



Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the school year comes to a close, I wanted to share with you some of our learning from this last half term alongside some news and notices.

Thanks to our whole school community for a happy and successful school year. This year, we have faced many changes and challenges but, as ever, our children shine through with their positive attitudes and behaviours. We have had a great deal of fun over the year and I wanted to thank all of our parents, carers, family members and wider community for their support. A happy and thriving school such as ours is a real team effort and I truly believe that with effective communication and positivity, we can work together to ensure our children are learning well and achieving their potential.

Start and end of the day—September 2022

We have a couple of changes to the timings to the start and end of the day for September. From the first day of term in September (Wednesday 7th September for Years 1-6 children), children will be able to come into school between **8.35am and 8.50am** (five minute's earlier than they do currently). We are hopeful that this earlier start will support families and children in getting to school on time ready for registration at 8.50am. If children arrive after the gate closes at 8.50am, they must report the main school office and we need to be signed in by a parent or carer, as they do now. Please be aware that children who arrive at school late miss valuable learning opportunities at the start of the day.

Our end of the day timings are also changing from September. The main black gates on the school car park will now be opened at **3.15pm** (rather than 3.10pm) and parents and carers will have a five minute window (until 3.20pm) to follow our one-way system around the back of school to collect their children. From 3.20pm, this gate will be locked and children must be collected from the main office.

Book Fair

Thank you to all of our families who visited our Travelling Books book fair in June. From books sales, school made £346 in commission which will be spent on books for our classes and school library.

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 July 2022)

Whole school 93.5%

Reception: 93%

Year 1: 92.7%

Year 2: 92.5%

Year 3: 94.3%

Year 4: 93.6%

Year 5: 93.7%

Year 6: 94.3%

You can find up to date attendance figures here:

[Attendance Figures | Merridale Primary](#)

School **cannot** authorise absences for holidays or trips during term time, as stated in our attendance policy.

Please see the next page for some further attendance information.

Food Bank Friday

Thanks to all of the families who donated to our Food Bank Friday collection on Friday 10th June. We were delighted with the response and are grateful for your continued support of this much-valued local charity.

Class Teachers In September

Our class teachers for each year group in September remain unchanged:

Nursery: Miss N Brown

Reception: Mrs E Hughes and Mrs H Craggs (job share)

Year 1: Miss P Sahn

Year 2: Mrs A Tanner

Year 3: Mrs N Tara

Year 4: Miss A Richardson

Year 5: Miss N Sangha

Year 6: Mrs S Byrne

At the end of term, we say goodbye to Mrs Hatton who has taught Year 2 this year as well as Mrs Woodward who has worked supporting children in Years 4 and 5.

Contact Details

We are committed to becoming a paperless school and, as such, will increasingly be sending communication via text message. Please make sure school has an up to date contact number for you so that you do not miss any communications.

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



Goodbye Year 6

We are feeling lots of mixed emotions as we say goodbye to our Year 6 class at the end of the term. We are so proud of all they have achieved during their time with us at Merridale but we are really going to miss all that they contribute to our school. This year's class have amazed us with their effort, achievement and resilience—especially as they are the first class to have taken SATs since COVID. They have impressed us with their knowledge, kindness and maturity and we know they are ready for the next stage in their education. We wish them lots of luck as they start on their new journey and we hope you pop back and say hello every now and again! Well done on your super leaver's performance—we were so impressed with your singing and acting skills.





Newsletter

What have we been learning?



Stuart Anderson MP Visit

On Thursday 16th June we were visited by the MP for Wolverhampton South West, Stuart Anderson. Stuart led a whole school assembly to talk about his role and background, taking questions from the children. He then met with the School Council where they found out more about MPs, democracy and their role in society. The children learned so much during the morning and we look forward to inviting Stuart back to Merridale in the future.



Wolverhampton Grammar School Book Quiz and Book Awards Ceremony

On Tuesday 7th June 8 children from year 6 took part in Wolverhampton Grammar School's annual book quiz. They all worked incredibly hard to read the 4 shortlisted titles and managed to score 37/40 on the day, reaching second place in the quiz.

On Thursday 30th June the team were invited back to WGS for the Wolverhampton children's book awards ceremony where they got to work with the shortlisted authors and learn about how they were inspired to write.



Newsletter

What have we been learning?

Farm on Wheels

On Wednesday 8th June EYFS, Year 1 and 2 enjoyed a visit from the Farm on Wheels. The farmer, Stella, brought calves, lambs, chicken and chicks, ducks and baby rabbits onto the school field for us to meet. Children from Nursery to Year 2 were able to have a wonderful, hands-on experience and were able to touch the animals, bottle feed a lamb and hold a baby rabbit. What a great day!



Open the Book Assembly

We have been really pleased to welcome back the Open The Book team to Merridale this term to share some of their Bible stories and messages with our children. The children have loved getting involved with the acting and story telling to bring these tales to life.





Newsletter

What have we been learning?



Year 6 residential to Borth: Wednesday 22nd to Friday 24th June

During our recent year 6 residential to Borth, children completed a range of field work activities as well as spending time on the beach. They were also lucky enough to watch dolphins swimming across the bay.

As always, year 6 represented our school fantastically with exemplary manners and behaviour throughout.





Newsletter

What have we been learning?



Year 1 Visit St Chad and St Mark's Church

On Wednesday 15th June Year 1 visited the church as part of their RE topic. We have been learning about how a church was a place of worship for Christians and learnt how a Sunday service was held. We have also been learning about what made Jesus a good friend by looking at some stories from the Bible and listened to some stories from the Bible whilst we were at the church.

Year 5 Visit to Wolverhampton Art Gallery

On Friday 17th June Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Wolverhampton Art Gallery. They looked at the work of Andy Warhol and many more pop art pieces to identify the key traits. They then had a go at using this knowledge to inspire them to create their own sketches. Once they had done this, they carved this sketch out onto a tile ready to be printed. They produced some wonderful pieces in the style of pop art.



Dhol Drumming Performance

On Thursday 23rd June, our Dhol drumming musicians performed for parents and carers as well as Years 3 and 4. We loved seeing how much they have learned in only a few months with their teacher, Mr Singh, and we look forward to seeing how they progress in future.



What have we been learning?

Newsletter



The Brothers McLeod Author Visit

On Tuesday 21st June, we welcomed The Brothers McLeod to Merridale for a creative story writing and illustration workshop. We really enjoyed hearing about the Knight Sir Louis trilogy of books and finding out more about their writing process and experiences.



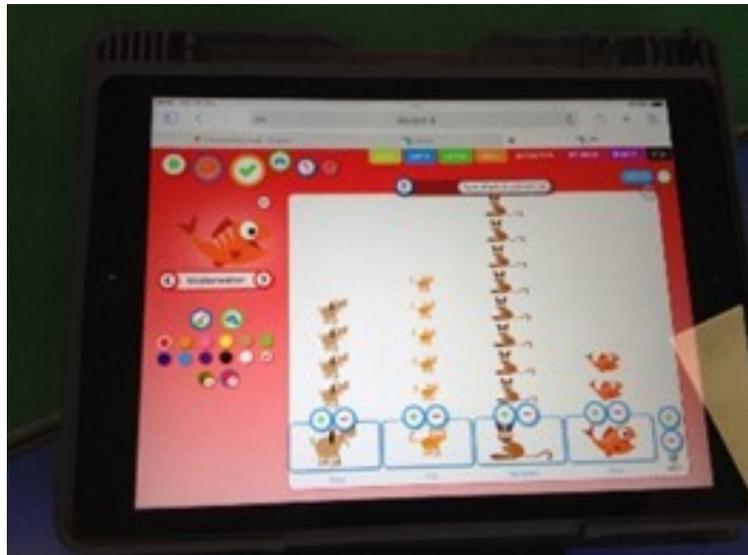
Newsletter

What have we been learning?



Race for Life

Well done to Mrs Khela, Mrs Matthews, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Byrne and Mrs Towle on their achievements at the West Park Cancer Research Race for Life on Sunday 12th July.



Year 2 Squirrel Computing Day

On Thursday 23rd June, Year 2 had an amazing time learning on their Squirrel computing day, learning how to use QR codes to gather data then turn the data into bar graphs. All children understood what data was important for and how we can use it to find out information.



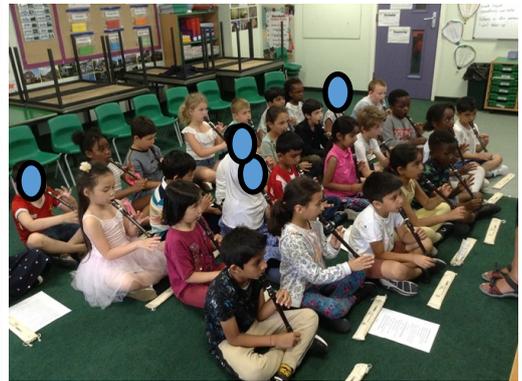
Newsletter

What have we been learning?



Year 4 Cooking Session

On Thursday 9th June for Year 4's final cooking session, they got to put all their new cooking skills into action to create their own dough. The children were given a basic dough recipe to follow and needed to weigh out all their ingredients. They then mixed and kneaded their dough. We left the dough to prove all day and we were amazed by how big they got! We took our dough balls home to bake. Some of us rolled them out into pizza or baked them in a loaf tin.



Year 2 Music Performance

Year 2 have been working very hard to learn the recorder this year. They have learned the notes A and B and are able to perform solos and as a group. On Tuesday 12th July, they had a wonderful time showing everything they have learned to their parents and carers in a short concert.



Newsletter

What have we been learning?



Tiny Forest Science Day
 On Wednesday 15th June, Years 2, 3, 5 and 6 visited the Tiny Forest on Oak Street. The children took part in carbon capture measurement, flood management investigation, biodiversity surveys and thermal comfort observations. We have really enjoyed seeing how the Tiny Forest has grown and changed over the last few years as well as investigating the impact on the environment with support from the Earth Watch team.



Year 2 visit to Wildside
 On Friday 15th July Year 2 went to Wildside Activity Centre. We enjoyed going on a narrowboat ride and a long walk along the canal. Children spotted bridges and tunnels as well as seeing a lock in action. We also learnt a little bit of history about the canal. After lunch children enjoyed mini-beast hunting and pond dipping where we even caught some fish. This trip linked to Year 2's Out and About UK topic.





Newsletter

What have we been learning?



Year 3 visit to Wightwick Manor

On Monday 4th July, Year 3 went to Wightwick Manor as part of their Explorers topic. Children explored the grounds and had to find given points on their maps. Year 3 also did some Geography fieldwork where they measured the circumference of different tree trunks. Finally, children had a tour around the Manor to find out about what life was like in the past. Year 3 saw lots of very different rooms and admired the decoration of the house with ornaments, carpets and lots of artwork by William Morris. Children especially liked rolling down the hill, playing on the trim trail and having a picnic with their friends. It was a really great day out!



Year 5 visit to Enginuity

On Friday 15th July Year 5 had a super time at Enginuity! They used their knowledge of circuits and forces to design and make buggies that fit a given criteria. Once all teams had created their buggies, they got to race them down the track to see who had met the criteria. They had to ensure that their cars were light, functional and appealing. All of year 5 designed some excellent buggies and throughout the day showed a super forces knowledge.





What have we been learning?



Key Stage 2 Book Quiz

On Tuesday 12th July Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 battled it out in our annual Book Quiz. Quiz teams from each classes answered questions about their class texts as well as learning information from their author profiles. Year 5 stormed to victory but it was a really close call as the teams performed brilliantly.



Sports Day

Wednesday 6th July we held our first sports day in 3 years! Thank you to all parents, carers and family members that came to support children in their activities. We felt that children demonstrated real sportsmanship, resilience, aspiration and respect.

Newsletter



What have we been learning?



Year 1 Pizza Making

On Friday 15th July, Year 1 designed and made their very own pizzas. We had a pizza party to taste and evaluate our pizzas. We even tried some peppers and mushrooms.



Reception Bee Workshop

On Friday 15th July...Reception were visited by a bee keeper called Alison. She taught us all about honey bees, their life cycle and their habitats. We drew pictures of bees, went on a hexagon hunt to create a bee hive, role played the life cycle and dressed up as bee keepers. We had so much fun!



Newsletter



Summer Term Prize Winners
Congratulations and well done to our Summer term prize winners—we are so proud of your achievements throughout the whole year. You are an excellent example of our Merridale values.

Merridale Values
Each half term, we focus on a core value.
So far this year, we have focused on respect, resilience, curiosity and creativity.



Growing Together through our values 

When we come back in September, our focus will be on aspiration and kindness.



Newsletter

Term Dates

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 **from 8.35am**

Thursday 8th September: Year 4 cooking session with The Royal Academy of Culinary Arts

Week Beginning 26th September: Healthy Living Week

Friday 30th September 1.45pm: Merridale Marathon—parent, carers and families are invited to join us for this—we will be raising funds for Compton Hospice, our chosen charity for this year.

Friday 14th October: Food Bank Friday Collection

Monday 24th—Friday 28th October: Half term (school closed)

Monday 31st October: INSET Day (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 1st November: School re-opens to pupils

Thursday 3rd November: Year 2 author visit to Grand Theatre (further details to follow)

Monday 7th to Thursday 10th November until 4pm: Book Fair in school

Friday 16th December 3.20pm: School closes for the Christmas holidays

Tuesday 3rd January: INSET Day (school closed to pupils)

Wednesday 4th January: School re-opens to pupils