



MILLBANK ACADEMY

Friday, 7th January 2022

Welcome

I would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. I would like to thank parents for their cards, kind words and the gifts that I received at the end of term.

It has been a pleasure to welcome all the children back to school and they have been excellent so far.

At the end of term, pupils were encouraged to write letters to a variety of people and I was one of the lucky recipients. In this letter, a child wrote something that I thought was really touching and resonated with my own feelings. Sumaya in Y3 Exeter wrote, "I really enjoy assembly because it makes me feel like we are united as one whole happy, gleeful family together."

We have our Year 4s going on their residential trip next week for three days (Monday-Wednesday). Miss Field, Mr Howard, Miss Barrington Haynes, Miss Steafel and Miss Kilker will be accompanying them on the trip. I am sure they will all have an excellent and exciting time.

Reminders

Could I remind parents and children that school starts at 8.35am. The main school gates open at 8.35am and will be closed at 8.40am. Anyone who arrives after that time will have to enter through the school reception area and report to Mrs Delaney, our new permanent administrator, who will mark the child as late. The children have missed so much time at school over the last two years that it is more important than ever that children come to school on time.

Please also be reminded that parents they should ensure pupils complete their reading diaries. Reading is such a key foundation stone for learning, which means pupils have to take every opportunity to read as much as possible in order to reach their full potential. We will be monitoring reading diaries over the coming term. In KS2, we expect pupils to write in their reading diaries every day summarising what they have read. In KS1, class teachers will write the children's reading books and parents should please write a brief comment every night.

Best wishes,

Mr D Ryan

Head of School



**MILLBANK
ACADEMY**
LIBERTAS PER CULTUM

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Staffing

As mentioned previously, we are delighted to announce that we have appointed a new administrator, Susan Delaney. Mrs Delaney has worked in schools for twenty years and is a qualified Nursery Nurse. We have also appointed Maria De Pavia who will be working with a child in Year 1.

As you know, we work closely with a charity named School Home Support, who employ a family practitioner to work with children and families to help them succeed both in and out of school. Last term, our family practitioner was Fatmire Bunjaku. School Home Support have let us know that she will be placed in a different school during the spring term. We are looking forward to meeting our new practitioner soon.

Enrichment opportunity for boys in Years 2 and 3

I have received an invitation from St George's School at Windsor Castle to offer the opportunity for any interested Year 2 or 3 boys to become a chorister for the day. The purpose of the invitation is to find out first-hand what life is like as a chorister at the school and chapel, and to help parents and boys decide if they would like to audition for a choristership. If any parent is interested, please let Mr Ryan know by Monday 10th January.

Enrichment for Year 3 and 4 - Performance of Tempest and Macbeth.

We have arranged visits to Pimlico Academy for our Year 3 and 4 children to observe live theatre and to take part in some workshops.

Year 3 will be watching a performance of The Tempest on Friday 14th January 2022.

Year 4 will be watching a performance of Macbeth on Friday 21st January 2022.

The performance will be unmasked, but children will be in school-based rows, with some distance between them.

After that, we would like children to take part in workshop exercises with the actors. For this, actors will be masked. Each school will be in a separate part of the hall and it is very well ventilated. After a thorough risk assessment, because of the measures put in place, we believe the risk is very low.

Key stage 1 Drama workshop

I am very grateful to Miss Webb for organising a visit from the drama company Drama4All. Please read Miss Webb's rationale for inviting the group to our school.

In Key Stage One, we understand the importance of respectful communication. This links to one of our school rules: to respect each other.

We are encouraged to share our thoughts, ideas and feelings in a kind and articulate manner. In addition to using our skills in everyday communication, we are also learning to use them within performances.

We use drama within lessons to help reinforce vocabulary and concepts. We have also participated in drama workshops. Here are some photographs of our Year One classes engaging in a session linked to their 'Space and Seasons' topic in Science.



The Year Two classes will be doing a Rainforest-themed drama workshop for the same company in **Monday 17th January 2022.**

Other Upcoming Dates and Events

January

Thursday 6th January 8:35am- Term starts

Monday 10th January-Wednesday 12th January- Year 4 Residential trip at Sayers Croft

Tuesday 11th January- KS2 SATS parent workshop for Year 6 parents- **online TEAMS**

Friday 14th January- Year 3 at Pimlico Academy for a production of The Tempest

Friday 21st January- Year 4 at Pimlico Academy for a production of Macbeth

Monday 17th January- Year 2 Drama4All workshop

Monday 17th January- Spring clubs to commence- **you will receive our clubs newsletter at the start of next week.**

Tuesday 25th January- Reception to visit Pimlico Library

February

Tuesday 1st February- Year 2 to visit Pimlico Library

Tuesday 8th February - Nursery to visit Pimlico Library

Half term holidays

Saturday 12th February until Sunday 20th February

Family holidays outside of these dates will be unauthorised