

Milborne Message 27/09/19

Message from Sharon Hunt!

Staff enjoyed an informative session from Gary Wilson about writing and development, especially boys. The next session should give us lots of ideas and strategies which we can then try out and see how they work. If you hear any feedback about these from your child or notice any changes please let us know. It was great to see some of our parents there for the parent session too. Hope you found it useful. For those who couldn't make it I have tried to encapsulate the main themes below and added some links to books he has written himself or recommended which you might find interesting.

Worrying statistics:

- 85% of permanent exclusions are boys
- 90% of those in prison are male

1. Feed the boys and teach them to keep hydrated (by 10.25 am those without proper breakfast have the brain of a 70 year old)
2. Read **to** them (51% of children are read to at home and mostly by females...need male modelling of reading) 75% of children who join a library are girls. See oxford owl website for lots of free ebooks
3. Limit screen time and have two hours of downtime without screen before sleeping
4. Review media messages and clothing that shows boys/men in a negative way (ie t-shirt with picture and message 'I'm lazy and proud of it')
5. UK children are some of the most unhappiest in the world. Give love just when you know they need it
6. Support them to do Art, Drama, Music , Singing especially if peers are discouraging this.
7. Teach them to be independent from the start. Have the same expectations of boys as we do of girls. All 9 year olds should be cooking a meal a week for their family. This gives a sense of value. Lack of independence and organising skills is one of the biggest barriers to boys being successful learners
8. Give boys challenge not competition. Give them self belief, If they think they can they probably can (girls are outperforming boys at nearly every stage of school journeys in every area)
9. Boys need short term goals and short term rewards, with a system (tidying room- have 4 post-its with pick up clothes, put clean clothes away, make bed, empty laundry basket and he can pull them off each morning as he completes) Get them into clubs they enjoy and can do well in, not ones you would like them to do necessarily.
10. Teach them how to reflect and give them opportunities to do so. Teach them the language of emotions so he can talk about them and pucker your paments. Take the pressure off ie in the car or drying the dishes. Steve Biddulph's top tips are: Spend **time** with the boys, Play rough and tumble, teach them respect for women, honour tender feelings and get them to do housework

More reading :

Steve Biddulph 'Raising boys'

Help your boys succeed, Gary Wilson

Boys will be brilliant, Gary Wilson

OE afternoon and Fit Friday The children are increasingly coming into school for these activities,. Please could I ask that children wear either indoor PE kit or outdoor PE kit for both. On Wednesday afternoon children change into this as they would for PE. On Fit Friday children can come into school wearing their PE clothes.

Graphic Designer- We are planning on reviewing our values and branding and need help! If you can help or know anyone who has skills in this area, please let us know.

On this note, thank you to **Miss Grimshaw** for organising a very special session yesterday with local author **Tim Laycock**. The children really enjoyed the stories and what a great role model for aspiring male writers and enjoyment of reading. If your child was not able to purchase a book from Tim, but would still like to buy one, we have a limited supply in the office. The book costs £7.50.

Hooke Court costs and coach costs have increased this year and we are expecting the cost to be approx £160 per child (awaiting coach costs) We will soon be sending out costs and payment cards to help you manage the cost over the year. If you would like to start making payments before then please come to the office. There is a local charity organisation, **Bridge Educational Trust** who fund trips and educational resources that you can apply to as parents. I understand that the closing date for applications is 26th October. If you think you might have difficulty with the cost of the trip I would advise you to apply now at <https://www.bridgeeducationaltrust.org.uk>

We are finally ready to launch our Milborne **Facebook and Instagram** pages. You will know that I have been very reluctant to do this previously. It is, however, time for me to embrace these. We need to attract new children from a wider community and sharing positive messages on these sites seems to be an effective way of doing this. It is clearly risky too and I am asking you to actively support the school and like/share with friends to get the word out about us. We will be reviewing its use and impact. I have also attached with this newsletter the **Parents Code of Conduct** which I urge you to read carefully and abide by the content. The purpose of these sites for us, is to extend information about us to a wider group, thus raising our profile. We will continue to use email, eSchool letters home, and Tapestry for internal sharing of information.

You can find us on Facebook on <https://www.facebook.com/MilborneFirstSchool/> and on Instagram @MilborneFirstSchool.

Yours sincerely,



Sharon Hunt

Key information

- **Attendance** - Please see the attached letter regarding Attendance. This is also available on the website under the Information, Attendance section.
- **Sickness** - Please could we remind parents that if your child has been sick or has diarrhea, they will need to be kept off school for 48 hours from the last time they were sick/had watery loose stool. This is strict guidance from the Public Health Agency, Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other childcare settings. As you may be aware, in school some

children's health may not be as robust as others, so we would appreciate parents help in preventing any spread of any D&V bug that might be doing the rounds. Thank you.

- **Data Collection sheets** - Thank you to those parents who have already returned their forms. Please could any outstanding forms be returned to the office as soon as possible, even if there is no change, because this just confirms that we have current and up to date contact details for any illness or emergency. Please double check we have the correct information, especially telephone numbers and any 'Authorised Pick-up' information. Thank you.
- **Photo & Video Consent forms** - Thank you to those parents who have already returned their forms, but please could any outstanding forms be returned to the office as soon as possible. Thank you.
- **DoodleMATHS:-** Please encourage your child to complete one or more activities and collect their stars in DoodleMaths for 14 consecutive days from **Monday 23rd September to Sunday 6th October**. The school have signed up to their 14 day challenge to promote healthy learning habits in class by taking part in the 14 Day Challenge, where we encourage daily Doodling and **win a bundle of goodies worth £50!*** If children have any issues with their usernames, please try inputting it in lowercase e.g. msfane56 instead of msfaNE56
- **Breakfast and After School club Policy** - Please follow the link to the policy on our website. https://www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk/website/extended_school_policy/423700

EXTERNAL Information:-

- **Family Information Services** - Clothes and Toys Swap event, Saturday 12th October. Please see the attached flyer for more information.
- **Dorset AONB** - You can find the full list of events on our website: <https://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/landscapes-for-life-festival/>, but the specific details of the free Forest School event are below:
Forest School; Forest Bathing and Whittling - Saturday 28th September
Immerse yourself in Bonsley Wood with the forest school session for young and old alike. Find out more about hazel coppice and have a go at traditional activities such as whittling butter knives and tongs... and there is bound to be a camp fire and cuppa too! Suitable for all, including families with children age 7+. Morning or afternoon sessions Near Durweston, Blandford Forum
More information and booking (essential): <https://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/events/forest-school/>
- **Dorset Dyslexia Association** - Dyslexia event being held at St Mary's Middle School on Tuesday 8th October. Please see the attached flyer for more information.
- **Puddletown Junior Cricket club** - Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Key Dates:-

- 9th Oct - OPEN morning (New Potential parent visit)
- 10th Oct - Year 2 Tag Rugby Festival (All Year 2s)
- 11th Oct - Year 4 Science Workshop @ St Mary's (All Yr 4's)
- 14th Oct - Individual School Photos (8:10am - non school going sibling session)
- 15th Oct - Parent Consultation (booking opens on 7th Oct @ 6am)
- 17th Oct - Parent Consultation (booking opens on 7th Oct @ 6am)
- 24th Oct - Year 4 Basketball Festival (Invite only)
- 24th Oct - Harvest Festival @ Church (2:15pm start)
- 25th Oct - Reception Harvest Workshop (9am)
- **28th Oct - 1st Nov - HALF TERM Break**

- 4th Nov - INSET Day (no children at school)
- 5th Nov - Children back to school
- 15th November - Children in Need