



Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the final half term of the academic year, we wanted to share some of our news and events from the first half of the summer term.

New Catering Provider

We are pleased to announce that, from September, we will be having a new catering company providing our lunchtime meals. Caterlink were awarded the contract after a rigorous tender process. We are confident that children and families will enjoy the new range of meals on offer.

As you know, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a free school meal each day under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. When Year 2 children join Year 3 in September, any children not entitled to a free meal must pay £2.30 per meal (£11.50 per week per child). This pricing structure will remain the same when Caterlink take over in September. Caterlink are offering all Year 3 a **FREE two week meal trial** though for the first two weeks of term. Year 2 parents and carers: let the school office know if you wish to take up this exciting offer.

Find out more about Caterlink here:
<https://caterlinkltd.co.uk>

New security fencing

Over the summer holidays, we will be having some new security fencing installed at the front of school. This fencing around the front of our perimeter will improve security and safety for our children and was recommended by the Local Authority who is funding the project.

When children and families return in September, you will notice some new security gates at the end of each pathway. These will remain locked open at the start and end of each morning and afternoon session but will be locked throughout the rest of the day. To gain access to the school site, visitors will need to be authorised by the main office.

At the start and end of the school day, the new car park gates will be closed which will mean increased safety for our children, families and visitors.

Attendance and Punctuality

We continue to strive for our whole school attendance to stay at or above 96%! Well done to all of the children who have achieved this so far this year.

Attendance percentages for the school year so far (September to May 2022)

Whole school: 93.5 %

Reception: 92.4 %

Year 1: 93.4 %

Year 2: 92.6 %

Year 3: 94.2 %

Year 4: 93.5 %

Year 5: 93.2 %

Year 6: 94.0 %

You can find up to date attendance figures here:

[Attendance Figures | Merridale Primary](#)

Can I remind you of the importance of children attending school every day unless they are unwell. If your child is ill, please telephone the school office on the first day of absence.

Children can come straight into the school building between 8.40am and 8.50am where they will be supervised by school staff. From 8.50am, children must enter school through the main office at the front of the building and they will be classed as late.

All children must be collected by an adult from school between 3.10-3.20pm unless they have permission to walk home alone. I appreciate your support in this.

We are unable to authorise any absence for family holiday, trips or visits. If you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see Mrs Towle.

Patterns of poor attendance and punctuality will be followed-up by the school's educational welfare officer (EWO) to look at ways of reducing these instances. If you require any support with these areas, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Our Reading Challenge

Thank you to all of our parents, carers and families who help to support their children with their reading at home. We have seen a big improvement in children meeting our reading challenge with families supporting children to read at home at least 5 times per week.



Newsletter

SEND Coffee Afternoon

On Thursday 28th April our SENCO, Mrs Tara, invited parents and carers of children with additional needs to a special coffee afternoon.

We appreciate that many parents and carers appreciate advice and support and an opportunity to ask questions about how the school supports their children. Wolverhampton Information Advice and Support Service also sent representatives to come along and assist with any questions or queries. We found the session to be a positive one and will look to hold further coffee afternoons in future.

Find out more about IASS here:
<https://wolvesiass.org>

New Arrival

I am sure you will be pleased to hear of the safe arrival of Miss Hargrove's baby girl early in May. Miss Hargrove is now taking her maternity leave to spend time with the new addition to the family. We would like to wish the whole family congratulations on their new arrival.

Year 2 and 6 Statutory Assessments

Year 2 and 6 have now completed their end of key stage assessments. We are so proud of the children's determination and resilience during the testing period—they really did themselves and Merridale proud.

Assessment scores and information will be reported to families in children's end of year reports alongside the Year 4 Multiplication Test results and Year 1 Phonic Check scores which will be completed during June.

School Photographs

As you know, children had their school photographs taken on Wednesday 25th May. Parents and carers should now have received their child's proofs and order form. All orders must be made online. If you need any support with this, please contact the school office.



End of Year Reports

At the end of term, parents and carers will be receiving the end of year written reports for their children. This is an opportunity for teachers to share with you the successes and next steps for your child as we reach the end of the academic year. If you have any questions regarding your child's report, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Book Fair

Our Summer term Book Fair will be held on Monday 20th June until Thursday 23rd June in the Key Stage 2 shared area. If you would like to come and visit the fair, it will be open straight after school until 4pm.



Curriculum Newsletters and Learning Logs

To help support your child across the curriculum, we have put together curriculum newsletters and Learning Logs for to support parents and families who wish to help their children with their learning at home.

These can be found on our website:

[The Curriculum by Class | Merridale Primary](#)

With further ideas and activities shared on Seesaw to support learning.

Remember, all children in Years 1-6 also have a Doodle log in which can be accessed at home to support learning in English and Maths.

MP Visit

On Thursday 16th June, we are very excited about having a visit from Stuart Anderson, MP for Wolverhampton South West to help children with their learning and understanding of British Values and democracy.



Newsletter

What have we been learning?

Baton Relay and Nigeria Day

On Monday 23rd May, we were pleased to take part in the Wolverhampton Community Games which started with a baton relay across Wolverhampton schools. Each school was allocated a country and Merridale's was Nigeria. We learned all about Nigeria throughout the day before receiving the baton from Wolverhampton Grammar School. Year 5 and the School Council then delivered the baton to our neighbours, Nishkam Primary School.



Severn Trent Water Assembly and Workshop

On Monday 25th April, Severn Trent Water visited us to lead a whole school assembly on the importance of staying hydrated and helping the environment by re-using and recycling plastic bottles.

See our whole school pledge certificate below.

WONDERFUL ON TAP

Commitment Certificate

This certificate is awarded to:

_____ Merridale Primary _____

For making a promise to:

I promise to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of tap water, use a refillable water bottle and recycle my plastics to help to look after the environment

Following our Hydrations & Plastics assembly
on: 25th April 2022

Name: _____	Signature: _____
Signed on behalf of: <u>L. Towle</u>	Education Officer: _____
176/16 children/adults	



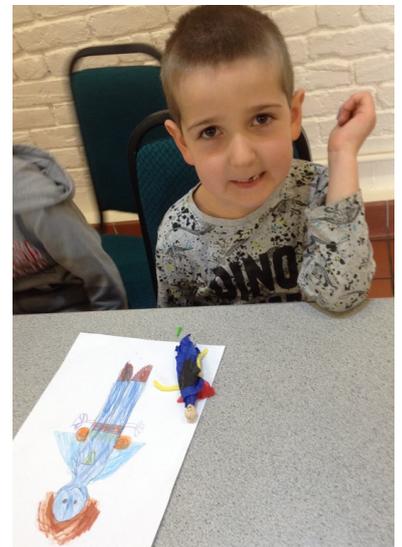
Newsletter

What have we been learning?

WGS Book Quiz

Our Year 6 Book Quiz Team have been invited to Wolverhampton Grammar School on Tuesday 7th June to represent Merridale. Teams from across Wolverhampton will be competing to see who has the best book knowledge of the short-listed texts.

Here you can see the children preparing. We are proud of their commitment and we have loved hearing their reviews of the selected books.



Year 1 visit to Bantock House

On 28th April, Year 1 enjoyed a visit to Bantock House to learn about Victorian toys and make their own peg dolls as part of their learning in Discover. The children had a great time exploring the house and gardens and enjoying this fantastic local landmark.



Year 3 Farm to Fork Food Tasting

On 26th April, Year 3 enjoyed a seasonal food tasting workshop led by our catering provider, Aspens.

The children tried lots of fresh produce such as beetroot, radish, stem broccoli and asparagus. All children were great at tasting something they had never tried before.



Newsletter

What have we been learning?



Eid Celebrations

On Friday 6th May, the whole school enjoyed celebrating Eid together. We learned about this celebration and enjoyed class parties and having time to celebrate with our friends.



Nursery learned about Eid and had the opportunity to look at the resources Mrs Shaikh had brought into school to show them. They also participated in a Eid themed party where they dressed up.



Reception visit to Bantock House
On Thursday 26th May, Reception visited Bantock House for an Art and Nature workshop. Children learned about the artist William Morris and how he was influenced by nature. Reception looked around the house to find some of his work and then explored the gardens to look at some of the trees and plants found there. Finally, Reception made some transient art using natural items and then created a chalk picture based on their ideas.



Newsletter

What have we been learning?



People Who Help Us
 In Reception, we have been learning about people who help us. We have had our school nurse and our police community support officers in to talk to us about their jobs. Our class especially enjoyed trying on the police costumes and pretending they were the police!

People Who Help Us
 Nursery also had a visit from the Police Community Support Officers. They showed the children their uniform and encouraged the children to dress up. Nursery then had the opportunity to ask them questions about their job role.



Year 4 Water Workshop with Severn Trent
 After a whole school assembly delivered by Severn Trent, Year 4 got to take part in a special water workshop. The children discussed the importance of saving water and what small changes we could make in our everyday lives could stop us being 'water wasters'. The children looked at different case studies to see how different families use water daily. They conducted an investigation to see which family used the most water and compared their results. Finally, the children thought about ways that the family using the most water could become 'water savers'.



What have we been learning?

Newsletter



Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee

We celebrated Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee on Friday 27th May. Children enjoyed a wide range of fun activities including a visit from the ice cream man and Jubilee picnic lunch. All children decorated and took home Jubilee keepsake coaster and took part in a special Jubilee trail in our grounds. Each class voted for their own King and Queen and we enjoyed a special celebratory assembly. We learned key facts about the Jubilee and took part on an online quiz to test our knowledge.



Newsletter

What have we been learning?



On 19th May, our year 5/6 rounders team had a friendly match against The Royal School. They played so well, showing excellent teamwork, respect and resilience throughout the game. They communicated so well, when fielding and really motivated and supported each other when batting. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and Miss Sangha could not have been any prouder.



Year 5 took part in the Singing in the Rain event, which involved schools from Wolverhampton coming together to perform the songs the music school had selected and written. They went down to Queen Square in Wolverhampton on 17th May, along with 10 other primary and secondary schools to perform these pieces. The children had so much fun performing the songs and taking part in a range of singing games. Luckily the sun shone and there was not a rain drop in sight!



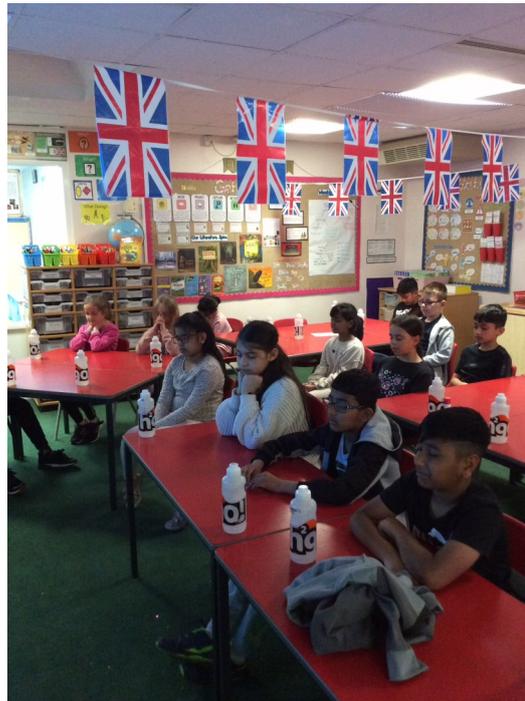
Newsletter

What have we been learning?



Year 4 Visit to Bantock House

On Monday 16th May, Year 4 went to Bantock House to take part in an Art and Nature inspired workshop. The children began their day exploring the house to find examples of where nature had inspired the interior design of the house. They then had a go at sketching the things they found from printed wall papers to curtains. The children also looked at the beautiful gardens and sketched some of the plants and animals they found. Finally, Year 4 produced mandalas inspired by nature and created symmetrical patterns using feathers, shells, rocks and moss. they then replicated our mandalas using chalk.



Buddhism Day

As part of our whole school Buddhism Day, Year 4 looked at special celebration days in the Buddhist religion and created our own Wesak lanterns. In the afternoon, we looked at how Buddhists meditate and why they do this. We took part in a virtual lesson and we all felt so relaxed afterwards!



Values

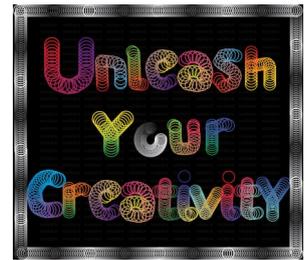
Newsletter

Merridale Values

Each half term, we focus on a core value. This half term we are learning about CREATIVITY.

What does CREATIVITY look like?

- play
- use your imagination
- dream
- find a new way
- discover an idea
- be unique
- be original
- be passionate
- use a wide range of skills



We will be looking out for children that demonstrate this value throughout the half term and rewarding them with special stickers. Please could you discuss creativity with children at home and explore ways to reinforce it. How do YOU like to be creative?





Newsletter

Term Dates

Week beginning 6th June: Phonic Check week for Year 1 pupils
Wednesday 8th June: Farm on Wheels visit for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2
Tuesday 7th June: WGS Book Quiz for Year 6 team.
Thursday 9th June: Year 4 cooking session
Friday 10th June: Food Bank Friday collection
Friday 10th June: Year 2 Fruit and Vegetable food tasting workshop
Tuesday 14th June: School Council elections
Wednesday 15th June: Tiny Forest Science Day for Years 2/3/5/6
Wednesday 15th June: Year 1 visit to St Chad and St Mark's Church
Thursday 16th June: Stuart Anderson (MP for Wolverhampton South West) visiting school
Friday 17th June: Year 5 Wolverhampton Art Gallery visit
Monday 20th—Thursday 23rd June: Book Fair in school
Thursday 23rd June: Year 2 Squirrel Computing Day
Wednesday 22nd—Friday 24th June: Year 6 Borth residential
Thursday 30th June: Year 6 Book Quiz team to WGS Book Awards
Monday 4th July: Year 3 visit to Wightwick Manor
Wednesday 6th July (morning): Nursery visit to Adventure Street
Wednesday 6th July 1.45pm: Sports Day (Reception to Year 6)
Thursday 7th July 1.45pm: RESERVE Sports Day
Friday 8th July (9.30am-1.30am and 1.45-2.45pm): Nursery sports day
WB Monday 11th July: No after school clubs or tuition for the rest of term.
Friday 15th July: Nursery closes
Friday 15th July: Year 2 visit to Wildside
Friday 15th July: Reception Bee Workshop
Friday 15th July: Year 5 visit to Enginuity
Tuesday 19th July 9.30am: Year 6 Leavers Play performance for parents/carers
Tuesday 19th July: Summer disco
Wednesday 20th July 3.20pm: School closes to pupils for the Summer Holidays
Thursday 21st July: INSET Day—school closed to pupils
Monday 5th September: INSET Day—school closed to pupils
Tuesday 6th September: INSET Day—school closed to pupils
Wednesday 7th September—School re-opens to pupils

School library drop-in sessions

We are pleased to announce that we have re-opened our school library for drop-in sessions on a Monday and Friday after school. These sessions will be an opportunity for children and their parents/carers to visit our bungalow library to change their library book together. The library will be open from 3.10-3.30pm on a Monday and Friday each week and we encourage families to drop in and choose and enjoy some books together. School staff will be available to support you for these sessions.





Rise to the

Reading Challenge!

We expect ALL children at Merridale to read (or enjoy a book with someone else) for **AT LEAST 20 minutes at least five times a week!**

Evidence from research shows that children who read daily are more successful learners, leading to increased confidence and enjoyment of reading.

The **role of parents and carers** is central to your child's success with this challenge. Older children may enjoy reading independently each day, however, younger children will require an adult to read with/to them in order to meet their target.

Please ensure that you provide a quiet space for your child to read at least 5 days per week at home and **sign** their reading record to confirm that they have read for **at least 20 minutes**.

Children may read their school reading book or library book. They may also read any other book that they might choose. All of these should be noted down in their reading record and signed by a parent/carer. Just note the date, book title and how many pages have been read and sign in the comments box. If you also wish to write a short comment on your child's reading, that would be great!

At the end of each week, every child who has read for at least 5 days (if not more) will receive a sticker for their class reading chart. The children with the most stickers at the end of each half term in each class will receive a small reward.

