



# Autumn Term 2023

September 5th 2023

Great Milton C of E Primary School

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## Welcome Back!



Welcome to Autumn Term 2023. It was so lovely to welcome our families old and new back to school last week. Our new Elf Owls have settled in brilliantly and the whole school feels busy and energised.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone for your kind words, cards and gifts at the end of last term- I was overwhelmed with your generosity.

There has been a lot of activity in school over the summer; the hall has been repainted and background work on changing our online domain has been continuing. The result of this is that we are now experiencing a few technical difficulties, so please bear with us while we get back up and running.

We would like to invite you to come and visit your child's classroom (and others if you wish!) and informally meet the adults who work with your children everyday. These drop ins will take place on Tuesday 12th from 3.00-4.00pm. The gates will open at 3pm so you can walk round to visit your child's classroom and then take them home at the end of the day. If your child will not need to use the bus or go to after school club on this day, please let the office know so that we can amend the registers and avoid end of the day confusion. If you are unable to attend this visit, your child will be brought round to the main playground for collection at 3.30pm as usual and any children in Y5&6 who have permission to walk home will do so at the usual time.

Another opportunity to visit your child's classroom and share their learning will be on Friday 22nd September at 2.50pm instead of celebration assembly.

## Welcome to new members of our school family



A very warm Great Milton welcome to new families in Elf Owls and our new children in Hawk Owls and Tawny Owls. It can feel overwhelming getting to know new routines, but we are all here to guide you through. A newsletter comes out termly and additional information will be sent via ParentMail. For the most up to date information, please see your child's [class page](#) on the website.

We also welcome new staff to the Great Milton team. Miss Sansom joins us as a teaching assistant in Eagle Owls.

Mr Pearce joins us as a PE coach from '[Inspire Sports Coaching](#)'. Mr Pearce has many years experience as a coach and will teach PE lessons across the school and will also run after school clubs on Mondays and Thursdays. **The sport offered will change every 5 weeks.** See the attachment for details on how to book. Inspire Sports will also be offering a holiday club during October half term.

Mr Sykes will still be running his popular football club on Tuesdays after school, see his [Master the Game](#) website for booking information.

### **Current class sizes and staffing:**

(YR) Elf: 26 (Mrs Ray and Miss Taylor, Mrs Howlett, Miss Bush, Mrs Fairfax)

(Y1) Tawny: 22 (Mrs Pearce, Mrs Harris, Mrs Quartermain)

(Y2) Barn: 25 (Mrs Bennett, Mrs Quartermain, Mrs Sansom)

(Y3) Snowy: 29 (Mrs Dickson, Mrs Grayshon, Miss Putt)

(Y4) Boreal: 19 (Mrs Pietropinto and Mrs Marah, Miss Bush Miss Belcher)

(Y5) Eagle: 27 (Miss Woods, Miss Sansom)

(Y6) Hawk: 25 (Mrs Green, Miss Wells, Mrs Hawksworth, Miss Sharples, Mrs Fairfax)

Miss Wells is teaching in Hawk Owls to allow Mrs Green some leadership time in school. She will also cover class teachers for subject leadership.

Mrs Marah is teaching in Tawny Owls on Mondays to cover Mrs Pearce.

Last term we said goodbye to the last two of our families from Afghanistan. We wish all of the children lots of luck for the next part of their education journey.

On Friday we said farewell to Xavier in Tawny Owls, who has joined his brother in their local school.

## Message from Emma Hughes (SENDCo)



Firstly, I'd like to wish families a very happy and smooth start to the academic year. I hope the first few days of term have gone well!

For those of you new to the school, I'm the SENDCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) and I work in this role two days a week, usually Tuesday and Thursday. If you have concerns about your child's educational needs, progress, a specific SEN question or an urgent or new issue regarding your child, please contact their class teacher via the school office initially. I liaise with all class teachers regularly and provide/facilitate additional support and advice as needed.

I also work with a range of other professionals, such as the community speech and language therapy team and communication and interaction advisory teachers. For those families with children already on the school's Special Educational Needs register: currently we are seeing how the children settle in, setting up interventions and developing/adapting the pupil learning profiles and targets. There will be an opportunity for you to discuss individual children's needs and pupil profiles with the class teacher in the coming weeks. Class teachers will make contact with families to organise these meetings.

You are very welcome to contact me on this email address [sen@greatmiltonschool.co.uk](mailto:sen@greatmiltonschool.co.uk) (**please note that it's changed from last year!**). If you emailed over the summer break or already this term, please be assured your message will be responded to by phone or email as soon as possible – apologies for any delays, there is always lots to put in place and respond to at this stage in the school year. I look forward to working with many of you during the coming year and wish you and your families all the best for the new term!

Emma

## Key information



You will find most of this information on our [school website](#), but for the first Newsletter of the school year I have included it here. The [class pages](#) on the website is where you will find the most up to date information you will need, so please check there regularly for weekly learning, spellings, homework and all other routines and timetables.

### Drop Off and Collection

It was so encouraging to see all of children coming into school happily last week. There will always be adults on hand at the gate to take children in on days when they feel less happy when leaving their grown up at the gate. Experience has shown us that children across the school settle to their learning much quicker when they are dropped at the gate than when they are brought into the playground.

For safeguarding reasons, **we close the gate at 9am sharp**. This is to ensure that every child is registered by 9.05am. If the gate is closed as you come up the drive, please don't be offended! Take your child to the office and sign them in and the office staff will enter them into the register. They will not be marked late unless they arrive after 9.05am. Thank you for your understanding.

After school, you are welcome to gather in the playground and wait for your child's class teacher to bring them around.

Please stand where your child's teacher can see you and be patient while new teachers match children and parents up! If your collection arrangements are complicated or change regularly, please can you put them in an email to the school office and Mrs Biel will pass these onto the class teachers.

For Eagle Owls (Y5) this will be the first year you will have been given permission to walk home. Please can you update the permissions form when it gets sent out to you and send an email to the office so that class teachers are informed. This is an important part of our safeguarding procedures.

This week we are going to trial reopening the gate into the recreation ground in the mornings and at pick up time. We are hoping this will help with the parking situation on the High Street if parents can park around the back streets and walk across the recreation ground. This means that parents will need to be extra vigilant on the playground to ensure that younger children do not exit through this gate without being seen! We would also like to request that children who walk to school on their own are discouraged from using the park before school, as we would be unaware if accidents occur.

### **School Lunches**

We are now using Oxfordshire County Council as our school lunch provider. We are delighted with the service already! Children in EYFS and KS1 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals, however it is important that you register your child as FSM if you are in receipt of income support, job seekers allowance or child tax credit ([see full list here](#)). This would entitle you and the school to additional funding throughout the year. Contact Mrs Biel in the office for a confidential conversation.

School meals cost £2.41 per day and this is payable via ParentPay. See the website for a [menu](#).

### **Packed Lunches**

Packed lunches should be as [healthy](#) as possible and NUT FREE please. We have some children in school with a severe nut allergy. We urge you to think about the amount of packaging that goes into your child's lunchbox and request that environmentally friendly wrapping and reusable containers are used as much as possible. Cartons of low sugar juice or squash may be included in packed lunch boxes, but no fizzy drinks please.

### **Healthy Snacks**

Fruit is provided free of charge by the DfE for the children in EYFS and KS1. We encourage children in KS2 to bring a healthy snack from home to eat at playtime. Fruit is the preferred option as it is the healthiest and it also reduces the amount of litter generated. As with the packed lunch boxes, please consider emptying snacks into reusable containers so that our school grounds can be as litter free as possible. Snacks should be NUT FREE please. [See this guide to healthy snacks.](#)

### **Water bottles**

We encourage children to bring a water bottle into school throughout the year to stay hydrated in the classroom. These water bottles should only contain water, please. This is to promote good oral health and also to minimise damage if a spillage occurs in the classroom.

### **Outdoor Shoes**

Once the weather starts to turn wet, please can I ask that your children have a pair of shoes or wellies or trainers (depending on what they like to do at playtime) to wear at playtime so that they can change into their school shoes inside.

### **Birthday Books**

It has become a tradition over the years for children to bring sweets into school to hand out to their friends on their birthday, which is a thoughtful gesture. This tradition was never started by schools and it can create a minefield of issues for a school to navigate. At Great Milton we manage this by instructing the children to put the sweets in their bag and then ask your permission to eat them, which actually just moves the issue to you as parents! I have been asked by a small minority of parents to stop this tradition over the years, but I would prefer to offer some alternative ideas instead. Ideas such as stickers, paper fortune tellers, pencils, erasers etc.

An idea I have taken from a friend's school (thank you Kidmore End) is to donate a book to the class with a message and who the book is from written in the inside front cover. What better way to share your birthday with your friends than with a good story? It could be a picture book, a novel, a non-fiction book about a topic your child is really interested in, a book they would recommend to their class, a comic book, a magazine or any kind of book.

***Of course there is no expectation that a child brings anything to school on their birthday! Please do not feel any obligation to do so.***

### **Forest School**

Forest School is a key part of our learning at Great Milton. It helps learners develop socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically and intellectually. It creates a safe, non-judgemental nurturing environment for learners to try new things and take risks. Our approach to risk means that children expand on their abilities by solving real-life issues, building self-belief and resilience. We believe that risk is more than just potential for physical harm, but a more holistic thing, there are risks in everything we do, and we grow by overcoming them. Forest School therefore, helps participants to become healthy, resilient, creative and independent learners. We are very lucky to have Mrs Howlett as a qualified Forest School leader and each class is timetabled throughout the year for Forest School sessions.

### **Forest School Clothes**

To enable our children to get the most out of their sessions, they must be dressed appropriately. Long sleeves and long trousers are a MUST all year round to protect their skin from grazes, bites, tics, grass rashes and the sun. On wet days they MUST wear a waterproof coat and trousers if they have them. We have a selection in our range of [uniform](#) (such as the reversible fleece and waterproof coat pictured below), or they can be purchased elsewhere. Please make sure the clothes they bring in do not have *inappropriate* logos on the front. Thank you.



**This academic year (2023), can your child please come to school in uniform and bring forest school clothes to change into. This way they have clean, dry clothes to change into before they come home if necessary.**

## **PE**

The current curriculum provision for PE is 2 hours per week. Classes are timetabled with our sports coach, Matt Pearce from [Inspire Sports](#) on a termly basis. If a class is only timetabled for 1 hour of PE with Mr Pearce, the class teacher will timetable another hour long session for that term. This might mean that your child has PE on two different days. Due to the termly timetabling of coaching

sessions, PE days will change termly, so keep an eye out for Parent Mails and check the class pages on the school website regularly.

Please make sure your child wears the correct PE kit to school. The older the children get, the more they seem to 'relax' their attitude to PE kit!





- White T-shirt
- Black or white shorts
- Black plimsolls
- In winter for outdoor PE: dark tracksuit (**preferably navy blue**) to be worn over PE kit, trainers. We do have navy logoed tracksuit and hoodies for PE available on the [website](#), but this is not statutory. The reason it is navy is so that it cannot be worn instead of a school sweatshirt or jumper, which is royal blue.

Currently the children are coming into school in their PE kit on PE days, as this saves a lot of learning time! Please send a spare set of clothes (uniform) in their bag if the weather looks extreme so that they have fresh clothes to change into if necessary. We will review this procedure regularly.

### **School Trips**

School trips are a brilliant way to enhance learning. There is usually a trip linked to a topic once a term, or a visitor may be organised. We are very lucky to be able to walk to the Jack Peers Centre for Forest School activities, which we are planning to make more use of this year. Huge thanks to the Peers family for this! We do everything we can to keep the costs of trips down, but it is often the cost of the coach which is significant, particularly this year with the increased fuel prices. Teachers are given a budget of £12-15 per child maximum when planning trips. You will receive a ParentMail about any trips being organised and can pay via ParentPay. We are very lucky to have donations from FOGMS to make sure that every child attends school trips. If you need support with costs, please contact the school office.

### **Residential Visits**

The Year Six residential visit is still being organised and will go ahead this academic year. We will communicate with Y6 families about this as soon as we have secured a booking. We will send out a consultation about residential visits for other year groups later in the year.

## Music Lessons

It is fantastic to have individual and group music lessons back in school again. Contact the school office if you are interested in music lessons.

- Abbie Adiri- violin lessons
- Anna Channon- piano lessons
- Rock Steady- a range of instruments from guitars, drums, keyboards and vocalists.

Boreal Owls start their whole class guitar lessons this term. These are provided by the Oxfordshire Music Service through a scheme we pay for as a school. Children who show further interest in the instrument can sign up for individual tuition with the same music teacher at a cost to parents.

Choir will start up again ready for The Big Christmas Sing in Oxford. A form will come out via ParentMail to sign up for this event.

## Parking



As we start a new school year I would like to remind all parents of the importance of safe and respectful parking through the village. As you come into the village from Wheatley (Lower End) the road is very narrow so if you park opposite a driveway, residents may get blocked in. Please be very mindful about where you park.

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters:

- The Bull has given permission to park in their car park- please use it
- Park further away and walk into school
- Car share
- Do not park on the Zig Zags AT ANY TIME

- Drop older children at the bottom of the drive so they can walk up
- Give Y5 and Y6 permission to walk home/to the end of the drive and ease congestion in the afternoons
- Check that your car is not blocking any driveways or narrow parts of the road
- Drive slowly and carefully through the village- 20MPH is the speed limit
- If you are challenged about your parking, please respond respectfully- we all need to work together!

As I have mentioned, we are reopening the gate into the rec, which means you can park in the smaller roads away from the high street and walk across the rec. If you do not know the village very well, ask a parent who is more familiar. You will still drop at the gate and a member of staff will route them to the playground and into class. Please do not give your child permission to play in the park before school, especially if you are not there to supervise them. We will monitor this decision and adjust it if necessary.

Huge thanks to the vast majority of parents who are already parking carefully and respectfully.

## Communication



As mentioned in my newsletter last term, we have changed our domain and our email addresses have changed to [@greatmiltonschool.co.uk](mailto:@greatmiltonschool.co.uk). Our school website will be: [greatmiltonschool.co.uk](http://greatmiltonschool.co.uk). but we haven't switched over yet. I will let you know when we do.

If you need to communicate with your child's class teacher, please email via the [school office](#) and your email will be passed on. The class teachers on the gate can also pass on messages, but can I please ask to you **inform the office of any absences or late/early pick collections so that it can be processed accurately.**

If your child is unwell and will be absent from school, you can report their absence via ParentMail, email the office or leave a message on the answering machine. You must report the absence daily, unless you give a return date in your first communication (this is not always possible), so that their absence can be authorised. Mrs Biel, Mrs Green or Mrs Batson will start to call families we have not heard from **after 9.30am.**

If you have a question or a concern about your child, the order in which you contact school about your child goes like this:

- speak to your child's class teacher first
- speak to Nicola Bennett as EYFS/KS1 lead if your child is in KS1
- speak to Sue Green as Deputy Head and KS2 lead if your child is in KS2
- Speak to Emma Hughes as SENDCo if your child has SEND
- Speak to Sarah Taylor as Pastoral Lead if your child has a TAF or if you think your family needs additional support
- Speak to Alyson Frost once you have followed the points above
- Speak to Sue Green in my absence

As a close knit team, the class teachers will seek the advice and support of phase leaders, SENDCo and senior leaders in school whenever necessary, so it is likely that we will all be in the loop and working together. I respectfully ask that you now go back to contacting members of staff via the [office email](#) address, as we did pre-pandemic, to allow us to monitor contact, communication and manage staff well being.

Thank you for your understanding.

## Friends of Great Milton



We are extremely fortunate to have a very proactive PTA known as Friends of Great Milton School (FOGMS). They do a huge amount of fundraising and event organising for our school and they are a very friendly and welcoming group. If there are any new parents out there (or current parents who haven't yet joined) who would like to meet up and get involved, FOGMS are holding their Annual General Meeting on **Thursday 21st September, 7.30pm** at the Bull in Great Milton.

The next event is the Big Autumn Clear Up on Saturday 16th September.

### Upcoming FOGMS Events:

- Saturday 16th: Autumn Clear Up 10am to 2pm
- Thursday 21st: AGM 7.30pm in The Bull
- Saturday 30th: Late Summer Party 7.30pm Tiddington Village Hall
- Thursday 2nd November: Monsters Disco
- Friday 1st December: Christmas Fair

If you have any questions, email [contactfogms@gmail.com](mailto:contactfogms@gmail.com)

## Dates for your Diary...



### Dates

Dates will be added to the next newsletter, once decisions have been made and events confirmed. We will also add dates to the calendar on the website. [Current Term Dates 2023-24](#) can be found on the website.

### September 2023

**Friday 1st:** INSET DAY (set by OCC)

**Monday 4th:** INSET DAY

**Tuesday 5th:** New Term starts

**Tuesday 5th:** Elf Owls in until 11.30am

**Wednesday 6th:** Elf Owls in until 1pm

**Thursday 7th:** Elf Owls in until 3.30pm. (Full days from today onwards)

**Tuesday 12th:** Y1-Y6 informal 'Meet the Teacher' in classrooms from 3.00-4.00pm \*note time change\*

**Tuesday 12th- Wednesday 13th:** Bikeability Training for Hawk Owls (Y6)

**Saturday 16th:** FOGMS Autumn Clear Up

**Friday 22nd:** Celebration Assembly in classrooms - a chance to see your child 'in situ' and celebrate their learning so far

**Tuesday 26th:** Open Day 1 of 2 10-11.30am

**Thursday 28th:** Individual Photos with FishPole Photography

**Friday 29th:** Individual Photos with FishPole Photography

### **October 2023**

**Thursday 12th:** Open Day 2 of 2 1.30-2pm

**Thursday 19th:** Term Ends @3.30pm

**Friday 20th:** INSET DAY

**Monday 23rd- Friday 27th:** HALF TERM

**Monday 30th:** Term Starts



*With Love We Flourish*

## Open Days 2023

Tuesday 26th September 10-11.30am &

Thursday 12th October 1.30-3pm

Refreshments and talk from Mrs Frost

See the whole school in action, meet the team for a guided tour with Q&A

*We look forward to welcoming you to our school.*

Contact: [office@greatmiltonschool.co.uk](mailto:office@greatmiltonschool.co.uk)

01844 279388



## PRICE HOW TO BOOK AGE RANGE

£39 for all 6 sessions  
(£6.50 per session)  
Simply visit [masterthegame.co.uk](http://masterthegame.co.uk)  
complete payment  
our safe and secure  
checkout page.

## DATES & TIMINGS

**Tuesdays 3:30**

- 12th September
- 19th September
- 26th September
- 3rd October
- 10th October
- 17th October

## CONTACT

07530049919  
info@masterthegame.co.uk  
www.masterthegame.co.uk

- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6

Open to boys and girls of all abilities and experiences!

## Great Milton Football After School Sports Club



### **INSPIRE SPORTS COACHING**

#### **Great Milton Football After School Club**

Inspire Sports Coaching will be running a Football after school club at Great Milton on Mondays for pupils in Year 1/2/3 & on Thursdays for Pupils in Year 4/5/6. Within each of our clubs we are looking to educate as well as promote many sporting values throughout, such as, determination, consideration, resilience and many more, all in a super enjoyable way. If you require any further information, please contact us by our email or to sign up, you can via our website, all located at the bottom of this page.

#### **YEAR 1/2/3**

- Mondays – 3.30pm – 4.30pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> September
- 25<sup>th</sup> September
- 2<sup>nd</sup> October
- 9<sup>th</sup> October
- 16<sup>th</sup> October

#### **YEAR 4/5/6**

- Thursdays – 3.30pm – 4.30pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> September
- 28<sup>th</sup> September
- 5<sup>th</sup> October
- 12<sup>th</sup> October
- 19<sup>th</sup> October

#### **COST**

- £25 for 5 weeks



#### **WHAT TO BRING**

- PE Kit/Sports Kit, Trainers/Football boots, Shin pads & extra fluids

#### **HOW TO SIGN UP & FIND OUT MORE INFO**

Sign up via our **Website** (below) & find out more info via our socials.



Facebook @inspiresportscoachingbucks



Instagram - inspiresportscoachinguk



[www.inspire-sports-coaching.co.uk](http://www.inspire-sports-coaching.co.uk)



[inspiresportscoaching@mail.com](mailto:inspiresportscoaching@mail.com)



## **Prizes to be Earned!**



1 - The sport for this club will change every 5 weeks.

## Contact Us



As always, please contact us via the office email address or call us.

### **Great Milton C of E Primary School**

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Oxford

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01844 279388

[office@gmilton.org](mailto:office@gmilton.org)

Visit us on the web at [www.gmilton.org](http://www.gmilton.org)