**Mill Lane Community Primary School &**

**Windmill Community Nursery**

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We have had a very busy start to the year where lots of exciting activities have already taken place. The whole school celebrated harvest with a family assembly where all the classes shared artwork, creative writing and songs. Children had brought in donations of fruit, vegetables, tinned goods, cereals, pasta and lots more. We were overwhelmed with the generosity of our families and pleased to give our donations to the village centre to be distributed to needy families within the community.

Our Year 3 and 4 children are currently studying WW2. As part of their topic work, the children became evacuees for the day and made their way to Chinnor railway station. They then boarded the steam train as if they were being evacuated from the town to the countryside. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and they wrote fantastic diary entries as if they were actually being evacuated.

Our Year 6 children have recently returned from their week away at Kilvrough, an outdoor adventure centre. The children had a great time away trying lots of new activities such as body boarding, kayaking and abseiling. Throughout the week the children cooperated well in their teams and showed excellent communication skills to complete some difficult challenges.

Finally, the whole school enjoyed a performance of the Hobbit by a theatre company who visited the school in October. The children were impressed with the scenery and costumes, especially the realistic dragon. Our Year 6 children then had a workshop with the actors and learnt all about how the performance was put together.

We have lots more exciting events and activities planned for the rest of the year.

**Tineke van der Ploeg**

**Headteacher**

**The Windmill Community Nursery**

Harvest was a very busy time at Windmill Nursery. The children visited the Mill Lane environmental area we call ‘Gruffland’ and discovered lots of ripe apples ready for picking. They quickly filled a basket and took it back to Nursery where Mrs Sanders helped them to make an apple cake – It was delicious!

The Nursery children also visited Chinnor windmill. Keen to find out more, the children carefully climbed the steps to see what was inside – it was a long way up! Many thanks to Adrian for his help showing us how windmills work.

The Nursery children also had the very important job of judging the winners of the Mill Lane Harvest competition. The children throughout the school and Nursery were invited to create an animal character out of fruit and vegetables. The entries were fantastic and it was very difficult to choose but a parsnip elephant, grape caterpillar and courgette turtle were the Nursery children’s favourite. Well done to Mill Lane children for all their amazing designs – the Nursery children loved seeing them all.

Finally, to celebrate the end of Harvest, families were invited to a Nursery and Reception Class Harvest festival where the children sang traditional songs, showed their fruit and veg artwork and danced the Sikh Harvest dance of Bhangra. The children at Windmill Nursery will be celebrating many more festivals this year and look forward to sharing their news!

**Mandy Payne**

**Nursery Teacher**