



MILLBANK ACADEMY

Friday, 14th January, 2022

Miss Field's report on Sayers Croft

This week, pupils from year 4 visited Sayers Croft on their first ever residential trip. There was a lot of excitement on the coach journey down and when we reached the centre, the pupils were raring to go and couldn't wait to get started.

After a bit of lunch and some hilarity with the bed-making task, we set out on our first adventure. Over the two days, pupils had the chance to challenge themselves with a variety of new experiences, such as leading a partner blindfolded around an obstacle course; getting lost in a maze; learning about maps whilst orienteering; reading maps with compasses; improving their hand holds on bouldering problems; and taking on the challenge trail. We explored ponds with nets and discovered wildlife, and one pupil even took a quick dip!

Pupils rose to these challenges, including the night walk in the woods, even though many had felt nervous. It was wonderful to see the pupils enjoying the outdoors and learning to be independent and take risks in the safety of the excellent Sayers Croft facilities.

Pupils forged deeper friendships, learned to work as a team and improved their communication skills. I was very proud to hear one of the Sayers Croft instructors describe the Millbank students as a polite and kind group.

Thank you, parents, for encouraging your children to go on this adventure. We return them to you exhausted but overjoyed with songs, friendships and memories that will last a lifetime (and also loads of laundry!).

I'd like to thank Mr Howard, Mrs Barrington-Haynes, Miss Kilker and Miss Steafel for their dedication,

The teachers were absolutely delighted to receive an email thanking them for looking after and caring for all the children on the trip. Here are the contents of that email:

I just wanted to say how immensely grateful X's dad and I are for all that you've done to successfully bring the children on their first residential and back. Personally I was convinced the trip would be cancelled or that staff would be unable/unwilling to go at such a volatile time, and I'd been reluctant to encourage X's excitement. That the trip went ahead and that, in his words, it was 'even better than I expected' is really a dream come true. He's come back in an insanely good mood, with many new experiences, and hasn't stopped talking (in addition to everything about the cool activities, I now know all about Miss Kilker's campfire song, Mr Howard's scary story about spellings, Miss Field's warning about playing with doors, Mrs Barrington Haynes' cool sunglasses, and Miss Steafal's very precise dietary cards). Thank you for being so attentive with medications and money-keeping for the tuck shop, and for really thoughtful touches too like the marshmallows and hot chocolate. I was also very touched seeing Mr Ryan help load the luggage onto the coach on Monday, and Dr Smith unload them today. It's clear X had a lot of adventures and felt very safe and well cared -- and it astounds me to think that you did all this amidst an Omicron crisis. You are all heroes and we are grateful beyond words.

Clothes Donations

This week, with thanks to all the parents who kindly donated second-hand clothing, we were able to make a generous donation of 33 large bags of clothing to iCollectClothes for the Heart UK Charity.

Football trials: a message from Mr Santos

Thank you to all the children who attended our football trials on Wednesday, with nearly 30 children attending. I was extremely impressed with the high standards of ability but more importantly, the great levels of teamwork and discipline on show by all children. It definitely bodes well for Millbank Academy. As I explained to the children prior to the trial, the squad will be made up of mainly Year 6 children as Year 5 will have this same opportunity next year. Due to the high levels of talent, it's been an extremely tough decision to pick a squad, especially since I can only pick a final squad of 8. A big thank you again to all the children who attended the trial. There will be plenty of other opportunities to represent Millbank Academy before the end of the school year (and not just in football).

Other Upcoming Dates and Events

January

Monday 17th January - Spring clubs to commence

Monday 17th January - Years 5 and 6 to a performance of Romeo and Juliet

Monday 17th January - Year 2 Drama4All workshop

Monday 17th January - 9.15am - Parent information meeting - Science and geography (Mr Hodgkinson) - a Teams invite will be circulated

Tuesday 18th January - 9.15am - Parent information meeting: KS2 SATs (Dr Smith) (a repeat of last week's meeting for those who missed it) - a Teams invite will be circulated

Friday 21st January – Year 4 to a performance of Macbeth (and accompanying creative workshops)

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.