

Millgate Classroom's Spring 2 Newsletter



The Mentor



What is the Mentor?

The Mentor shows these attributes and traits to be successful in learning

- Supportive
- Guide
- Collaborate
- Care

Head teacher's Update

We have been working on reshaping our curriculum for the last four years, striving to ensure it is fun, brave, ambitious and equips our children and young people for all they need for the future. Our curriculum now identifies three important chapters of a child's path here at school; stories and experiences are central to all we do.

This Spring all students in years 5-7 will explore the characteristics of 'The Mentor' in every classroom. This is will encourage our learners, who often have crippling self-esteem, to develop their appreciation of others and themselves. They will explore themes of gender, sexuality, relationship and self-expression, all the time building on their ability to listen, consider and care.

Sara Marsh

05/03/2021

Out with old in with the new

During recent contact with the parents of the school we have gained some really useful information from the Parental Survey. So, as part of our Curriculum redesign we have used this information and packaged a hopefully more interactive and engaging curriculum for our school to support the learning journey into a bright and happy new future.

Things that we are looking to include are:

- ✓ Regular work taken home;
- ✓ A balance of communications home from school;
- ✓ A clear knowledge of what is being taught to your child;
- ✓ Children talking about what they have been learning in lessons;
- ✓ Termly newsletters home;
- ✓ Plenty of enjoyment from all involved.



Getting to know the Icons of learning

As a school we understand that a picture tells us a lot more than we give it credit for. When we are driving on the road or even while in the shops signs tell us what we need to do. Therefore, as a school we have looked at using a series of icons like shown here to support the learners in lesson. The learning icons can be found on the school website and each newsletter will show a new icon.

This is **the hook** icon and is shown at the start of the lesson to grab their interest from the start.

Year 5/6: Change No Problem

The students in Year 5/6 have been very busy this half term already! They have started a new class book called 'The Boy in the Dress' by David Walliams, which has allowed them to investigate how the different characters show their emotions. This has led to some fantastic work where students have been able to explore their own reactions to different situations and discuss how people show emotions in different ways.

Year 5/6: Built on strong foundations

In Pillars, students have been working hard on understanding that not everyone is the same. They have started to look at gender identity and how people have been accepted in society for speaking openly about who they are. They particularly enjoyed looking at social media and debating if it is a positive or negative communication platform, linked to online bullying.

Year 5/6: Things that make us

Our Art & Design project has proved hugely popular with students beginning to investigate Kehinde Wiley and his unique style. Students have been learning about the artist, his background and what makes him special. They have attempted to draw their own portraits and will be working towards creating a piece of clothing that represents them and what makes them unique.

Year 5/6: Maths is a piece of cake

Maths has seen us start to learn about fractions where some classes were lucky enough to practice sharing cake as a way of showing their understanding. There has been some fantastic learning happening in the classrooms and the students have been able to make connections across all of the subjects, strengthening both their knowledge and understanding.

Year 7: PE get on those dancing shoes

In PE this term, year 7 have been looking into challenging stereotypes around masculinity within sport. Each week they have had a theme which links to some form of dance that the boys will perform. Across the term year 7s can expect to experience Capoeira, Fortnite Dancing, Cheerleading, Street/Break Dancing & War Dancing.

Year 7: Layering on the Art knowledge

The year 7s have made a positive start to creating their digital self-portraits in response to Bisa Butler and exploring their self-identity. They have begun to develop some basic digital skills through using a variety of tools in Photopea. To understand tone, they have used the posterization filter to create more recognisable layers of tone in their photographs. To show their understanding, the students have experimented with each layer by replacing it with patterns and colours. As they start to reflect and respond to their work, they will be making personal, creative decisions influenced by the artists' style and colour theory.



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