic year. Well done to the successful candidates. It has been lovely to see some many eager children, remember that you can always put yourself forward again next year!

There have been some lovely team building activities to welcome in the new academic year and all children are tackling their new year with enthusiastic and hard-working attitudes.

Parent meetings (Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th October) have been opened for booking. Please make sure you have booked an appointment to see your child's teacher.

We would like to see as many of the children as possible actively travelling to school in October (read more below) and we will be encouraging staff to join in as well!

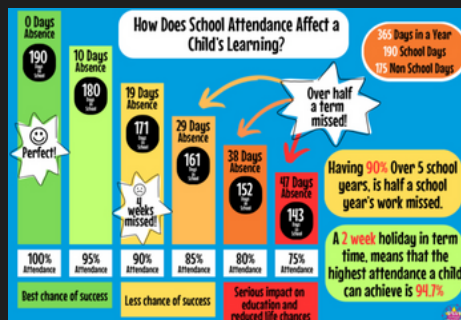
We are currently looking for equipment for a new exciting project on the playground. We would love any plastic crates, old tyres, planks of wood, dressing up clothes or old bikes/scooters. If you have any of these items, please contact the school office.

Best wishes,

Alison Smith-Stewart

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is crucial for primary children, as research shows that missing just 10% of school can significantly hinder academic progress. Pupils with high attendance rates are more likely to achieve better outcomes, with 91% of students attending regularly attaining expected standards in key subjects. Please see below this month's top attendance figures:



Week commencing 25.08.25

KS1 - 2IB 100%
KS2 - 5EJ 100%

Week commencing 01.09.25

KS1 - 2ED 100%
KS2 - 5EB 99.7%

Week commencing 08.09.25

KS1 - 2IB 100%
KS2 - 5EB 99%

Week commencing 15.09.25

KS1 - 1HS/RB 99%
KS2 - 5EJ 99.3%



HOUSE CAPTAIN ELECTIONS



Our children promoted the fundamental British Value of 'democracy' earlier this month by voting for the Year Six pupil who they wanted to represent their house as a Captain.

A selection of Year Six pupils volunteered themselves to be House Captains and then put considerable time, dedication and thought into some outstanding and motivational presentations for their House.

The hall was then transformed into a polling station and every pupil and staff member voted for their favourite candidate.

Thank you to all that took part, we are proud of each and every one of you!
However, we now have elected the successful House Captains for 2025/2026...



GRIFFIN

Leyton & Nancy



UNICORN

[Redacted] & William



PEGASUS

Eddie & Imogen



PHOENIX

Ronnie & [Redacted]



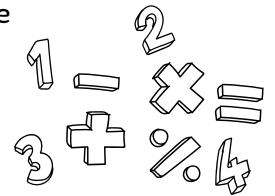
MATHS UPDATE

As you may have noticed, our Maths homework has recently changed to focus on strengthening core number and multiplication skills. In Key Stage 1, children are practising their basic number fluency through NumBots, while in Key Stage 2, the focus is on multiplication skills using Times Tables Rock Stars. This forms an important part of our school improvement plan to develop children's confidence and ability in multiplicative thinking.

Research shows that regularly recalling and practising number facts helps children to become more confident and able to apply these skills in new learning. For this reason, Maths homework will now focus solely on these areas:

- KS1: 14 minutes per week on NumBots
- KS2: 21 minutes per week on Times Tables Rock Stars

We would greatly appreciate your support in encouraging your child to complete this weekly practice. To help you further, we have attached Parent Guides for both NumBots and Times Tables Rock Stars.



EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS

Have you planned your rock star outfit? We can't wait for some amazing rock styled hair, accessories and clothing!

In the afternoon, we are planning a playground disco so we can all have a foot stomping, head banging good time!



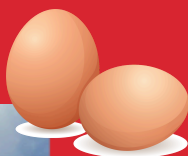
Are you ready for the halloween dicso? We look forward to seeing all your amazing outfits!



WELCOME BACK TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES!

Children have enjoyed taking part in some fun and engaging team building activities at the start of the new academic year!

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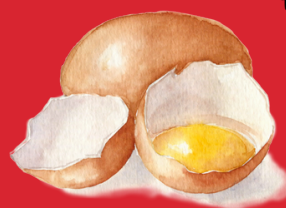


Year 4 were challenged to design a structure to protect an egg! They worked in teams to design and create their own egg protection. Mr Bolton kindly (but safely) clambered onto the roof to drop each construction, (with an egg nestled inside), off the roof and onto the concrete below! Thank you Mr Bolton! 😊

egg drop challenge



There were screams of delight which even brought Miss Howlett and Hazel out of their offices to see what all the commotion was about! Unfortunately, there was an egggy mess on the playground at the end but it was quickly cleared up by Mr Bolton. However, some children successfully protected their eggs which Mr Ahmed took home for his tea!



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Year 3 worked together, using only newspaper and tape, to create free standing towers. They discussed different ways of reinforcing paper by rolling it to make it stronger and looked at famous buildings and their structures for inspiration. The tallest tower measured was over one and a half metres! Very impressive Year 3!



SCHOOL COUNCILLORS AND ECO-WARRIORS

We are always keen for children to take an active part in making decisions about our school. This month children had the opportunity to volunteer for the important roles of Eco-Warriors and School Councillors.

Both these roles require candidates who can communicate effectively and who have initiative. Well done to the following children who were successful and we will be representing their class ...

SCHOOL COUNCILLORS...

YEAR 1

SIENNA
ERIN

YEAR 2

FREDDIE
AMELIA



YEAR 3

IZZY
TOM

YEAR 6

JACK
JOSHUA

YEAR 4

FINLEY
PHOEBE



YEAR 5

AMBER
RAIAH

ECO-WARRIORS...

YEAR 1

GEORGE
JOSHUA

YEAR 2

NOAH
LOGAN

YEAR 3

JAMES
CLARA

YEAR 4

ERIN
NANCY

YEAR 5

BEN
NOAH

YEAR 6

RIVER
LEYTON



FOREST SCHOOL NEWS...



We are excited about our new Forest School teachers, Mrs Smith and Mrs Hodder! They have spent a training week developing their skills and knowledge and they are now both qualified Forest School Leaders! Congratulations!

We can't wait to start our new Forest School sessions!



ASSEMBLY ON HEALTHY SNACKS

We had an assembly this month all about 'Snacking'!

We learnt about what makes a snack healthier and how to make sure our playtime snacks are a healthy choice.



Here are some good ideas for snacks that you can bring into school:

- a malt loaf
- plain rice cakes or crackers
- a piece of fruit
- some chopped up vegetables
- breadsticks

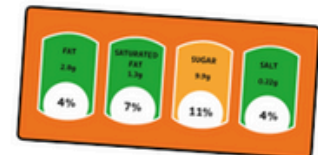
Key facts

- We should not eat too much sugar because it can cause fat to build up in our bodies. Too much sugar can also cause tooth decay.
- Kids today are eating around three times more sugar than they should!
- Half of the sugar we eat comes from unhealthy snacks and sugary drinks.



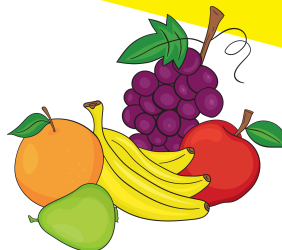
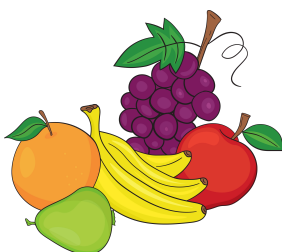
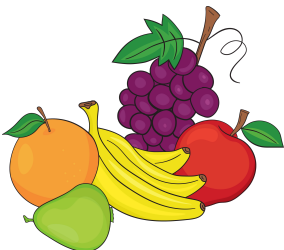
Top tips!

- Healthier snacks and drinks contain less sugar.
- If you are eating packaged snacks, try to eat no more than two per day.
- Look for snacks with **greens** and **ambers** on the label.

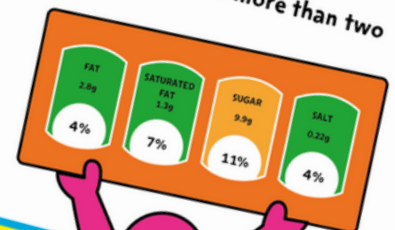


Foundation Stage and KS1 have free fruit available at breaktime and we have our Toast Club for a healthy choice.

If are bringing in your own snack, make it a healthy choice and keep it in your bag rather than your lunchbox!



If you're having packaged snacks, try to have no more than two per day.
Look for the colour coding on your food labels.
Choose snacks that have all **green**, or **green and amber**.
Try to cut down on **reds**!



RECYCLING ASSEMBLY...



We all learnt a lot from our recent recycling assembly by Bethany from Leicester County Council!

Ask your child to tell you which items can be recycled as they all listened really well.

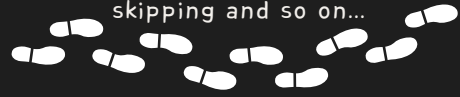
Always remember to wash out your recycling and make sure it is dry.



ACTIVE TRAVEL



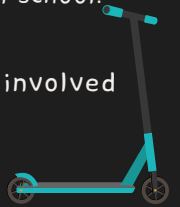
We are participating in the South Leicestershire Active Travel month! This will take place throughout October, and is an opportunity for all pupils from EYFS to year 6 to be involved. All your child needs to do is travel to school in an active way - walking, cycling, scootering, skipping and so on...



We know this may not be possible if you live further from Old Mill, but your active travel does not have to be for the whole of your journey. You could park the car and walk/skip/scooter the rest of the way.

House points (Dojos) will be awarded to each child who has actively travelled to school each morning! There will be a trophy for the most active class in school.

We would love for everybody to get involved and get active!



MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

NHS Flu vaccinations

The NHS Flu Vaccination team will be in school on Friday 10th October.

Foundation Stage Open Mornings

Do you, or someone you know, have a child due to start school in 2026? We are holding Open Mornings on Tuesday 14th October and Thursday 13th November, 9.15am - 10.30am.

If you would like to attend, please contact the school office to book your place.

Preloved Uniform Service

Don't forget about our preloved uniform service now up and running. Please make requests for uniform by emailing uniform@oldmill.leics.sch.uk and hopefully we will be able to help. We want all items to go to good use.



As ever, if you have any queries, or need help with any of the above, please contact the school office, and they'll be more than happy to help.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY Newsletter

OCTOBER 2025

The importance of physical activity

To maintain a basic level of health, the Chief Medical Officer recommends children and young people aged 5 to 18 should take part in an average of at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Taking part in Physical Activity has many benefits for children and young people, including; improving fitness, increasing concentration, building a stronger heart, bones and healthier muscles. Being regularly physically active improves self-esteem, lowers stress and encourages a better nights sleep. The NHS has further information [here](#).



Stay Active For Less!



Click [here](#) to find helpful resources and information for your family to stay active for less. Look out for our guide to local walking routes and beautiful green spaces South Leicestershire has to offer.

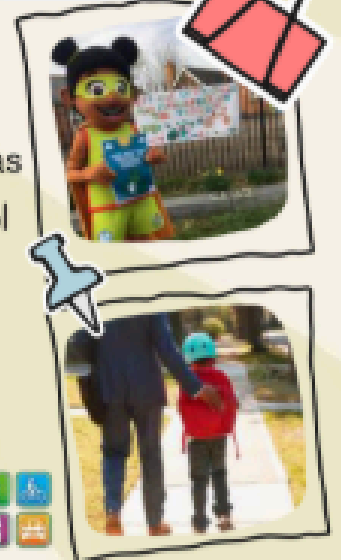
DID YOU KNOW? Only 47.8% of children currently meet the Chief Medical Officer guidelines of 60 minutes of physical activity per day.

Source: Sport England 2023/24

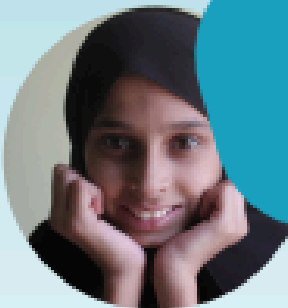
Active Travel Month

Active Travel Month takes place throughout October and we want as many pupils as possible to get involved! Actively travelling to school can increase mental alertness, energy, positive mood and self-esteem, as well as reducing stress and anxiety. It helps them feel alert and ready for the day. Cycling, walking or scooting to school also increases awareness of road safety as well as supporting the environment.

Choose how you move
in Leicestershire & Leicestershire



For free, safe and confidential advice and support from a health visitor or school nurse



**Healthy
Together
Helpline**



Call: 0300 300 3001

The Healthy Together Helpline is open to any parent or carer of primary school aged children in Leicestershire and Rutland and any parent or carer of 0-19 year old children or young people in Leicester City.

Get support on topics such as:

- healthy eating
- child development
- emotional health
- sleep advice for babies and children
- behaviour difficulties and parenting concerns
- family health
- and much more.

Calls are answered between 9am-4.30pm Monday- Friday, excluding bank holidays.

**SHAPING
SEND FUTURES**



SOCIAL PRESCRIBING
CONNECTING INTO YOUR COMMUNITY

Parent/Carer Connect



**Learning disability & SEND children and families
social prescribing drop-in support sessions:**

The last Thursday of every month

10am -11.30am

Broughton Astley Family Hub

Station Road, Broughton Astley, LE9 6PT