



What's new at Old Mill for 2026-27?

To build on our strengths as a school and on the fantastic outcomes our pupils achieved last year, please see the key areas of focus for Old Mill this academic year, as detailed in our Core Strategic Plan 2026-27. This is a plan which is shared with and agreed by our Local Governing Board and the Trustees of Symphony Learning Trust:

English	What are we doing? English is a fundamental part of our children's education, providing the essential skills they need to communicate, understand the world around them and succeed both in school now and in their future education, career and everyday life. Old Mill is now using resources from The Literacy Tree to support the teaching of both writing and spelling, in order to motivate children to write for a range of audiences and purposes using high quality, diverse children's literature by significant authors. We want to immerse pupils in a range of literary worlds and themes, heighten engagement and create curiosity through drama, discussion and debate. This will allow them to see themselves represented, and also explore the lives and experiences of others. Additionally, we want to ensure that pupils develop a secure understanding of spelling and grammar so that they can become confident, fluent and competent writers. How will we do it? • Implement a new English curriculum and teach writing using 'Writing Roots' resources and spelling using 'Spelling Seeds' resources. • Adopt a 'Teach Through a Text' pedagogy. • Select literature that is deliberately diverse, high quality and award-winning and organise them within themes so children can make deep and lasting connections. How will this benefit our pupils? • Develop confident, creative and purposeful readers, writers and communicators. • Foster a genuine love of reading through engaging, high-quality literature. • Broaden pupils' vocabulary, knowledge and understanding of the world around them. • Provide opportunities for children to see themselves represented and to explore and understand the experiences of others. • Develop pupils' ability to think critically, discuss ideas and express themselves confidently. • Support children to become independent, fluent and effective writers who can write for a range of audiences and purposes. • Develop secure spelling and grammar skills alongside creativity and self-expression. • Equip pupils with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to succeed both now and in the future.
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Presentation and Feedback	What are we doing? We want to ensure we have the highest of expectations for presentation in pupil books, so that these books reflect the high-quality learning that our learners experience each day. We want to ensure that feedback is consistent across the school so that all pupils move forward in their knowledge and skills, following high quality feedback from an adult. How will we do it? • ‘We take pride in our work’: all pupils work towards this school expectation. • Consistently high expectations across the school for work in books. • Agreed presentation guidelines. • Dedicated teaching of handwriting across the school. • Revised Feedback Policy to ensure pupils receive consistent feedback on how to improve and can then action these improvements during ‘Feedforward’ time. How will this benefit our pupils? • Pupils will understand the importance of presenting their work with pride and take pride in themselves as they do this. • Pupils will be able to reflect on their learning and self-improve during feedforward time, following high quality feedback from their teacher.
Positive Attitudes and Expectations	What are we doing? We expect only the very best from our pupils in relation to their attitudes and behaviour. This encompasses their conduct (how they treat each other and the adults around them), their learning (are they giving their best? Are they taking pride in their work?) and in their respect for everyone and everything around them (including the environment). How will we do it? • All adults having the highest of expectations in relation to attitudes, conduct, learning and behaviour from all Old Millers. • Embed our routines and expectations into school life from day one (two week focus at the start of term for all year groups). • Consistent implementation of our Behaviour Policy by all staff. • Consistent implementation of the five ‘Old Mill Expectations’. • Adapting class reward time so that classes are expected to work as a team and maintain the five school expectations in order to be rewarded as a class (this replaces Golden Time from previous years). • Working together as a school community to expect the very best from our pupils (staff, parents, governors and pupils themselves). How will this benefit our pupils? • Children at Old Mill will have high expectations of themselves and each other, ensuring that they commit to being the best version of themselves and achieve all that they are capable of. • Old Mill children will demonstrate excellence in their behaviours and attitudes at all times, both within and outside of school. • Children at Old Mill will demonstrate a positive attitude to what they can achieve both within primary school and beyond.