



Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now half way through the school year—hasn't time flown! Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have come into school over the past 3 half terms to share your children's learning as well as to find out more about how you can support your children at home. It is very much appreciated. We look forward to seeing even more of you in school over the coming months.

Staffing Changes

I am please to let you know that we have recently appointed a new member of staff who will take over teaching Year 6 after the Easter holidays. Mr Newcombe will be joining us as Year 6 teacher and Maths leader, working closely alongside Mrs Byrne. I am sure you will all make Mr Newcombe feel very welcome.

Parent/Carer Consultations Wednesday 15th February



It was great to see so many parents and carers in school for our parent/carers consultations at the end of last half term. 77% of parents and carers attended appointments with their child's teacher.

We had a few comments from some parents and carers that they were not aware of these meetings. Please can I remind all parents/carers to ensure that school has a working mobile phone number so that you are able to receive text messages from school. These will always be sent to the named "priority 1" contact. If you wish to change which parent/carers receives these messages, please let Mrs Hitch in the office know.

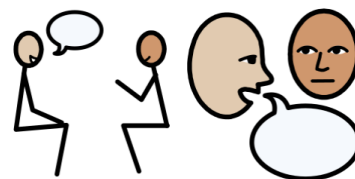
In January, we texted a link to an online form for parents and carers to complete to request an appointment with their child's teacher. We then sent further reminder texts to encourage parents and carers to make and attend their appointments throughout January and February. We also communicate all important dates via letters and newsletters on our website.

[Letters | Merridale Primary](#)
[Newsletters | Merridale Primary](#)

Parent consultation meetings are a useful way to discuss your child's learning and progress with their teacher as well as an opportunity to look through their books. Please can I remind you that teachers are always available to meet with parents at any time between these set meetings dates. If you wish to talk to your child's teacher, please contact the school office and we will arrange this for you.

If you would like to give some feedback on the parent/carers consultation meetings, please complete this form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/EEsceti0td>



Merridale Nursery—provision for 3 and 4 year olds

We are very proud of our school nursery provision at Merridale. Our Nursery has a qualified teacher, delivering high quality provision for our 3 and 4 year olds.

Places are now available for our Nursery for September 2023. Its never to early to register an interest if you have a child who will be turning 3 in the coming months.

Call **01902 558760** or e-mail **office@merridaleprimary.co.uk** to find out more.

If you know any local families with pre-school age child, please spread the word.

Merridale Primary School

Aspen Way, Wolverhampton WV3 0UP

15 HOURS **FREE** CHILDCARE

PLACES AVAILABLE NOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

for eligible 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS



Call: 01902 558760

Or e-mail:

office@merridaleprimary.co.uk

For more information

Visit our school website for further information:

www.merridaleprimary.co.uk

Merridale Primary School, Aspen Way, Wolverhampton, WV3 0UP

Tel: 01902 558760

office@merridaleprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs L Towle



Newsletter

Dinner Money



Dinner money remains the same at £2.30 per day (£11.50 per week) for children in Years 3/4/5/6 who pay for their meals. All school meals must be paid for via SimsPay. Our school meals menu is available on our school website:

[School Meals | Merridale Primary](#)

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.

School Milk



Milk Money is payable to Coolmilk. The school no longer take payments for milk. If your child is under 5, they will be provided free milk until their 5th Birthday. If you wish your child to continue to receive milk after they turn 5, please register with Coolmilk and make a payment at least a week before via the website: www.coolmilk.com. If your child is eligible for free school meals, the school will continue to provide free milk (please check with the school office if you are unsure if you need to pay). If you require any further information, please contact Mrs Hitch in the main school office.

Easter Disco—Thursday 30th March 2023



We will be holding our Easter disco on the afternoon of Thursday 30th March. All children are able to attend the disco but we ask for a voluntary contribution of £2 towards the running cost and to pay for your child's visit to the tuck shop. Payments for this are now available on SimsPay with the last day to make this payment being 17th March. Unless the payment is made by this date, children will not be allowed to visit the tuck shop during the disco.

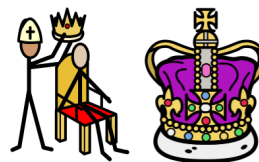
Fasting During Ramadan

We are aware that some older children choose to fast during Ramadan. If you would like your child to fast during the school day, please read the information and complete the consent form, which can be found here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/cJwrg9yHkd>

Coronation Celebration—Thursday 18th May 2023

On Thursday 18th May, we will be holding a special party day in school to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III which takes place on Saturday 6th May (with the addition of an extra bank holiday on Monday 8th May as part of the festivities). As part of this celebration, we have arranged for an ice cream van to visit school to provide a sweet treat for the children! We are asking parents and carers for a £1 contribution towards the cost of an ice cream for their child. Payments will be available to be made shortly via Sims Pay—we will send a text reminder once this payment item is added.





Newsletter

PE at Merridale

Children must come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE day so that they can take part in lessons.

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.

Year 6 have PE on a Monday

Year 3 have PE on a Tuesday

Years 1 and 2 have PE on a Wednesday

Year 4 have PE on a Thursday

Reception and Year 5 have PE on a Friday

Year 5 have also swimming on a Thursday. Please send your child's swimming kit (swimming costume/trunks, towels and swimming hat

We are committed to learning outside as much as possible and we love to make good use of our extensive outdoor areas. We ask for all children to have a **named pair of wellies** in school so that they can take part in as much outdoor learning as possible throughout the year.

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 all PE lessons.



Parent/Carer Survey

Thanks to all of our parents and carers who took the time to complete our annual parent/carers survey. We had 56 responses!

The feedback and evaluation from this can be found on our letters page:

[Letters | Merridale Primary](#)

ATTENDANCE

Come to school, on time, everyday that you can.

At Merridale Primary School, we have high expectations for the attendance of our pupils. This is because we know that all absence from school has a negative impact on a child's education.

Missing school can damage children's achievements, disrupt the school's routines and affect other children's learning.

Above all, missing out on the opportunities provided in school can have a long-term effect on children's chances in life. In order for young people to gain the maximum benefit from their time at school and to maximise future life opportunities, we aim for them to attend school everyday.

What do we expect from parents and carers?

Make sure your child comes to school, on time, everyday.

Let school know straight away when your child cannot attend because they are unwell.

Only request absence leave in exceptional circumstances and always in advance. You will be asked for evidence of this, including travel arrangements and tickets.

Book any medical appointments outside of the school day wherever possible. Provide school with evidence of appointments.

Talk to school if you are having problems with your child's attendance or punctuality so that we can support you.

Engage well with school and our Education Welfare Officer so we can support families and children with attendance issues.

What can parents and carers expect from school?

We will follow up daily on attendance issues.

We will keep parents and carers regularly informed of their child's attendance percentage - each term by text and in their end of year report.

We have a published attendance policy and section on our website for attendance to keep parents and carers informed.

<https://www.merridaleprimary.co.uk/attendance>

We aim for each child and the whole school to have an attendance average percentage of at least 96%.

ATTENDANCE
MATTERS





Newsletter

What have we been learning?



Year 6 Bright Sparks Discover Showcase 11th January 2023

Thanks to all of the Year 6 parents and carers who came along to their Discover learning showcase in January. Parents and carers enjoyed seeing the wide range of work completed in this topic and Year 6 loved showing their parents and carers all they have learned.



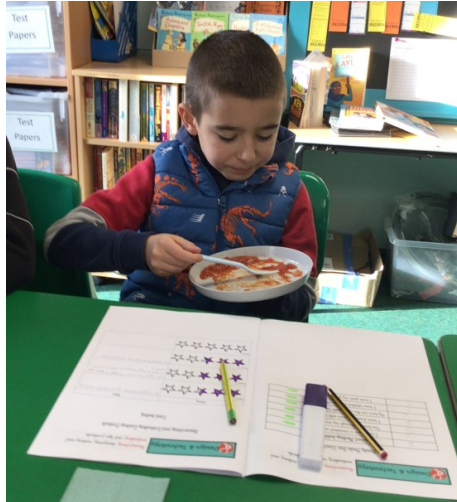
Year 4 Cooking session 19th January 2023

Year 4 enjoyed their second cooking session with a professional chef from the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts. They developed a range of cutting and chopping skills to create their own healthy salad.



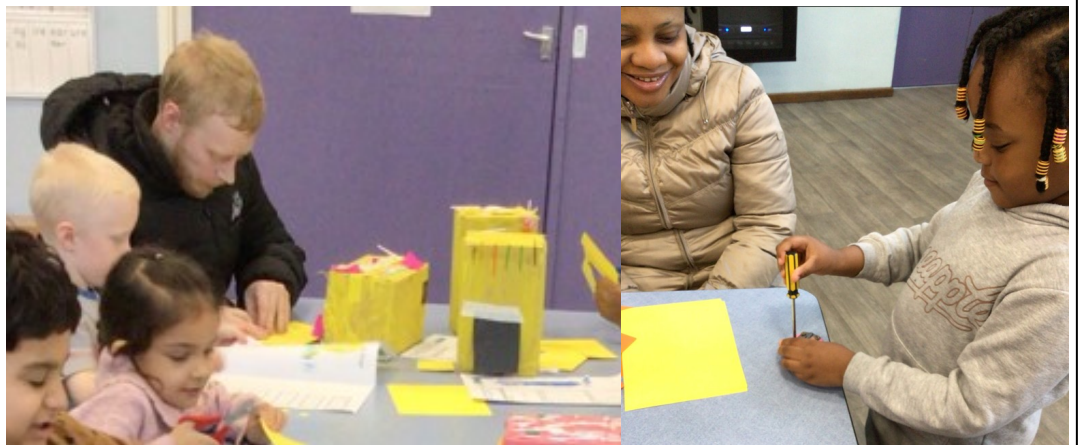
Newsletter

What have we been learning?



Year 6 Design and Technology—Cooking and Healthy Eating

Year 6 learned about healthy eating as part of their topic on the heart. They created their own healthy pasta bake and *really* enjoyed eating it!



Year 1 Discover Showcase 18th January 2023

Year 1 loved sharing their learning from their recent Buildings topic with their parents and carers at their showcase.



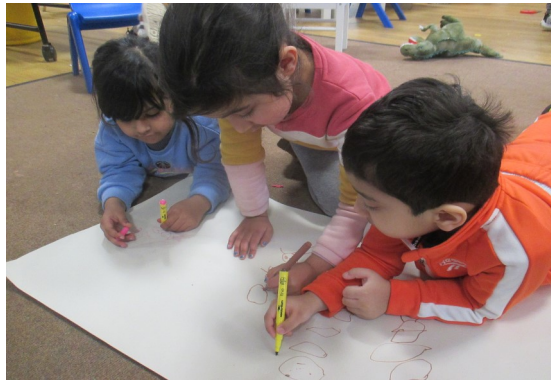
Newsletter

What have we been learning?

Children's Mental Health Day

10th February 2023

To celebrate Children's Mental Health Day, we enjoyed sharing "The Colour Monster" book and dressing in a colour to represent a feeling from the story.



Traditional Tales in Nursery

The children have been learning about traditional tales and have drawn their own pictures of the characters in each story.



Year 6 Singing Workshop 10th January 2023

On the 10th January, Year 6 enjoyed a fun, interactive singing workshop with a music teacher from Wolverhampton Music School.





Newsletter

What have we been learning?



Spelling Bee at Oakmeadow Primary 24th January 2023

Well done to our Year 4 Spelling Bee team who represented Merridale at a Spelling Bee at Oakmeadow Primary School. earlier this term. The children completed a range of challenges to show off their spelling knowledge and skills. The team came 4th out of 8 schools who attended the challenge and we were so proud of their effort and conduct throughout.



Year 5 visit to Wolverhampton Grammar School—Andy Jones (Author) visit—1st February 2023

Year 5 were lucky enough to be invited to Wolverhampton Grammar school earlier last month to see a presentation from children’s author, Andy Jones. Andy was visiting to talk about his latest book “Bob vs. the Selfie Zombies” - children also had the opportunity to purchase their own signed copy!



Newsletter

What have we been learning?



Kinetic Letters Handwriting Workshop Friday 3rd February 2023

Thanks to all of the parents and carers who came along to our handwriting workshop earlier this month. We hope that learning about how we teach handwriting will help you to support your children with this at home.



A Visit from The Mayor of Wolverhampton Wednesday 15th February 2023

We were excited to invite Councillor Sandra Samuels, the Mayor of Wolverhampton, to Merridale. We loved hearing about her work and role as Mayor in an assembly and the School Council enjoyed giving her a tour of the school. We were all inspired by her message of “dare to dream”.



Newsletter

What have we been learning?



School Meals at Merridale

Our School Council recently met with a representative from Caterlink, our school meals provider, to give some feedback on our lunchtime provision. They represented pupils across the school to help shape our future menu and ensure that we are providing meals that all children can enjoy.



Fun in the snow!

We absolutely loved playing in the snow last half term. Children enjoyed making snowmen and having fun with their friends in our beautiful outdoor areas.



Newsletter

What have we been learning?



Greek Pots by Year 5

Year 5 made some pots inspired by their Discover topic: Ancient Civilizations

Values

Merridale Values

Each half term, we focus on a core value.



This half term we are learning about **RESILIENCE**

What does RESILIENCE look like?

- Have a go
- keep trying
- never give up
- take a risk
- take on a challenge
- reflect
- have another go
- keep calm



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 RESILIENCE with children at home and explore ways to reinforce it. How can you be more resilient? What does resilience look like?



Newsletter

What have we been learning?





Merridale Minis

Merridale Minis FREE Stay and Play session for parents, carers and pre-school children (children under 3 years of age).

Every Wednesday morning during term time 10am-11.15am at Merridale Primary School Bungalow
All are welcome



Come along for an opportunity to chat and meet other parents and carers whilst your children play together.
Free refreshments will be provided.
All children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times
Places are limited to due space - book your place in person at Merridale Primary School office or by e-mailing office@merridaleprimary.co.uk

Merridale Minis Stay and Play—Wednesdays @ 10am in the Bungalow

If you have a pre-school age child (under 3) we would like to invite you to come along to our weekly stay and play sessions—Merridale Minis. Every week, children and parents have lots of fun in a relaxed atmosphere. We currently have a few spaces for new members. To join, please contact the main school office ON 01902 558760 or e-mail office@merridaleprimary.co.uk



Newsletter

Term Dates

WB 27th February: E-Safety Focus week - Managing online information
Wednesday 1st March 2pm: Parent Ambassador Coffee Afternoon in the Bungalow. All welcome. No appointment needed.
Thursday 2nd March: Year 6 visit to Grand Station to see Cressida Cowell (author event)
Thursday 2nd March 8.30am: Nurse drop in session for parents and carers—no appointment needed.
Friday 3rd March: World Book Day celebrations—Amazing hair day. Book Swap event at school
Monday 6th March: Year 2 visit to Fire Station
Wednesday 8th March 2.30pm: Year 4 Music performance for parents and carers
Tuesday 14th March 2.45pm: Open Story Time session for Year 5 parents and carers
Wednesday 15th March: Year 6 Borth final payment due date (£30)
Thursday 16th March 8.30am: Nurse drop in session for parents and carers—no appointment needed.
Friday 17th March: Food Bank Friday Collection
Sunday 19th March: Mothering Sunday
Monday 20th March: Cross Country Competition at Highfields School
Tuesday 21st March 2.30pm: Year 6 Discover Showcase for parents and carers
PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE: Wednesday 22nd March 2.30pm: Year 2 Discover Showcase for parents and carers
Wednesday 22nd March: No after school dance club today
Thursday 23rd March 2.30pm: Year 3 Discover showcase for parents and carers
Week beginning Monday 17th March: No after school clubs this week
Monday 27th March: Nursery story time sessions for parents and carers
Monday 27th March 2pm: Reception Spring Craft workshop for parents and carers
Tuesday 28th March 2.30pm: Year 5 Discover Showcase for parents and carers
Wednesday 29th March: Year 4 Easter experience at St Chad and St Mark's Church
Thursday 30th March: Easter Disco
Thursday 30th March 8.30am: Nurse drop in session for parents and carers—no appointment needed.
Friday 31st March 3.15pm: School closes for the Easter holidays
Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April: Easter Holidays (school closed)
Monday 17th April: School re-opens to pupils
Thursday 20th April 8.30am: Nurse drop in session for parents and carers—no appointment needed.
Monday 24th April: Eid celebration day in school —children are invited to come to school in celebration clothes for this if they wish.
WB 24th April: E-Safety Focus week - Health, Well-being and Lifestyle
Tuesday 25th April 2.45pm: Open Story Time session for Year 5 parents and carers
Monday 1st May: Bank Holiday Monday (School closed)
Tuesday 2nd May: School open to pupils as normal
Wednesday 3rd May 2.45pm: Open Story Time session for Year 3 parents and carers
Thursday 4th May: Year 4 Bikeability Session
Friday 5th May: Buddhism day in school
Monday 8th May: Extra Bank holiday for the Kings coronation
Tuesday 9th May to Friday 12th May : Year 6 SATs week
Wednesday 17th May: School photographs
Thursday 18th May: Coronation Celebration day in school
Thursday 18th May: Year 4 Cooking Session 3
Friday 19th May: Book Swap event at school
Tuesday 23rd May 2.30pm: Year 2 Discover Showcase for parents and carers
Tuesday 23rd May: Year 5 to Singing in the Rain event
Thursday 25th May 3.30pm: Year 6 Borth meeting for parents and carers
Friday 26th May: INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
Monday 29th May—Friday 2nd June: Half term (school closed)



Newsletter

Term Dates (continued)

- Monday 5th June:** School re-opens to pupils
- Tuesday 6th June:** Year 5 visit to Cosford (STEM Day)
- Tuesday 6th June 2.30pm:** Violence reduction Partnership workshop (West Midlands Police) parent meeting in the hall for Year 6 parents and carers
- WB 12th June:** E-Safety Focus week - Privacy and Security
- WB 12th June:** Year 1 Phonic Check week
- Thursday 15th June 2.30pm:** Year 5 Discover Showcase for parents and carers
- Friday 16th June :** Food Bank Friday Collection
- Sunday 18th June:** Father's Day
- Monday 19th June—Thursday 22nd June:** Book Fair after school until 4pm
- Wednesday 21st June—Friday 23rd June:** Year 6 Borth residential visit
- Wednesday 21st June 2.45pm:** Open Story Time session for Year 5 parents and carers
- Tuesday 27th June 1.45pm:** Year 1-6 Sports Day
- Wednesday 28th June (times to be confirmed):** EYFS Sports Day (Nursery and Reception classes)
- Friday 30th June:** Year 1 Visit to Dudley Zoo
- Thursday 13th July 3.30pm:** Reception reading/phonics meeting for parents/carers
- Friday 14th July 3.20pm:** Nursery closes
- Tuesday 18th July:** Year 4 visit to Carding Mill Valley
- Thursday 20th July 9.15am:** Year 6 Leavers' Play performance for parents and carers
- Thursday 20th July:** Year 6 Leavers' party after school
- Monday 24th July:** Summer disco
- Tuesday 25th July 3.15pm:** School closes for the Summer holidays
- Wednesday 26th July—Sunday 3rd September:** Summer Holidays (School closed)
- Monday 4th September:** INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
- Tuesday 5th September: School re-opens to pupils

Food Bank Friday

Collection @ Merridale

Friday 17th March 2023

Can you help?

Please remember all food/toiletries/baby items donated need to be...

- non-perishable, so no fresh food
- at least 2 weeks within it's 'best before end' (BBE) or 'sell by' date when we receive it
- in sealed packaging/undamaged tins

Please send all donations into school on the morning of Friday 17th March (no earlier please as we have nowhere to store donations).

Thank you for helping us to support The Well!



Shopping list of suggested donation items:

- Milk (UHT or powdered)
- Cereal
- Tea/Coffee
- Sugar
- Jam/spreads
- Squash/Fruit Juice (UHT)
- Meat/fish (Tinned)
- Pasta/ Rice/Noodles (dried)
- Couscous/Pulses
- Soup (tinned)
- Vegetables (Tinned)
- Pasta /cooking sauce (Jar)
- Fruit/Puddings(/ custard Tinned)
- Snacks/biscuits
- Nappies (any size, sealed pack)
- Baby wipes/Toiletries
- Baby food (long use by date)
- Ladies'/Men's toiletries
- Household cleaning products

NO BAKED BEANS PLEASE

A drink and a chat

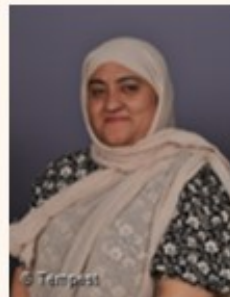
YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

Coffee Afternoon



COME ALONG FOR A DRINK, BISCUIT AND A CHAT WITH
OUR PARENT AMBASSADORS, MARGARET AND HAJRA.
MEET OTHER PARENTS AND CARERS FROM MERRIDALE

WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH 2PM
@ MERRIDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL BUNGALOW



Relax and share

all are welcome

Thanks to all of the parents and carers who attended our Parent Ambassador Coffee afternoon last half term. We would like to invite anyone who is interested to come along to the next one on Wednesday 1st March at 2pm. If you are interested, there is no need to book—just come along to enjoy a hot drink with Merridale parents and carers and our Parent Ambassadors.

**WOLVES
WASTE
NOT**

**WOLVES
WASTE
NOT**

SURPLUS FOOD MARKET

EVERY SATURDAY 12.30pm

**St Chad's & St Mark's Church
Lime Street WV3 0EX**



PAY AS YOU FEEL

These images are only an example of what might be available

Come in!

**For tasty food
and good company**



**Free meals
Wednesdays
5.00pm**

Everyone is welcome

**FoodCycle
Wolverhampton
Wesleyan Holiness
Church
2 Merridale Ln
WV3 9RD**



Is my child too ill for school?

When children are ill, there are times when they must not attend school so that they do not pass anything onto other children and staff.

Find out more here:

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)



| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| Chicken Pox When all spots have crusted over | Conjunctivitis None* | Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode | Glandular Fever None* | Hand, foot & mouth None* | Impetigo When lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics |
| Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash | Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling | Scabies After first treatment | Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics | Slapped Cheek None* | Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics |
| | Flu Until recovered | Head Lice None* | Threadworms None* | Tonsillitis None* | |

This information is based on the [Public Health Agency guide - full copy here](#)

*No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed.

[Guidance on infection control in schools poster.pdf \(hscni.net\)](#)



Reading at home

For children learning phonics through Read, Write, Inc



Phonetically Matched Book

This book is specifically matched to your child's current phonic level. Please listen to your child read this book by themselves everyday for 20 minutes. If your child has finished reading their book within the week **please hear them read it more than once!** This is good practise and helps them to become fluent.

Scan this QR Code to see how to use a Phonetically Matched Book Bag Book



This book will be changed once a week, not always on the same day. Make sure your child brings their book back to school everyday.

Record reading daily in the reading record.

Here is an example of what this might look like.



| Date | Book and Page Number | Remarks |
|------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 16/3 | A house fit for a mouse pg 1-5 | Great sounding out |
| 17/3 | A house fit for a mouse pg 5-10 | Retold the story well! |
| 18/3 | A house fit for a mouse pg 11 | Answered questions with a bit of help |

Sharing Book This book is a book to enjoy together with your child. It may contain sounds your child does not know so help them to decode these and read together. This book will be changed once a week, not always on the same day.

Library Book Your child has chosen this book from the library to enjoy. It could be fiction or non-fiction. It may contain sounds your child does not know so help them to decode these and read together. Please read together.



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.





Safe and Legal Parking outside Merridale Primary School

PLEASE KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

The overriding reason for this guidance is to keep our children safe outside our school gates and to respect our neighbours whilst also making sure parents and carers do not break the law.

Drivers, parents and carers who break the law can be issued with a penalty charge notice (fine).

We know that the school run can be a stressful time. The last thing we want to do is make it harder, but it's really important for everyone's safety that you observe the rules and park safely. That's why it's a good idea, if you drive your children to school, to get here early and look for somewhere safe and legal to park.

Can I park on **double and single yellow lines**?

No. Please do not park on any yellow lines. Cars parked there can obstruct lines of sight for pedestrians who want to cross the road. Any car left unattended on a single or double yellow line for more than a few minutes can be issued with a penalty charge notice. You are only allowed to stop on double or single yellow lines for a short period of time to allow passengers to enter or exit the vehicle, providing no obstruction is being caused.

Can I park on school **zig-zag** or **keep clear** markings?

No. In the interests of safety, you should never park on those markings. Any vehicle found on them can be issued with a penalty charge notice. This also applies to Blue Badge Holders.

Can I **double park** if I remain in my vehicle?

No. This causes an obstruction for other road users and is a danger to pedestrians.

Can I park over **drop-down kerbs** in front of the houses opposite school?

No. This causes an obstruction and means that our neighbours around school are not able to get on and off their drives.

Can I park on the **school car park**?

No, this car park is for staff only. Parking on the school car park causes an obstruction for staff and is a safety risk for staff, pupils and families who might be crossing the car park on foot.

You must also make sure your child is using the correct child seat, restraint or booster seat when driving. Children under 135cm tall require a booster seat by law to ensure that they are safe when travelling in a vehicle.