

Miers Court Primary School  
Silverspot Close  
Rainham  
Gillingham  
Kent ME8 8JR  
Tel: 01634 388943  
Fax: 01634 388486  
[www.mierscourt-that.org.uk](http://www.mierscourt-that.org.uk)  
[office@mcps.school](mailto:office@mcps.school)  
Head of School: Mrs S Chapman

*Shining Bright, Aiming High*

28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Miers Court Matters 26

Dear Parents and Carers

It doesn't seem possible that we are already at the end of Term 4. We have all been so busy with lots of exciting learning activities and events. Mrs Ridley and her drama club have brought delight to the residents of Platters Farm with another performance, our sports teams have been busy taking part in competitions, and our fabulous PTFA have put together a wonderful Easter raffle to mention just a few. It has been lovely to be able to drop in on lessons and see the children's engagement with this term's topics, and I will admit to really enjoying the 'Breaking the Rules' day! We have also been lucky enough to have some visits from our talented and knowledgeable parents and friends of Miers Court – more about that in the articles below.

Thank you once again for being such a supportive community. We have a very busy Term 5 ahead of us but, before then, we have the opportunity to enjoy an Easter break and we may even be lucky enough to see some sunshine! On behalf of my team, I'd like to wish you a lovely break and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on **Monday, 14 April**.

Keep safe and take care.

Kind Regards  
Mrs Chapman

## MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

**Attendance** – Well done Pegasus Class (Year 6) for achieving 96.4, Skylark Class (year 1) for achieving 96.4% and Kingfisher Class (Year 3) for achieving 96.0%. These classes are this week's top attenders!

This year's attendance to date **94.2%**

**Special Headteacher's Award** – Congratulations to Frankie in Year 6 for earning a Special Headteachers Award for achieving 25 learning points.

**Friday Club** – We'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that Friday club is only for the children of those parents who are in work on a Friday afternoon and do not have access to any other childcare arrangements. We are consistently over-subscribed for places and we must ensure that they are being offered to those who have a genuine need. We expect children to attend regularly and not 'drop in and out', as this causes difficulties for planning, resourcing and staffing the sessions. We expect children to stay for the full club i.e. until **3.10pm**. We review attendance every term and will remove the offer of the space if it is appearing from the lack of attendance that other arrangements are available to the family. Thank your support with this.



**Collection of pupils at the end of the day REMINDER** - We'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that, if there are any changes in collection arrangements at the end of the day, you must let us know in writing. If it's a one-off, on the day change, a message in your child's contact book is fine or you can, of course, email the office who will pass the message on. It can be tricky for you to pass a message on to the teacher on duty in the morning as it's such a busy time, so a written note or message left with the office is always best.

If it's a more permanent arrangement i.e. a family member or close friend will be meeting your child regularly at the end of the day, please send in a letter or email, or call the office. We will need the person's name and a contact number for them.

**Emergency contact numbers** - It is essential that we have at least 2 emergency contacts for your child. If we currently only have 1, please log on to Arbor and update your records. If this is going to cause difficulties, please speak to a member of the Office Team.

Thank you

### **Book Talk Year 5**



This term, Falcon Class are reading **'The Silver Sword'** by **Ian Serraillier**. The book is based on true accounts of life during and after WWII in war-torn Poland.

#### **Synopsis**

*"We must get away from here ... "*

The night the Nazis take their mother away, three children escape in a dangerous scramble across the rooftops of Warsaw, where they have to learn to survive on their own. Then the children meet Jan, a boy with a paperknife – the silver sword – that they recognise as belonging to their long-lost father. The sword becomes their symbol of hope as they begin the hazardous journey across war-torn Europe to find their parents. What we think about the book:

*"I like the book because it is unpredictable and you can picture what is going on through the description."* - **Alwande**

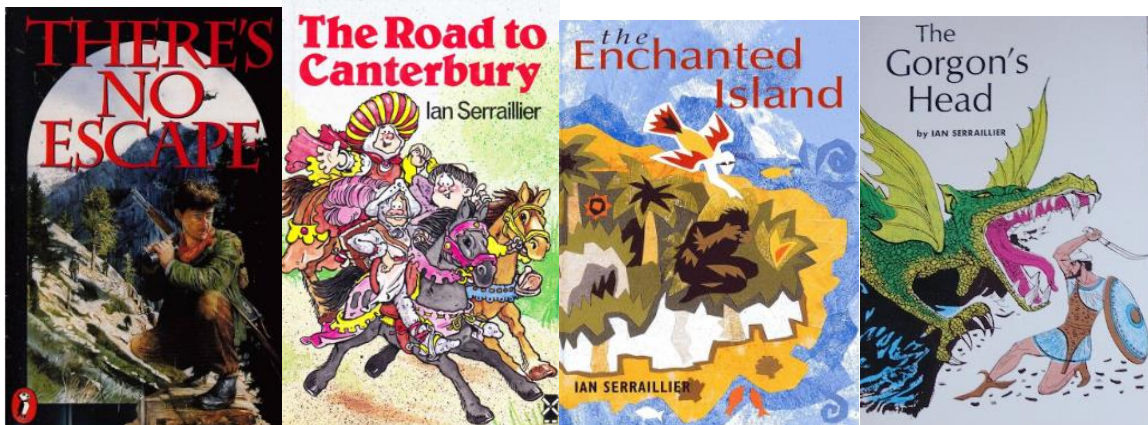
*"The story shows that no matter what the trouble is, you can try hard to change things. We can show empathy with what the children went through. The story is based on true action – many people had to leave their homes."* - **Faith**

*"I like the Silver Sword a lot because it is very adventurous and you can always find a random twist in every chapter. I also like it because the language is very descriptive – it paints a picture in your head."* - **Josh**

"I like 'The Silver Sword' because it is a fiction story about things that really did happen and what could have happened. It has really good descriptive language so I can picture in my mind what is happening." – **Riley**

"I like the book, 'The Silver Sword' because it has a lot of detail and it is a mystery whether the family will find one another." – **Eden**

**Other books by Ian Serrailier:**





**Battery Recycling** – This week we have collected **152** batteries!! Fantastic total, thank you.

We submit our total to the Duracell website each week. To find the national running total go to:


[https://www.bigbatteryhunt.co.uk/?utm\\_source=NSP&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=DUR4&utm\\_content=DUR4-029](https://www.bigbatteryhunt.co.uk/?utm_source=NSP&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=DUR4&utm_content=DUR4-029) Please send your used batteries into school.

Ask your family and friends and bring theirs in too!

**Year 1 Avengers Training Day** – Batman was in the building! Year 1 have had the best morning training with Batman in order to pass Avenger Training Academy! More info and photos to follow after the Easter half term, in the mean time please enjoy this visitor badge of Batman.

 Visit details 

---



**Batman**  
SIGNED IN  
Today at 9:39 AM  
SIGNED IN FOR  
a few seconds

Details

Badge

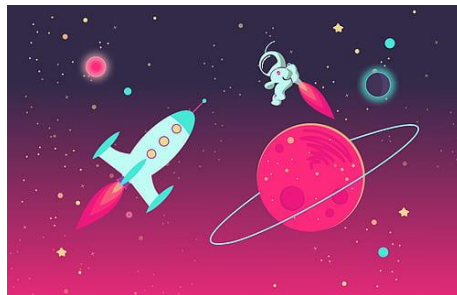
---



**Year 4 Science Day** - Yesterday, year 4 took part in their science day and took on the roles of scientists! The children got involved in a range of experiments, from exploring non-Newtonian fluids and making lava lamps, to experimenting with acids and alkalis.



The children were even able to explore how polymers work, by pushing pencils through bags of water without them leaking, and were able to make letters float off of plates and catch them with paper! There were two demonstrations in the afternoon, creating elephant's toothpaste, and even using fire to create a chemical snake! It was a fantastic day.



**Year 5 Space talk** - Last Friday, Year 5 had a visit from an actual rocket scientist! Dr James Beck has worked in the space industry for 20 years, first trying to land a probe on Mars (it crashed) and then trying to help with the space debris problem. Currently, he works on investigating how to burn bits of spacecraft in big wind tunnels to help people

design things to burn up in re-entry rather than surviving and becoming a risk to people on the ground.

The children really enjoying learning all about the problem of space debris and what James and space agencies around the world are doing to solve the problem. Did you know that debris orbiting the planet travels at 17500 mph?

Remember, you don't need to be working in America to work in the field of space, James only lives 30 miles from here.

Lots of the children in Year 5 are now really interested in working somewhere in the field of space. What about you



**Year 6 an afternoon spent in WW2** - Year 6 were lucky enough to have a visitor last week to talk to them about WW2. Mr Betts is a real WW2 enthusiast and had lots of artefacts and replicas he was happy to show us and let us handle. James Betts (who used to come to our school) came too and helped. They both came dressed as soldiers! Mr Betts talked about the different uniforms people wore and how they would be different in different countries. He also played an air raid siren which was really, really loud! We learnt about the role of women during the war and how people used Morse Code to communicate.

Did you know there was an army camp where the Howard School is now?

Lots of us tried on uniforms- some were really itchy! James also talked about what life is like at secondary school, gave us some top tips and answered lots of our questions about year 7. It was a really interesting afternoon and year 6 would like to say a big thank you to both of them for talking to us in their own time.



**Year 6 Cake and craft sale** - Year 6 hosted their second sale on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March - this time, Easter themed! Year 6 children were incredibly generous with their donations of chocolate, cakes and crafts. We want to say another huge thank you to the



children's families and friends who helped to make this happen. Once again, the children impressed staff and parents with their enthusiasm and manners.

We raised a total of **£415**; this will go towards the children's 'Lasting Gift' for the school. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our fantastic Year 6s!



**Drama Club** - On Monday the 25th March, the year 6 drama club went to Platters Farm to perform the pantomime Peter Pan. They performed in front of the residents who all enjoyed the children's performance. After the show they spoke with the residents before walking back to school.



**Princess Trust hair donation** – I'm sure you will be delighted to join us as we say a massive congratulation to Grace in year 4 who has ever so kindly donated an amazing **12inches** of her beautiful hair to the Princess Trust.

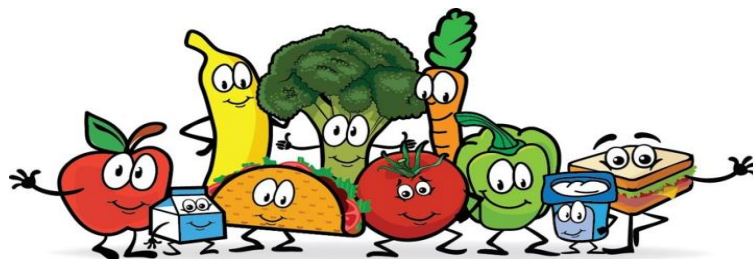
Well done Grace we are very proud of you, we have shared the link with you if you wish to donate to this amazing cause.

<https://gofund.me/709e4eed>.



**Online Safety for Parents - Disney+ Parental Controls Guide** - With the Easter holidays just around the corner many children will be tuning into their favourite shows on Disney+. Internet Matters have a really good guide for parents about the settings that are available to keep content at a level suitable to the age of their children.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/disney-plus-parental-controls-guide/>



**Meal Balance reminder** – Please can we remind you to keep an eye on your child's meal account, and top up when needed. Thank you.

Also, if your child has school dinners and there is still money owing on your child's account, please can this be paid as soon as possible.

Please remember that, if your circumstances change, your child may be eligible for Free School Meal Support. You can apply online for this and we are always happy to help if you are finding it a little tricky. The link will take you to the application page and you will get a decision really quickly.

[https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200164/school\\_information/354/free\\_school\\_meals](https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200164/school_information/354/free_school_meals)

### **Dates for the Diary**

**15.04.24** – Children back to school

**18.4.24** - Bumblebee Class assembly 9am

**02.05.24** – Dragonfly Class assembly 9am

**1 – 24.05.24** – KS1 SATs window – children do these assessments in smaller groups. More information will be shared.

**13 – 16.05.24** – KS2 SATs

**16.05.24** – Kestrel Class assembly 9am

**23.05.24** – Skylark Class assembly 9am

**24.05.24** – Community Picnic – more information to follow

**3 – 14.06.24** – Y4 Multiplication Check – the children take these assessments in small groups – more information will be shared

**10 – 14.06.24** – Phonics screening week

**20.06.24** – Hummingbird Class assembly 9am

**27.06.24** – Nightingale Class assembly 9am

**04.07.24** – Robin Class assembly 9am

School website: <http://mierscourt-that.org.uk>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mierscourtthat/](http://www.facebook.com/mierscourtthat/)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/mierscourtthat/](http://www.instagram.com/mierscourtthat/)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/mierscourtthat/](http://www.twitter.com/mierscourtthat/)