

OLD MILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



COMMUNICATION



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@OldMillPS



@old_mill_primary_school



www.facebook.com/OldMillPrimarySchool

Our school website hosts a wealth of information about our school, including our curriculum, policies and procedures:
<https://www.oldmillprimary.co.uk/our-school>



SchoolPing

Our communication with parents continues to be via Ping - please ensure you have the app downloaded, notifications switched on and check messages regularly.



NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back: August 2026



MESSAGE FROM MRS. SMITH-STEWART

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been wonderful to welcome all of our pupils back to school - especially our newest cohort in EYFS! Children are looking incredibly smart in both their school uniform and in their Old Mill branded hoodies on PE days. Old Millers certainly know how to impress!

I extend a warm welcome to our two new members of staff: Miss Jones in Year 1 and Mr. Campbell in Year 5.

I hope you have all received diary dates and 'What's New at Old Mill?' via Ping this week - if you haven't, please do check your messages.

By the end of next week, teachers will also have sent you 'Welcome to the Term' letters so that you have an insight into your child's learning journey this term.

Warm regards,
Alison Smith-Stewart
Head Teacher



MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

School dinners are ordered through Relish and are free to children in Foundation, Year 1 and 2 (Universal Free School meals). Years 3 upwards are charged at £3.00 a day. Dinners must be ordered before midnight the day before, via the Relish website, please.



If your child is going to be absent, please use the Ping absence reporting feature within the app.

Should any of your child's details have changed over the summer i.e. new phone number, moved house, new emergency contacts, please let the office know so that records can be updated.

Please ensure that all school uniform is labelled clearly. We have hundreds of items of lost property at the end of each term, which seems a terrible waste in these expensive times!



ENGLISH CURRICULUM

We are excited to be developing our English curriculum through Literacy Tree, a book-based approach to teaching writing and spelling. Each unit is centred around a carefully chosen, high-quality children's book, giving pupils the opportunity to become immersed in rich vocabulary, engaging stories and wonderful authors and illustrators. Through these texts, children explore language, sentence structure, punctuation and grammar before applying their learning to their own writing for a range of purposes and audiences. Our spelling teaching is closely linked, helping children to develop a secure understanding of spelling patterns, rules and word structures, while also building their confidence in using new and ambitious vocabulary. We want our children to see themselves as readers, writers and storytellers, developing a genuine love of books alongside the knowledge and skills they need to become confident, accurate and creative writers.

In future newsletters, we will share more glimpses into our classrooms, showcasing the books the children are exploring, the writing they are producing and the exciting learning taking place in English lessons... watch this space!

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

We kindly ask all parents and carers to take a few moments to read through and remind themselves of our Parent Code of Conduct, which helps us work together to keep our school a safe, welcoming and respectful place for everyone. You can find it here:

<https://www.oldmillprimary.co.uk/parent-code-of-conduct->

Thank you for your support — it really does make such a positive difference for our children and our community.



ATTENDANCE

We are incredibly proud of our whole-school attendance, which is currently in the top 10% of schools nationally! This is a fantastic achievement and one that reflects the positive culture we have created together. We believe that strong attendance starts with children enjoying coming to school, feeling safe, happy and excited about their learning, alongside the fantastic support and encouragement we receive from our parents and families. Thank you for helping us to make school a place that children want to be every day. We are looking forward to building on this success and continuing to achieve excellent attendance together throughout the year.



SAFETY REMINDERS

SAFETY
FIRST

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FIRST

Please remember that dogs are not permitted on the school site and must be left tethered outside the Station Road entrances. In addition, tethered dogs must not be in the direct path of children exiting the school grounds. Please remind your child not to approach any dogs, to avoid even playful nips!



A reminder that children are not permitted to ride bikes or scooters anywhere on the school site and we ask that they dismount at the Station Road gate. If a child cycles or scoots to school, we would ask that they are accompanied by a responsible adult and would ask that children wear helmets when on bikes. If bicycles or scooters are left on school property (at the cycle park) school cannot accept any responsibility for the safety and security of the bike or scooter.



PLEASE do not park on the school car park, unless you have a permit. Our Site Manager, Mr. Bolton, alongside the site manager from TECC 'man' the gates at the start and end of the day, to help maintain appropriate use of the car park. We appreciate that drop-off and pick-up can be quite a busy time, especially because we share a campus with Thomas Estley. However, can we once again reiterate the importance of not blocking local cul-de-sacs, driveways and entrances, as this can inconvenience those who live in our local community.



Please remember that if your child needs medicine during the school day, children are not permitted to keep or administer their own medicine. A form must be completed by the child's parent or carer, and handed into the office, requesting that a member of staff administers the medication. In addition, ALL medication must be handed into the office for safe storage and be named.



We have a number of children with food allergies in school, including severe nut allergies, and so therefore please remember that Old Mill is a nut free school. May we also take this opportunity to remind you that we encourage children to eat healthy snacks at break time. Don't forget that toast is available to order via Parent Pay at a cost of 30p.

Just a reminder to our older children who bring a mobile to school for safety when walking independently to school: as per our 'Mobile Phone Policy' (available on the school website) pupils and their parents must sign the 'code of conduct' regarding use, and adhere to the guidelines e.g. phone to be turned off upon entering school site and handed in to teachers upon entering the classroom.

This is in line with the government's statutory ban on phones which came into force on 29th June 2026.

