

Millfields Governors Spring Term Newsletter

OFSTED

As this is the first newsletter since being rated as Outstanding by OFSTED in November it is my first public opportunity to congratulate the whole school team: Mrs Meacock, the staff, pupils, parents and governors on a fabulous and well-deserved achievement. If you haven't read the report – please do at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/115261>. It really was a huge team effort, and the reaction of the staff and children when they were given the result was the highlight of my time as a school governor.

I would especially like to thank our parents for their support – the lead inspector was very impressed by the number who completed the on-line Parent View survey (91) and with the headline that 99% would recommend the school. Similar feedback came from the face to face interviews at the school gate. I hope we get things right most of the time, and when you have concerns the school deals with them quickly and fairly. Your support for the school was fantastic. Thank You.

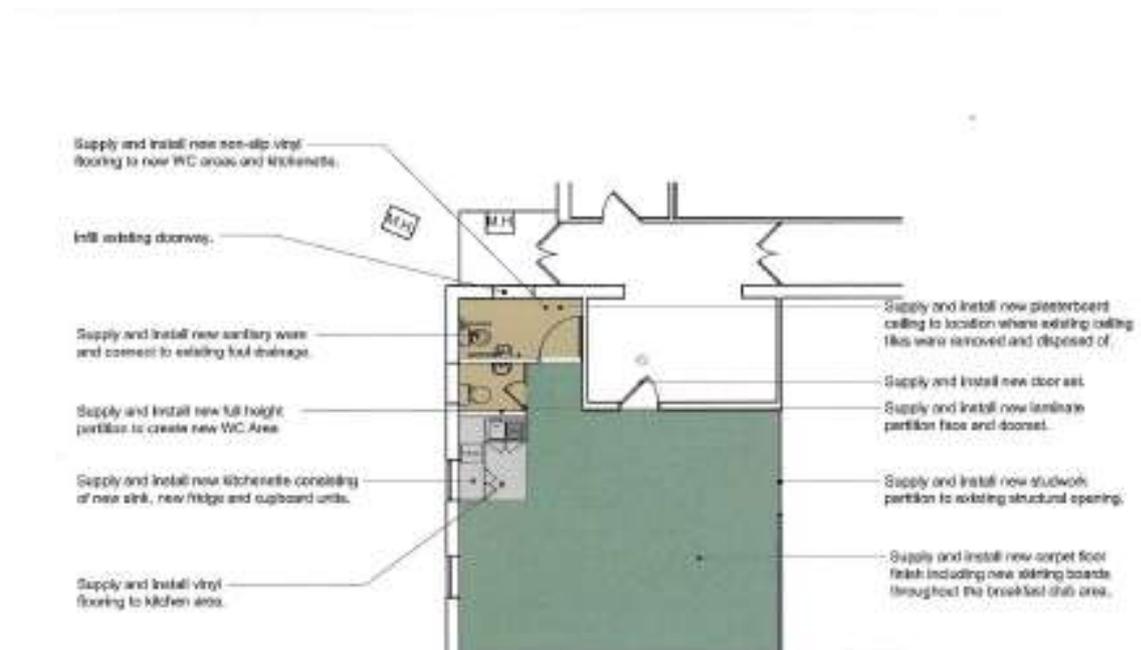
If you would like to chat to a governor about anything, we will be at the parents' evenings – come and have a tea or coffee and a biscuit with us.

Nick White

Chair of Governors

Breakfast and After School Provision

I am very pleased to be able to update you on progress with converting the library into a proper breakfast club and after-school facility with self-contained toilets and food preparation areas. This will be in the current library area with the books relocated to the space behind year 5 backing onto the courtyard. Contracts have now been let and building work will start over Easter with the facility available from the new school year. I suspect it will be very popular with working parents – so please talk to the office about places. I'd like to thank Jan Richardson – my Vice Chair - for leading the governing body on this project and Martin Melzer for his planning expertise, as we have had to go through several complex options before settling on a solution that gives us the facilities we want at a price we can afford.



Staff room revamp – Darrin Keeble

Following consultation with the staff, proposals to refresh the staff room environment were positively received at the recent Resources Committee, with approval given to go ahead with the suggested changes. These will include a newer slightly larger kitchen area, with two wall mounted microwaves, plus the introduction of a "conference" table and chairs, as well as new soft seating, an ICT desk, wall mounted pigeon holes and a spruce up of the paintwork.

This will give us a more flexible, practical space for our staff. Providing room for people to work and prepare lessons when not teaching, as well as space to take a break and enjoy their lunch. This investment in the facilities for our teaching team is long over-due and richly deserved.

There's lots going on outside the classroom... - Martin Meltzer & Leigh-Ann Munt

Gardening

The Gardening Club had a good start last summer and has been consolidating for the spring and preparing hedging between the wildlife garden and the Willows with plants donated from The Woodland Trust. Burgon and Ball have also donated some small garden tools and Thompson and Morgan has donated loads of bulbs - watch out for spring!!



Choir

The school choir have performed at: The O2 as part of a 7,500 strong children's choir, Beth Chatto Gardens with the school band, and at the Wivenhoe Church singing Christmas Carols - thanks to Mrs Barnard and other staff members that helped get them everywhere on time!



Netball

The girls are gaining confidence and enjoying themselves even though the score doesn't read as such and one match getting cancelled as the snow came down!! But hey they look smart!!



Parents - Come and support the teams - including football and to follow their schedule please check for dates on the school website.

Website – Jenny Davies

Have you looked at the school website recently? It's packed with information for parents of children in all years and you can find practically everything you need to know about Millfields on there. From the school calendar, school prospectus, term dates, after school clubs, and curriculum information, there's a link to school uniform 'online ordering' and a direct email facility to your child's teacher if you should need to contact them but are unable to come into school. This is only a fraction of the information that can be found on the website, so take a look if you have a few minutes to spare.

<http://www.millfields.essex.sch.uk/>