

**18 September 2026**

## **Headteacher's Newsletter**

### **A Great Start to the New School Year**

It has been a wonderful start to the new academic year at Millfield, and I have been incredibly proud of how quickly our children have settled back into school life. Classrooms have been full of enthusiasm, positive attitudes and real excitement for learning. Across the school, pupils have returned ready to embrace new challenges, renew friendships and make the most of the opportunities that lie ahead.

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all of the children and families who have joined the Millfield community this term, particularly those starting in Reception. Our youngest pupils have made a fantastic start and have quickly become valued members of our school family.

This week, we were also delighted to announce our Reading Champions for the term ahead. Congratulations to **Denis, Jacob, Ollie, Hallie, Florence, Ivy E, Ivy H, James, Layla, Libby and Charlie**, who were selected to represent their class as Reading Champions. We know they will be excellent role models and leaders within our school community.

The start of a new school year always brings a sense of optimism and opportunity, and it has been lovely to see our Millfield CARES values already shining through in our pupils every day.

### **Free School Meals Reminder**

The eligibility criteria for Pupil Premium and Free School Meals has changed, meaning that **more children may now qualify for free school meals**.

To ensure that every child who is entitled to this support receives it and we have the correct pupil premium numbers, please complete the below form for **all families to complete**, regardless of current eligibility. We strongly encourage everyone to return the form, as this helps ensure eligible children receive the support they are entitled to and allows the school to access valuable additional funding that directly benefits pupils.

Please complete the form here  
- <https://fiso.norfolk.gov.uk/synergy/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx/>

### **Breakfast Club Reminders**

Please be reminded that all children attending Breakfast Club must be **accompanied to the hall doors by a parent or carer**. Parents should wait until a member of staff has arrived and registered their child before leaving the school site.

This is an important safeguarding and health and safety requirement, and we ask for your full cooperation to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children.

In addition, please ensure that your child has been **booked into Breakfast Club at least 24 hours before attending**. Recently, several children have arrived without a booking, meaning staff were not expecting them. This creates difficulties with staffing, registers and safeguarding procedures.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

### Reception Open Evening – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 4.30-6.30pm

Do you have a child due to start school in September 2027, or know a family who does? Our **Reception Open Evening** is a fantastic opportunity to visit the school, meet our staff and discover what makes Millfield such a special place to learn and grow.

Please help us spread the word to friends, neighbours and family members with children who will be starting school next year.

You can also book a tour with Mrs Gatward during the day, please contact the office to arrange.

### Reading Cafés

We are delighted to continue our popular Reading Cafés this year. These sessions provide a wonderful opportunity for parents and carers to join their children in school and share a love of reading together. The dates for these are on the attached ‘important dates’ sheet.

### Family Dinner – free event

We are pleased to invite families to join us for our upcoming **Family Dinner** on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November from 5pm, where you can make pizzas and biscuits as a family and stay to eat them for dinner. **This is a free event.**

If you would like to attend, please complete the booking form: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/0tqHaFgEfR>

### Parking Considerately Around School

Thank you to the many families who help keep our children safe by parking considerately at drop-off and collection times.

A gentle reminder to please avoid parking on yellow lines, up on pavements, blocking driveways or stopping in locations that reduce visibility for children crossing the road. Small actions make a big difference in helping everyone arrive and leave school safely.

Thank you for supporting our local community.

### Upcoming Dates

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| Date                                | Event                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September | Individual and Sibling photos, YR & Y6 Photos                                 |
| Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October      | Beech – Reading Cafe – all welcome – 8:45am-9:15am – Main Hall                |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October      | Reception Phonics Information session for parents 8:45am-9:05am (in the hall) |
|                                     | Reception reading cafe (in the classroom) – 9:05am-9:45am                     |

|                                   |                                                              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October | Friends AGM – 2.30pm, School Hall                            |
| Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> October    | Elm – Reading Cafe – all welcome – 8:45am-9:15am – Main Hall |
| Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October  | Halloween Discos – see important dates sheet for info        |

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school. We are looking forward to another exciting and successful term together.

**Mrs Laura Gatward**  
**Headteacher**