



MILBY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dear Milby family

Throughout the year, our dedicated teachers will continue to share highlights from their subjects - events and opportunities which have simultaneously captured the children's imaginations and supported their learning - through our regular newsletters.

I always enjoy writing the Modern Foreign Languages newsletter, taking great pleasure in being able to reflect on the successes of all of our children at Milby, from the youngest child in Reception to the oldest child in year 6.

"With languages, you are at home anywhere"

- Edward de Waal

As always, our school is full of children with a 'have a go' attitude, who wish to share their progress in a plethora of foreign languages, so be sure to click on the  symbol whenever you see it.

Well done to all of our international citizens of the future.



Auf Wiedersehen,

Mr Letts

Subject Leader for Modern Foreign Languages

Featuring:

1. Welcome
2. European Day of Languages
3. International connections
4. Spanish Club
5. Dates for your diary
6. How to contact Milby
7. Leave of absence
8. Attendance

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



Over half of the
world's population
is multilingual!

INTERESTING FACT

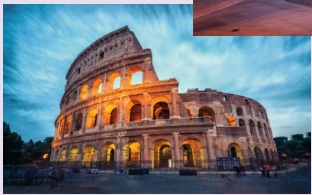


EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

MFL NEWS

Our annual celebration of the European Day of Languages is back again. Milby joins thousands of schools across the continent in recognising this special day on 26th September. Demonstrating that learning about languages is not just for older children, every year group in our school went off-timetable on Friday 26th September, focusing in on a global language. Each room was abuzz with new words and phrases and some fun cultural activities too.

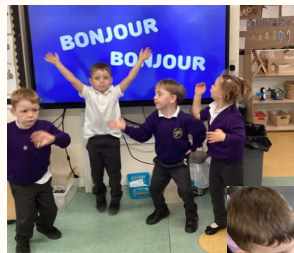
Key Stage Two were treated to a quick game of Destination X before it all started, having to guess which European country they were in, based on aural and visual clues. Perhaps you've been around Europe once or twice? Do you know where these famous landmarks are located? Answers revealed later on!



Reception
made a virtual visit to one of our closest neighbours ... France!

After singing the 'Bonjour' song, there was plenty more fun to have when colouring French flags and taste-testing croissants. Délicieux!

In year 1, the children had a blast learning some British Sign Language, which was recognised as an official language in 2022.



There was a very impressive rendition of Hickory Dickory Dock, and the children mastered the signs for hello, goodbye and thank you, amongst others.



Konnichiwa! Japanese was the focus for year 2 children this year, showing that European Day of Languages reaches across the globe. The children in 2E saw some beautiful photos from Mr Moynihan's time in Japan, and 2F tried to figure out why Japan is known as 'the land of the rising sun'. The children did a super job of writing Japanese greetings.



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

MFL NEWS

Year 3 children had the chance to learn some German, starting off with German greetings and then moving on to different colours. A particular highlight was a colour treasure hunt around the school grounds, with the children trying to spot objects coloured 'rot', 'gelb' and 'grün', amongst others. In addition, the children found out about some famous German products (did you know that Haribo is German?) and what life is like in German primary schools. Some jealous faces were spotted when it was revealed that most children finish school at lunchtime in Germany.

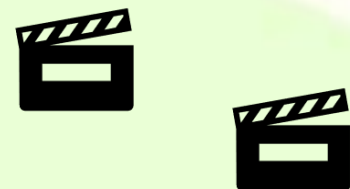
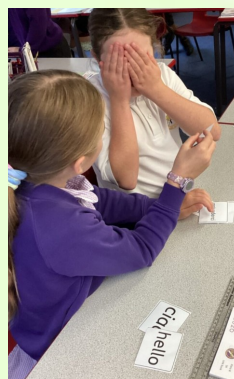
<u>My name:</u>	<u>Rot</u> scissors trays	<u>Gelb</u> post-it note	<u>Blau</u> bin map
<u>Grün</u> English book	<u>Lila</u> link book jumper	<u>Orange</u> maths book	<u>Rosa</u> water bottle
<u>Schwarz</u> laptop shoes	<u>Weiß</u> fan paper blinds	<u>Grau</u> trousers the legs on the chairs	<u>Braun</u> cupboards door



In year 4, the children took on the challenge of Mandarin. Their inner artists came to the fore, creating name cards by carefully drawing each symbol.



In year 5, our learners explored Italian through a matching game, practising the phrases 'ciao', 'buongiorno' and 'arrivederci'. After this, they put their skills to the test with an Italian song and dance routine. Sorprendente!



The language of choice for *year 6* was Spanish. They found out what life would be like if they attended a Spanish primary school, spotting plenty of similarities and differences.

HOLA



MFL NEWS

We are extremely excited to share that Milby has partnered up with a school in France!

St. Benoit is an elementary school based in the centre of Paris, only a stone's throw away from the Louvre Museum.



St. Benoit has a strong focus on bilingualism, teaching English as a foreign language from the moment the children start school. Many activities are taught in the English language which supports their progress, and St. Benoit already has an existing partnership with Stanford University in the US.

We are eagerly anticipating the amazing opportunities that this partnership can offer. To begin with, year 3 pupils will engage with a penpal project, exchanging letters and cards with their Parisian counterparts. Looking to the future, we hope to extend this further by including additional year groups. We will keep you posted.



St. Benoit - main building



St. Benoit - playground

Spanish club returns. Children in year 3 and 4 have dived into a fantastic extra-curricular opportunity, namely learning some basic Spanish.

Lots of games have been played, and here is a picture from our most recent session.



20 THINGS

YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT BIRTHDAY TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Birthday celebrations have a long history.

The **ANCIENT ROMANS** were known to celebrate birthdays with banquets, gifts, and prayers for family members, friends, and even business contacts.



The tradition of **BIRTHDAY CAKES** dates back even longer to ancient Greece, where moon-shaped cakes were offered to Artemis (the Goddess of, among others, childbirth).

1=2

Whereas in Western cultures, you celebrate your first birthday after living for a year, in **CHINA**, at birth you are already considered to be a one year old. So, on your first birthday, you turn two!

In **POLAND**, name days can be even more important than birthdays. Each day of the calendar is linked to specific names – so you could even get to celebrate twice!

BABY FORTUNE TELLING IN MALTA

The Maltese tradition of the 'Quċċija' takes place on a child's first birthday: a number of items are laid out on the floor, and the child is encouraged to crawl to them and pick one. The objects symbolise various professions, and whichever one they pick is believed to foretell their future career.



In **DENMARK**, birthdays can start with a magical surprise! Whilst the birthday child is still asleep, the family quietly fill their room with gifts, so the child awakens to a delightful birthday bonanza.

'Nose greasing' is a popular tradition in parts of **EASTERN CANADA**. The birthday boy or girl has their nose buttered, so that it is too slippery for bad luck. The bad news is that the amount of butter used increases as you get older!

In **BRAZIL**, after singing "Parabéns pra você", the Brazilian Portuguese version of 'Happy Birthday', it is common to add a few extra chants (É pique! ... É hora! ... Rátim-bum!) and then, everyone shouts the name of the child whose birthday it is as many times as their age!

PROBABLY THE WORLD'S BEST-KNOWN SONG!

"Happy Birthday to You" was originally written in 1893 as "Good Morning to All" by two American sisters, Mildred and Patty Hill. Although the notes were retained, the lyrics were later changed to "Happy Birthday to You".



In **MEXICO**, no birthday party is complete without a piñata! Kids are blindfolded and take turns swinging at it with a stick until it bursts open, spilling candy and treats for everyone to share.

In **ITALY**, it is customary to open your birthday present as soon as you receive it, in the presence of the person who gave it to you. It may be considered rude to put the gift aside and open it later!



Koningsdag (King's Day) or Koninginnedag (Queen's day) is a national holiday in the **NETHERLANDS** and is a celebration for everyone of the reigning Monarch's birthday. It is a tradition to wear orange on the day.

In countries like **ITALY, SERBIA, SPAIN, AND HUNGARY**, it is common for the birthday boy or girl to receive one 'gentle' tug on the earlobe for each year of their age. If you think that sounds painful, just look at our next tradition!

In **IRELAND**, it is traditional to give the lucky child birthday bumps! The child is held by their arms and legs and hoisted up and down in the air for the number of times equal to their age, plus one or two for 'luck' – for more lively birthday parties this can be a painful experience!



In **LITHUANIA**, a similar tradition exists where friends and family lift the birthday child in a chair as many times as their age, all while cheering and celebrating!

In **JAPAN**, gifts are traditionally wrapped in beautiful paper or fabric on birthdays, highlighting the importance of presentation and thoughtfulness.

100

Reaching a century can be a noble occasion in many cultures. In the **UNITED KINGDOM**, you will receive a congratulatory message from the King or Queen on your 100th birthday and from 105 on, you receive a message each year!

WHO INVITES WHO?

In some countries like Italy and Germany, the person celebrating their birthday buys drinks for their friends or organises the party. In other countries, such as the USA, it is more common for friends to share the cost. Be sure to check on the common practice when you go to a birthday party in a different country!

FOREVER YOUNG



One way to stay young is to be born in a leap year on 29 February – then, technically speaking, you only have a birthday once every four years! The downside is that you might not receive many birthday presents...

25 years

European Day of Languages
26 September



WWW.COE.INT/EDL #COEEDL

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

At Milby Primary School, our whole school attendance target is 97%. Currently, our whole school attendance is 96.9%. Thank you to all of our families for helping us to drive good attendance.

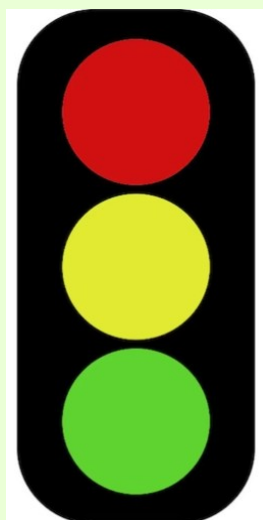
Our attendance stars for the month of September are:

2E with 99.1% - congratulations 2E

Year 5 with 97.6%

Yellow house with 99.7%

During the month of September, 296 children achieved 100% attendance - well done!



Red zone - below 90% - action required, attendance will be monitored

Amber zone - 90% - 95.9% - attendance is a cause for concern and requires improvement

Green zone - 96% and above - good to excellent school attendance

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

October half term **Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October 2025**

Autumn pupil progress evening (1) **Wednesday 5th November 2025**

Autumn pupil progress evening (2) **Tuesday 11th November 2025**

Whole school flu vaccinations **Friday 12th December 2025**

Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day **Wednesday 17th December 2025**

Christmas holiday **Monday 22nd December 2025 - Friday 2nd January 2026**

Training day (school closed to pupils) **Monday 5th January 2026**

February half term **Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February 2026**

Spring pupil progress evening (1) **Wednesday 18th March 2026**

Spring pupil progress evening (2) **Tuesday 24th March 2026**

Easter holiday **Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April 2026**

Training day (school closed to pupils) **Monday 13th April 2026**

May half term **Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026**

County induction day **Wednesday 8th July 2026**

Training day (school closed to pupils) **Monday 20th July 2026**

Please refer to our website for the most up to date **calendar**.

<https://www.milby.warwickshire.sch.uk/topic/news-and-events>

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LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME — UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (*Platt v Isle of Wright* 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Headteacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent i.e. the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME — UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).

- o First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.

- o Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.

- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.