



Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the new school year. We are pleased to welcome back our pupils and families to the Merridale community since we partially closed back in March.

We have put in many measures, following the government's guidance in order to keep children, staff and their families as safe as possible.

We recognise that many children and families may have some anxiety and worry about returning to school and we are happy to discuss these with you if you wish. However, please note that, at this time, parents and carers are not allowed into the school building as we are limiting and reducing the number of visitors to the school site. If you wish to discuss any school matter with staff, please telephone the school or e-mail:

office@merridaleprimary.co.uk

(if it is not urgent) and someone will get in touch with you.

Throughout the Autumn term, school will be offering very limited activities and events to enable us to keep class "bubbles" separate from each other. For this reason, there will be no after school clubs, whole school assemblies, discos, Christmas play, Christmas cinema visit

Attendance and Punctuality

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 to inform them on the first day of absence.

Our attendance policy states that we are unable to authorise any absence for family holiday, trips or visits. If you wish to discuss this further, please make an appointment to see Mr Lane.

Can I remind you that 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 and a text will be sent home.

All children must be collected from school between 3.10 and 3.20pm unless they have permission to walk home alone. We ask that ONE ADULT come onto the school site to collect children at the end of the day and that all families ensure that they socially distance from others that do not live in their household.

The entrance path at the side of school is very narrow. Please be considerate to others and observe social distancing as much as possible when using this path.

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

School Equipment

We have tried to limit the number of items that children bring into school from home. All children have been provided with all equipment/stationery needed for school (pens, pencils, rulers etc) so there is no need for children to bring these items into school. All children have received a brand new, named water bottle, which will remain in school each day. Children only need to bring the following items to school each day:

- Coat
- Packed lunch (where necessary)
- Reading/library book and reading record (this will come home with them each day as part of our reading challenge).

To avoid bringing PE kit from home, we are asking that children in Years 1-6 come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE day. Please ensure that children wear suitable clothing (tracksuit bottoms/shorts, t-shirt, sweatshirt/fleece) on their PE day as they will stay in these clothes all day. Children will need suitable outdoor footwear (trainers) on their PE day and also ensure that long hair is tied back, jewellery/watches are removed or covered with plasters/sweat band.

Years 3 and 4 have PE on a Monday
Years 1 and 2 have PE on a Wednesday
Years 5 and 6 have PE on a Thursday

Jewellery Policy

The only items that are considered appropriate for school, for health and safety reasons, are one pair of small stud or sleeper earrings and watches.

The school does not approve of other jewellery or cosmetics unless for cultural reasons. Any items that are worn must be removed or covered with a sweat band/plaster (to be provided from home) for PE and all items are the responsibility of the pupil. Please note that staff are not allowed to remove or look after jewellery for children.

Long hair must be tied back for PE lessons.

Contact Details

It is vital that the school office has up-to-date, correct contact details for all parents and carers in the event of an emergency. A contact sheet and medical form will shortly be sent out to all families. This is an opportunity to amend and correct your details where necessary. Please ensure that all information about your child is included on this form, including their home language, medical needs and whether or not they are a vegetarian or have any special dietary requirements.

If you need to inform us of any change in circumstances or medical information, you can e-mail school at: office@merridaleprimary.co.uk to let us know.



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Milk Money

Milk money for the Autumn term will be £13.50 unless your child is entitled to free school milk. Please note that children in Year 1 and Year 2 are **not** entitled to free school milk unless parents have applied for this (it is not included in the Universal Infant free School Meal entitlement). Please send milk money into school no later than 25th September.

Dinner Money

Dinner money is £2.30 per day (£11.50 per week). Please can dinner money be sent into school at the start of each week in a named, sealed envelope. Some parents and carers in receipt of income support and Working Family Tax Credits are entitled to free school meals and milk. Please ask at the school office for more information. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible to receive a free school meal everyday under the Universal Infant Free School Meals funding.

We will shortly be moving to a cashless payment system across school—further details will be sent shortly.

Parking restrictions

Please can I remind you that the school car park is for **staff use only**. Please park outside of school where it is safe and legal to do so. Please can I also ask that you respect our school neighbours by **not parking in front of drop-down kerbs**.

School Library

The school library will no longer be open at the end of the school day but all children will have the opportunity to visit the library/take out books at least once per week with their class. If your child currently has any school reading or library books at home, please send these into school. There is a £5 charge for any lost books.

Outdoor Learning

Government advice is for learning to take place outside wherever possible. Children will be going outside as often as the weather allows so please ensure they are dressed appropriately for this.

Meet the Teacher

This term, we will not be holding our usual Meet the Teacher parent/teacher consultation sessions. Instead, parents and carers will be sent a short, written report after October half term, which will explain how your child is settling into their new class and identify any areas of strengths and targets to work on.

Handwashing

We have strict hand-washing and hygiene procedures in place in school.

Children are instructed to wash their hands regularly and practice healthy respiratory hygiene practices (including catch it, bin it, kill it).

Attendance

Please be aware that attendance at school is **no longer optional**.

ALL CHILDREN will be expected to attend **every day that they are well enough to**. If you do not send your child to school, please be aware that you may receive a fine. If your child has been advised not to attend school for medical reasons, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss this.

Term Dates

WB 21st September: Healthy Living Week

Friday 25th September: Milk money for Autumn term (£13.50) to be paid by today

Monday 28th September 5pm: Year 6 parent meeting (secondary transfer, SATs, Borth residential) Please note, this will be a socially distanced meeting in the school hall – ONE adult from each family to attend (no children please).

Friday 2nd October: Food Bank Friday collection

Friday 2nd October: Year 6 Borth deposit (£30) to be paid by today

Monday 5th October: 5pm: Year 2 parent meeting (Key Stage One assessments) Please note, this will be a socially distanced meeting in the school hall – ONE adult from each family to attend (no children please).

Friday 23rd October 3.15pm: School closes for half term

Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October: Half term (school closed)

Monday 2nd November: School re-opens to pupils

Friday 13th November: Diwali celebration day in school—children can come to school dressed in celebration clothing if they wish.

Friday 13th November: Year 6 2nd Borth payment due (£30)

WB 16th November: Anti-bullying/E-Safety week

Friday 18th December 3.15pm: School closes for Christmas holidays

Monday 4th January: INSET Day – school closed to pupils

Tuesday 5th January: School re-opens to pupils



CORONAVIRUS

STAY ALERT TO

THE SYMPTOMS

**HIGH TEMPERATURE
OR NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH
OR LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL?**

No one in your household should leave home if any one person has symptoms.

Find out how to get a test, and how long to isolate, at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES

If anyone in your household shows Coronavirus symptoms,
DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL.

Arrange a test and notify school **IMMEDIATELY!**

Telephone 01902 558760 or

E-mail: office@merridaleprimary.co.uk

Dear Merridale parents, carers and families,

We have now begun the new school year and are pleased to see so many children and families returning to school after a difficult few months.

We have spent a lot of time, as a school, planning for the return of your children to ensure that we are able to keep children, staff and their families as safe as possible, within the government guidelines.

We want children to feel safe and happy at school in their new classes and look forward to them having lots of exciting learning opportunities this year.

Due to Coronavirus still being present, we have had to reduce many of our activities and restrict visitors into school. Children will remain, as much as possible, in their class “bubbles” and we have put in place many measures to ensure that class groups of pupils are socially distancing appropriately from other class bubbles to keep themselves and others safe. We would appreciate if you could talk to your child about the importance of this and model and encourage good socially distanced behaviour outside of school also. Please stay at least 2 metres apart from other households/families whilst waiting outside school at the start and end of the day.

Throughout the school day, children will wash their hands regularly and use hand sanitiser. Staff will explain to children about the importance of good hand hygiene and how it can help to keep us all safe.

What will happen if we have a positive COVID-19 test result within school (e.g. a member of staff or pupil)?

The class bubble which the individual is in would all be sent home to isolate for 14 days, following the government’s Test and Trace system. Please be aware that, at very short notice, your child may be sent home from school and not be able to return for 14 days. Your whole family do not need to isolate unless your child shows symptoms and tests positive for COVID-19 but the individual child must isolate and not leave your home. It is vital that school has up-to-date, working contact telephone numbers for you so that we can get in touch at short notice.

What will happen if a pupil shows COVID-19 symptoms at school?

If your child shows any COVID-19 symptoms at school, they will immediately be isolated away from other staff and pupils. They will be supervised by a member of staff wearing PPE. Parents/carers will be contacted to collect the child. You will then need to arrange a COVID-19 test for your child and notify school of the result of this test as soon as possible. Any siblings (brothers and sisters or anyone living in the same household) would also be sent home at the same time as the pupil. If your child tests positive for COVID-19, they will not be allowed to return to school for 14 days and the whole class bubble will also be sent home to isolate for 14 days. If your child tests negative, they will be allowed to return to school as long as they are well enough.

What will happen if a member of my household tests positive for COVID-19?

If anyone living in your house tests positive for COVID-19, you must inform school (by telephone or e-mail immediately). Your whole household must now isolate for 14 days and you **MUST NOT** come to school for any reason.

If my child is isolating, how will they access school work?

If your child is not able to come to school due to COVID-19, school will provide them with work to complete at home if they are well enough. This might be a work book to complete or home learning activities on our school website or via SeeSaw for older children.

How do I arrange a test for COVID-19 for myself or my child?

Visit the website: [NHS.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

If you need any further information or advice, please do not hesitate to contact school by telephone or e-mail.