

# LMS Matters

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Dear Parents and Carers

It was such a pleasure to be part of the **PALS XMAS FAYRE** last Friday. The whole event had an amazing family feel and was absolutely packed with children and families. There was an amazing selection of things to buy and take part in and of course, a chance to see the big man himself, Father Christmas. None of this would be possible without our amazing **PALS** who put so much time and effort into our school and most importantly raise much needed funds for the children. Thanks you so much to **PALS** for their efforts, to the staff who gave up their time and to you and your families for attending. I will update you with the amount raised as soon as I hear.

We also took part in **NATIONAL CHRISTMAS JUMPER** day this week, bringing a bit of Christmas cheer to the school. It was lovely to see the joy and excitement on children's and staff faces (not Miss Furneaux or me of course). We didn't ask for donations and just wanted to start our run up to Christmas in a lovely way. However, if your child has grown out of their jumper and you would like to donate it to us, we are putting a collection together so that if children forget to wear one, we have a supply for them to wear if they want to. Please drop them into the school office.

Did you know that **MILTON KEYNES DONS WOMEN'S TEAM** are preparing for their biggest game of the season so far, in the 3rd round of the Adobe Women's FA Cup against Barclays Women's Championship outfit, Birmingham City Women? Date: Sunday 10th December 2023, Time: 15:00pm KO, Location: Stadium MK, Price: Adults [£5.00], Under 17s [£3.00] Link: [Mk Dons Women v Birmingham City Women - MyProVenue™ \(tickets.com\)](https://www.myprovenue.com/tickets/Mk-Dons-Women-v-Birmingham-City-Women)

Our **CHRISTMAS POST BOX** will be open for Christmas card deliveries from **MONDAY**. If children would like to send cards to each other, then pop them into the post box which is in the **FOYER** and our Year 6 elves will sort and deliver them in the afternoon. Please ensure that each card has the child's name and class on it or we cannot guarantee delivery. Please also note that the school **CANNOT** give out class lists of names due to **SAFEGUARDING** and **GDPR** so please don't be offended if you ask and are told no. Thanks in advance.

Would any of our **MALE CARERS/DADS/GRANDDADS** be interested in our new "**DADS**" **CLUB** (actual name to be confirmed)? We are hoping to launch it next term on a Friday morning. Our "Dads" Group will aim to provide a safe, inclusive and fun environment where fathers and father figures can learn, share and connect with each other. Being part of our "Dads" Group is a great way to meet new people, be part of the school community and be part of a supportive peer group of Dads. We hope that this group will support and encourage dads and male carers to strengthen relationships with their children. The relationship between dads and their children is very important and they have a vital role to play, whether they live with their children or apart. We hope our group will provide opportunities for dads and other male carers to chat with a cuppa, improve our mental health and maybe even talk about things that make a difference to our families. Look out for full details in January.

Please don't forget our Christmas Charity this year which is **UNITYMK** (formerly known as Winter Night Shelter Milton Keynes), a local charity offering practical and emotional support for those experiencing homelessness or who are at crisis point. Please see the list of items you can donate in our Reception area. The last date for this is **Tuesday 19th December at 9am**.

Finally this week, please remember that **WE ARE HERE TO HELP** through the Christmas period. We have lots of things in our LMS larder, we can give you a meal in a box from St Mark's Meals and can also provide food vouchers for the food bank – all of these are free of charge. We also have our Girl Packs – which are a discreet support of what a girl may need.

Have a smashing weekend!

Mr Gray



Our weekly attendance trophy winners were...

## EYFS/KSI

**Newts**

who achieved

**97.3%**

## KS2

**Ferns**

who achieved

**97.7%**



**Don't forget we are on the lookout for loose parts for our new area. Please see the list further on in this newsletter.**



## Long Meadow Legends

**Tadpoles** – Thomas for impressing Mrs Ruddock in RWI & for a big improvement in managing tricky feelings

**Minnows** – Ivy for writing a sentence independently during drawing club

**Pondskaters** – Grace for fantastic evaluation of her DT robot & Ross for a brilliant “I can do” attitude.

**Sticklebacks** – Amelia for always participating in lessons & being a brilliant role model

**Newts** – Madison for showing lots of confidence in maths this week

**Frogs** – ‘Super’ Aahil for being focussed in all lessons

**Bracken** – Rishank for amazing home learning

**Hogweed** – Haniya for her positive & resilient attitude towards everything

**Foxgloves** – Oliver for fantastic understanding of negative numbers

**Hawthorn** – Zoe for great effort in writing

**Ferns** – Lily for incredible perseverance in her maths learning

**Thistles** – Anika for writing a truly suspense-filled opening to her story

**Brambles** – Dries for being an amazing talk partner & leader

**Teasels** – Mason for showing great perseverance in an investigation

### Sports Person of the Week

Kyan M for being a fantastic friend in PE last week, making sure that his group were doing the right thing and including everyone. He is a brilliant role model to others in the class!

#PROUD



# Congratulations to our Top Doodlers...

Noah C for his 50 day maths  
streak; Noah C & Hrishikesh D for  
their 50 day English streaks and  
Will G, Emma G & Charlie M for  
their 1000 day maths streaks

Well done!



**doodle**

## **LMS Safeguarding**

### **Keeping Children Safe in Sport - NSPCC**

Sport is a fantastic thing for children and young people. It helps them socialise, keeps them fit and more importantly can introduce them into an interest for life. One which will increase their quality of life far into the future, setting good habits and instilling values and self-discipline. Engaging with them in this manner can show them new directions for their lives and expand their opportunities. Unfortunately there are, as with anything, risks attached. Away matches, interactions with non-school staff such as coach drivers, out-of-school coaches and other personnel can create vulnerability windows that could be exploited. To help head off these potential problems, the NSPCC has created a page dedicated to offering guidance on how to keep pupils safe in sporting environments. To find out more please follow the link below:

**<https://thecpsu.org.uk/parents>**

## **LMS Well-being**

This week, unfortunately I have been reading the details of the Ruth Perry inquest. Ruth Perry was a Primary School Headteacher who took her own life following an Ofsted inspection which she believed would regrade her school from Outstanding to Inadequate due to a safeguarding issue. Whilst my point today is not to highlight the negatives of Ofsted, or the fact that Ruth was a headteacher like myself, my point is how interactions between people can have the gravest of consequences. Ruth's first meeting with the inspector, and his words and conduct during this interaction, broke her. It took just two hours of an Ofsted inspection on the morning of 15 November last year to dissolve Ruth Perry's capability and resolve, and turn her into a shaking, tearful wreck, barely able to speak. People who had worked alongside her for a decade said they had never seen her so upset.

How does what you say or how you say things affect other people? What if our interaction hurt someone, made someone feel inadequate, made someone not feel part of your tribe.

Just remember, we don't know what's going on inside with some people – please look out for each other.

## School Term and Bank Holiday Dates 2023 / 2024

Term	Open morning of:	Close at the end of afternoon session of:
Autumn Term 2023	Monday 4 September 2023	Friday 20 October 2023
	Monday 30 October 2023	Thursday 21 December 2023
Spring Term 2024	Tuesday 9 January 2024	Friday 16 February 2024
	Monday 26 February 2024	Thursday 28 March 2024
Summer Term 2024	Tuesday 16 April 2024	Friday 24 May 2024
	Monday 3 June 2024	Friday 19 July 2024

Training days agreed to date: (on these days children do not come to school but staff do)

Friday 1 September 2023 / Friday 22 December 2023 / Monday 8 January 2024 / Monday 15 April 2024 / Monday 22 July 2024

**Good Friday: Friday 29 March 2024**

**Easter Monday: Monday 1 April 2024**

### Autumn Term 2023

Friday 1 December	PALS Christmas Fayre
Thursday 7 December	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 12 December	KS1 & EYs Awards Assembly
Wednesday 13 December	KS2 Awards Assembly
Wednesday 13 December	PALS Movies & Munchies
Friday 15 December	Year 6 Learning Fair
Monday 18 December	Santa Run
Tuesday 19 December	KS1 Carol Concert (2.15 - 3.15pm)
Wednesday 20 December	KS1 Carol Concert (9.00 - 10.00am)
Wednesday 20 December	EYFS Performance (2.00 - 3.00pm)
Thursday 21 December	Party Day
Friday 22 December	INSET Day

# My child has anxious thoughts and feelings which are leading to school avoidance. What can parents and carers do?

This workshop for parents/carers will be led by the Educational Psychology Service. It aims to support parents and carers of school-age children and young people whose experience of anxious thoughts and feelings is leading to school avoidance. These difficulties are often referred to as Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA).

## During this session, we will cover the following:

- Helping your child with their fears and worries
- The impact on parents/carers and the importance of self-care
- Working with your child's school to create an action plan of support

## The workshop will be available to join on the following dates:

- Thursday 30th November 13:00 – 14:30
- Wednesday 31st January 10:30 – 12:00
- Wednesday 5th June 10:30 – 12:00

*You will only need to attend one date as the same workshop is repeated over the three dates. All workshops will be delivered via Microsoft Teams.*

To book your place email us on [SENDsupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:SENDsupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk) stating that you would like to attend the EBSA parent and carer workshop. An invite will be sent to your email address in the week leading up to the workshop.

<https://www.mksendlocaloffer.co.uk>

 **Milton Keynes**  
City Council

# Tried and tested loose parts



## Natural

- Wooden pennies (slices of wood about three inches thick)
- Logs of different heights and widths
- A variety of lengths of wood
- Willow or hazel rods at least 1.5m long
- Sticks – various lengths
- Stones, pebbles, cobbles.

### Manufactured wood

- Whisky barrel planters for mixing and collecting
- Pieces of decking.

### Surfaces and features

- Planted willow tunnels, dens and hedges
- Water supplied from an outside tap, a barrel pump, water butt or jerry cans with taps
- Sand (and resources for sand play and maintenance – including sieves, buckets, spades, trowels, long handled sturdy brooms, brushes, rakes etc.)
- Pebbles, pea gravel or other small stones
- Bark chips
- Mud
- Long grass
- Trees – plant now for future generations of children
- Fire pit (temporary or permanent).



## More temporary

- Chalk
- Straw bales
- Cardboard boxes and tubes – various sizes and shapes
- Leaves, feathers, shells, pine cones
- Air drying modelling clay
- Tree brushings
- Leaves
- Cones and seed pods
- Seaweed
- Plastic bottles and containers.



## Man-made

- Quick drying materials such as organza, fleece blankets and shower curtains
- Tarpaulins (various sizes, types and colours)
- Milk and bread crates
- Wooden pallets – tough ones in good condition
- Tough buckets
- Cable drums or reels
- Tubes, guttering and funnels, hosepipe, bore pipes and other pipes
- Ramps and lengths of plastics and other materials such as corrugated transparent plastic
- Nets
- Tyres – bicycle, motorbike, go-kart and car tyres
- Large shallow tray
- Trolley to aid tidying up
- Wheelbarrow
- Old suitcases or wheeled shopping bags
- Baskets for collecting and transporting
- Steering wheels
- Computer keyboards
- Old clothes for dressing up, for example, jacket suits, waistcoats and handbags
- Portable seats and things to sit on: aluminium bubble-wrap, camping mats and gardening mats.



## Useful little bits

(some may be kept by adults in pockets or bags)

- Velcro straps
- Fence clamps and hooks
- String, paracord and high visibility guy ropes
- Karabiners (from climbing or camping shops)
- Pegs of different sorts, including tent pegs
- Duct tape and masking tape.

## Winter Donation List

### Items that are in need



Shampoo  
Shower Gel  
Soap  
Snack bars  
Biscuits  
Tea  
Coffee  
Hot Chocolate (add water preferably)  
Cuppa soup  
Sugar  
Cereals  
Squash

Cake  
Bin Bags  
Chocolate  
Crisps  
Warm clothing  
Hats  
Gloves  
Back packs  
Washing up Liquid  
Dishwasher tablets  
Landry Powder / Liquid



### Items we can't use



Unfortunately, we CANNOT accept the following:  
Anything containing alcohol, medication, drugs  
Second hand socks and underwear  
Partly used and opened shampoos and toiletries  
Damaged and soiled clothing  
Bedding items – duvets, pillows etc.



### Amazon wishlist

We also have an Amazon wish list that can be found through our website at [unitymk.org/donate](https://unitymk.org/donate).

# Westcroft

## COMMUNITY LARDER



Shenley Brook End & Tattenhoe  
Parish Council

Fridays  
10am - 1pm

Westcroft Pavilion  
Cranborne Avenue  
Milton Keynes  
MK4 4GB

### What is a community larder?

A membership programme  
that provides:

- Access to surplus food
- Local business discounts
- Little larder club
- Access to other services and support
- Meet new people in a friendly environment

### Who can join?

Anyone who wants to prevent  
food waste and save money.  
It is not means tested.

### Where does the food come from?

A Didcot based charity, providing surplus  
food, training and opportunities to young  
people and organisations.

One Off  
£10  
Joining Fee



INDIVIDUAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
FROM  
£3.50  
P/WEEK

FAMILY  
MEMBERSHIP  
FROM  
£7  
P/WEEK

An **individual membership** provides up to 10 items of food per  
week, plus a selection of fruit and vegetables. (family  
membership is double that)

Want free food and a  
bunch of other benefits?

Sign up today!  
[www.softa.uk.com](http://www.softa.uk.com)

Registered Charity Number 1155783



POWERED BY





# 360 SEND Sessions

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday  
of every month  
from 3<sup>rd</sup> May

£8.95 per child  
all adults free

# Are you concerned about a pupil?



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

You do not need to wait until you have proof there is a safeguarding concern to step in. If you have a concern, please raise it as this could be the first step to protecting a child.

Staying silent because you do not have proof may leave a child exposed to danger.

Remember it is not up to you to decide whether a child has been abused **BUT** it is up to you to report concerns so that appropriate action can be taken.

**You must share your concerns without delay.**

**Concerns are to be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Leads:**



Designated Safeguarding Lead  
**Philip Gray** - Head Teacher



Designated Safeguarding Lead  
**Emma Kidd** - Deputy Head Teacher



Deputy Safeguarding Lead  
**Kerrie Evans** - Assistant Head Teacher

## Working Together to Safeguard Children

Apply online from  
1 September 2023 to 15 January 2024

You must apply by  
**15 January 2024**  
or you will  
have limited choice

# Starting school for the first time in September 2024?

For children born between  
1 September 2019 and  
31 August 2020

To access support with making an application, face to face drop-in sessions are available at Milton Keynes Central Library on the following dates between 10.00am - 2.00pm

- 20 September
- 27 September
- 11 October
- 18 October
- 25 October
- 6 December
- 13 December
- 10 January

Following dates will start from 11.30am

- 4 October
- 3 January

## Find out more at:

Starting primary or junior/middle school in September 2024 |  
Milton Keynes City Council ([milton-keynes.gov.uk](http://milton-keynes.gov.uk))

Apply here



**MK** Milton Keynes  
City Council

1029251 August 2023

## Maximise your chance of getting a preferred reception class place

### Apply on time

- The closing date is 15 January 2024
- Any applications received after this will be processed after national offer day
- A late application means you are less likely to get any of your preferences
- Notifications of the places offered will be made on 16 April 2024 (unless your application is late)

### Use all four preferences

- You can apply for up to four schools. The schools will not know in which order you have placed the preferences
- Each preference is considered in its own right, so please ensure that you give yourself four separate chances
- If more than one school is able to offer your child a place then the order of preferences is important, so ensure you list the schools in the order that you want them considered
- It's best to include your catchment school as one of your preferences, it does not need to be your first preference
- A Guide for Parents and Carers is available on our website for further guidance

### Apply online

- You can only apply online at **Citizen Portal - Sign in** ([milton-keynes.gov.uk](http://milton-keynes.gov.uk)) between 1 September 2023 and 15 January 2024
- You will be able to view, update and submit your application through the portal
- Communication with you will be quicker and your application will be secure
- You will be able to log on from 16 April 2024 to view the school that has been allocated

### Choose wisely

- Ensure you are aware of the oversubscription criteria for your preference schools. This is how all the applications will be ranked
- Don't assume you will be allocated a place at your catchment school if you don't state it as one of your preferences
- Give consideration to your secondary school liaison group, is your preferred school linked to the secondary school within your area?
- Don't assume your child will get priority just because they attend a nursery class attached to your preferred school
- Consider how you will access your school place

Admissions information for all schools is available on our website.

Starting primary or junior/middle school in September 2024 | [Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](http://Milton Keynes City Council (milton-keynes.gov.uk))



WESTCROFT

# COMMUNITY FRIDGE

A simple solution to wasting less through the sharing of good-quality food.

**Tuesdays 2pm – 4pm**  
**Westcroft Pavilion**  
**Cranbourne Avenue**  
**Westcroft**  
**MK4 4GB**

For more details, call Karen on  
**07891 818 259 / 01908 521538** or email  
**[karen.wheeler@shenleybrookend-pc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.wheeler@shenleybrookend-pc.gov.uk)**



**Mobile Top Up Shop**  
**EVERY FRIDAY!**  
**10 - 11.30AM**

MKCC Car Park, Strudwick Drive,  
Oldbrook, MK6 2TG

Call our Helpline for details: **0300 303 4933**



**Mobile Top Up Shop**  
**Every Thursday!**  
**10:00 - 11:30am**

Sir Herbert Leon Academy  
Car Park, Fern Grove, Bletchley,  
MK2 3HQ

Call our Helpline for details: **0300 303 4933**



**New Venue!!**



**Mobile Top Up Shop**  
**Every Thursday!!**  
**13:00 - 14:30pm**

Rowans Family Centre Car Park,  
Fullers Slade, MK11 2BD

Call our Helpline for details: **0300 303 4933**





**Around 50% of children will have a sleep issue at some point\***

## **WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE?**

**In partnership with Furniture Village, The Sleep Charity has launched a brand new National Sleep Helpline to ensure that everyone has access to high quality, evidence-based advice.**

## **HOW CAN THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE HELP ME?**

- Run by a team of specialist trained sleep advisors
- Offer you some practical strategies and recommend services that could help
- Ensuring you understand how sleep plays an important part in mental health wellbeing
- Listen without judgement and help you decide what next steps are right for you
- Empower you with sleep knowledge so you can understand why you might not be sleeping well and how that can change

**03303 530 541**

**Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm**

**Monday & Wednesday 9am - 11am**

POWERED BY



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**Furniture  
Village**

# mk moneylifeline

Free, confidential, impartial debt advice...

- Struggling to pay bills?
- Under pressure from creditors?
- Paying the minimum balance on your credit cards?

**WE CAN HELP!**



0300 123 5198



office@mkmoneylifeline.org.uk



www.mkmoneylifeline.org.uk

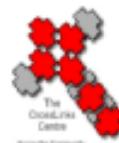
Working in association with:

**cma**  
Freedom from debt  
Hope for the future  
Community Money Advice



**SHENLEY**  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
A BAPTIST CHURCH IN MILTON KEYNES

St Mary's  
Bletchley



Tel: 0300 123 5198 / 01908 550630 • office@mkmoneylifeline.org.uk • www.mkmoneylifeline.org.uk  
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by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 07917713. Registered charity No 1146001