

MILBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Inspire - Learn - Succeed



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WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear parents and carers

Once again, it is my pleasure to be asked to write the first subject newsletter of the academic year. Our school curriculum is at the heart of everything we do, supporting children to know more and remember more. There is something rather special about hearing a child confidently use a word or phrase in a language which is not their own. It is a small moment, but one which can open the door to a much wider world.

"The limits of my language mean the limits of my world"
- LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN

At Milby, we want our children to see languages as something to be enjoyed, explored and shared. It has been wonderful to see children developing their understanding of the many cultures and communities which make up our world. It's never too late, and never too early, to try out a new language - this has been proven by the children from Reception to Year 6 who have embraced their inner linguist this term.

This newsletter celebrates a selection of their achievements, and there have been plenty of moments that have made me smile. I hope you enjoy finding out more about their language learning – and perhaps even pick up a word or two yourself!



It is not just animals that are endangered... some languages are too! Taushiro, Kusunda and Ainu are examples of global languages at risk of extinction.



Arrivederci,

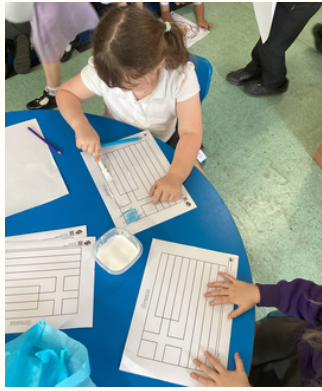
Mr Letts
Subject Leader for
Modern Foreign Languages

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

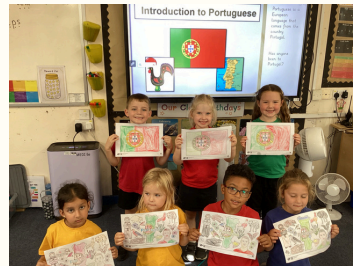
Across our school, foreign languages have come to the forefront! We celebrated European Day of Languages on Friday 25th September, with an afternoon off-timetable. Check out our photos below.

Greek	Portuguese	Japanese	German	Italian	Welsh	Spanish
Γειά σου	Olá	こんにちは	Hallo	Ciao	Helo	Hola

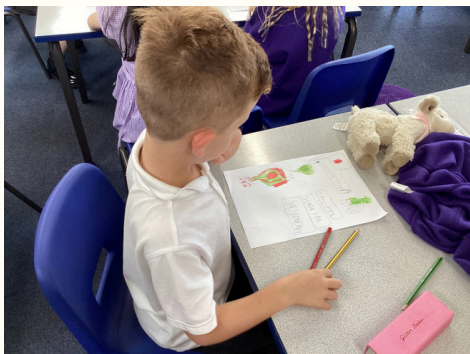
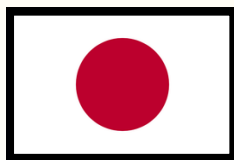
In Reception, the children have been learning Greek. They had fun making Greek flags using paint and tissue paper, learned how to say hello and even did some Greek dancing!



Year 1 have been learning about Portuguese. With a focus on South America, the children thought about life in Brazil and had a go at speaking in Portuguese.

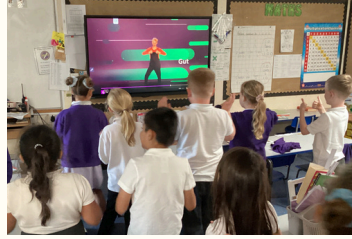


In Year 2, Japanese was the focus of their afternoon - they did this by considering the meaning of the Japanese flag before then turning their hands to some Japanese artwork.

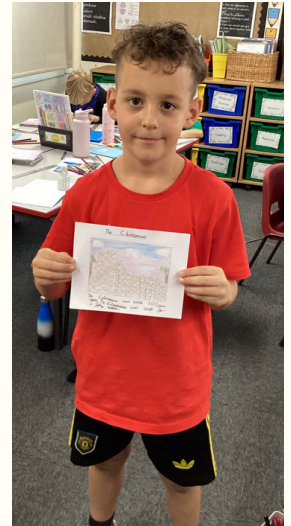
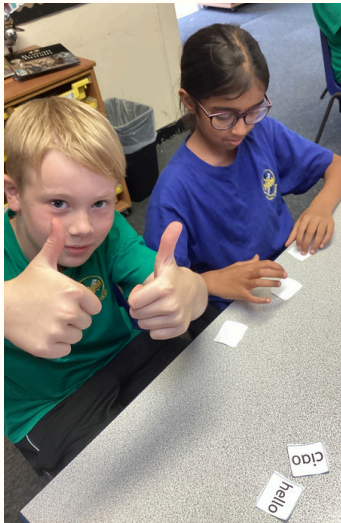


EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

German has been the language of choice in Year 3, with the children taking part in a colour treasure hunt and a school comparison: Germany vs UK.



Year 4 have been exploring the language of Italy: Italian! They had a wonderful time learning a song and dance routine as well as exploring some famous Italian landmarks.



Year 5 stayed slightly closer to home, challenging themselves with the tricky pronunciation of Welsh! After trying some Welsh cakes and exploring a legend from Welsh mythology, the children had a creative afternoon of designing mythical beasts, drawing Celtic knots and calligrams.



I really enjoyed the Welsh cake, I'd never tried one before and it was delicious.

Some of the words in Welsh are really hard to pronounce. For example, 'll' sounds a bit more like 'cl'.



The Welsh myth of Blodeuwedd surprised me ... the ending has a big twist that I wasn't expecting!

Spanish was Year 6's focus... the children challenged themselves to create their own Spanish festival, having already found out about La Tomatina, the infamous tomato-throwing festival in Buñol.



I loved learning about La Tomatina - especially the rule where people have to squash the tomatoes first before throwing them at people!



I particularly enjoyed the learning we did about different idioms that other countries use - I was great at guessing them!

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD

I am pleased to announce that, since the last time I sat down to write a newsletter, Milby has been awarded with the British Council's International School Award - Intermediate Level!

This prestigious award marks Milby's efforts to support children in gaining the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work in today's world.

Shannon West, Head of UK Schools for the British Council, said: "Milby's international work has earned the school well-deserved recognition. Milby has shown commitment to developing international work and sharing excellent classroom practice and resources. This is enriching education for its pupils, and their excellent collaborative projects with partner schools overseas are bringing the world into their classrooms."



International School Award

Certificate

This is to certify that

Milby Primary School

has achieved

Intermediate level
Developing internationalism

Scott McDonald
Chief Executive, British Council



MILBY'S PARTNER SCHOOL IN FRANCE



Back in autumn 2025, Year 3 started a very exciting project. Milby made an international connection with Saint-Benoît, an elementary school in the centre of Paris, just the other side of the River Seine from the Louvre Museum.

Year 3 children were all matched up with a French penpal, and relished every moment of it. The children created Christmas cards, drew self-portraits and even penned bilingual letters. Throughout the entire project, they applied their French language knowledge and learned a great deal about how life is different across the channel.

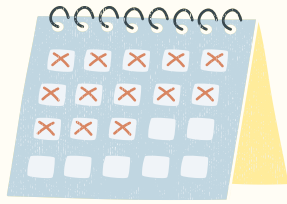
The highlight of the penpal project came in the summer term - we had two videocalls with Saint-Benoît, getting to meet our penpals in person for the first time... how exciting!

A couple of children managed to find Saint-Benoît in real life while visiting France on holiday, as did our wonderful teaching assistant Miss Azzaro.

"My favourite part was creating a Christmas card for my penpal, and I loved thinking of questions to ask my penpal during our videocall." Megan

"I really enjoyed sending a self-portrait to my penpal, and I loved seeing the self-portrait my penpal sent back to me. His name was Karel." Zach L

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Come along and shine!

Wake up, get ready, off we go,
To school where we can learn and
grow!

Books to read and games to play,
Friends to see along the way!
Come to school, come every day,
Learn, laugh, grow and play!

Every day is full of fun—
Come along and join everyone!
A little bit of learning here,
A little bit of friendship there,
Each day helps us shine and grow—
Every day counts, so off we go!

Whole school



97%

Our whole school attendance target. Currently
at Milby Primary School, our whole school
attendance is **98%**.



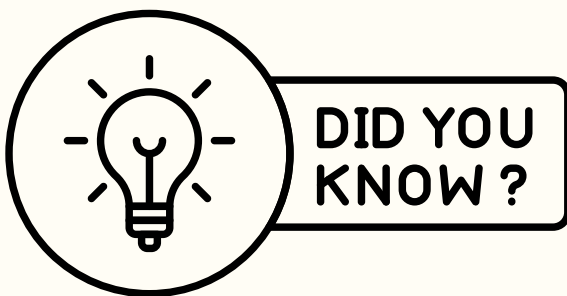
99%



99%

100%

275
children



You can find further information on
school attendance by visiting the
Warwickshire County Council website?
Please click on the link below to view
the school attendance guidance for
parents and carers:

[WCC School attendance guidance for
parents and carers](#)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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 Wight 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'.

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).

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.

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.



CONTACT US

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UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

Year 4 trip to Lunt Roman Fort Friday 2nd October 2026

Reception & key stage 1 spooky party Thursday 15th October 2026

Key stage 2 spooky disco Friday 16th October 2026

Year 3 trip to Compton Verney Tuesday 20th October 2026

Open evening for September 2027 intake Tuesday 20th October 2026

Open evening for September 2027 intake Thursday 22nd October 2026

October half term Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October 2026

Pupil progress evening Wednesday 4th November 2026

Pupil progress evening Tuesday 10th November 2026

Children in Need Friday 13th November 2026

Christmas holiday Monday 21st December 2026 - Friday 1st January 2027

Teacher training day Monday 4th January 2027

Year 5 residential Thursday 11th February - Friday 12th February 2027

February half term Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February 2027

Teacher training day Thursday 25th March 2027

Good Friday Friday 26th March 2027

Easter holiday Monday 29th March - Friday 9th April 2027

Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2027

Teacher training day Friday 28th May 2027

May half term Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2027

Year 6 residential Wednesday 23rd June - Friday 25th June 2027

County induction day Wednesday 7th July 2027

Summer holiday begins on Thursday 22nd July 2027



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



[School website - news and events](#)

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