



# Mill Water School

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30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

What an exciting and sunny welcome back to school we've had. The pupils have come back and hit the ground running with their learning, whilst making the most of the beautiful weather and being outside. Here's just a little bit of what they've been up to so far...

## Class 5

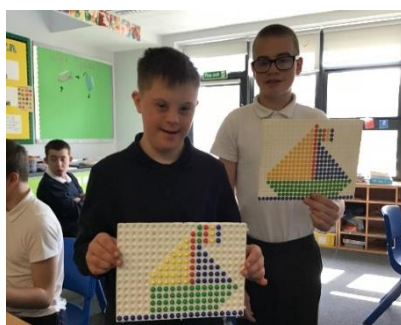
Class 5 have been busy planting some broad beans which they have grown from seed as well as some bedding plants this week. They have also been planting some sunflower seeds, with the hope of growing the tallest sunflower!



## Class 9



Class 9 have been out and about practising their road safety skills... they did really well at remembering what they needed to do to stay safe when crossing the road. Their topic this half term will be 'Staying Healthy and Looking After Myself' but they decided to sneak in making some chocolate chip cookies in cooking first! They've enjoyed being back together socially as well, playing in the playground and communicating really well with each other.



## New Sensory Rooms and Intervenor Training



Pupils have been loving our new sensory integration and soft play rooms, which were installed during the Easter break and kindly funded by the Clare Milne Trust [www.claremilnetrust.com](http://www.claremilnetrust.com)

The rooms will support their physical development and spatial awareness, as well as provide a calming and safe space for pupils to engage in activities, release energy and play.



We have also had 12 staff attend a highly beneficial 5-day Intervenor course to help support our pupils with multi-sensory needs and visual and hearing impairments. Attending staff are now certified as Trained Intervenor and are eligible to join the National Organisation of Intervenor. Their training will complement our work with pupils in the newly refurbished rooms.

The staff all agreed it was some of the best training they had attended and have already made changes in their own practice.



Staff said:

*"It was incredible to experience the world through the eyes & ears of a deaf/blind child and really made me realise what they have to manage"*

*"It is useful for all pupils with sensory issues, impairments and barriers, not just deaf/blind students"*

*"It has changed how I support a change in staff and introduce myself to the child each time"*

*"I couldn't wait to get into the class after the training and put it to use"*

*"During the training I kept thinking of pupils it would be great for back in class"*

*"I really like the idea of quiet pods for the children as their own space"*



Andrew Maker (QTVI) is meeting with the new intervenors in this afternoon's training hour, to plan how to implement the training across the school and with the pupils who will benefit the most.



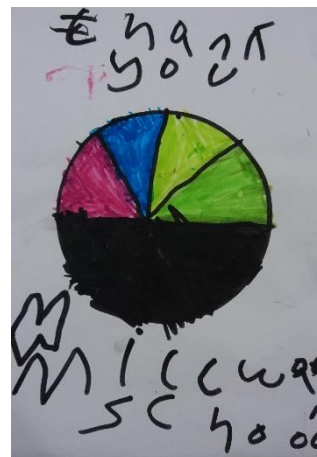
## Outdoor Learning

Pupils have been having a wonderful time exploring the outdoors in this lovely weather, especially in our beautiful apple orchard. Our Outdoor Learning staff have been doing art sessions and teaching about blossom celebrations around the world, such as the festivals in Japan.



## Something lovely...

A local primary school asked their pupils to design a postage stamp for a competition, with the theme of thanking Key Workers. Our TA Helen sent us this which her son George designed to say thank you to the staff at Mill Water School which was incredibly thoughtful and very much appreciated. Good luck in the competition George!



## Final reminder for the Parent Questionnaire

Please fill in the online parent survey recently sent out to you in a text/email...

### Dates for your diary

| What             | When  |
|------------------|---|
| May Bank Holiday | Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May                                |
| Half Term        | Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June |
| End of Term      | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> July                             |