



Newsletter

As we approach the end of term we have so much to celebrate. Staff and pupils have been working hard to prepare and celebrate this festive season and we wanted to say a big thank you for all of your support over the term by sharing some of our recent news and upcoming events with you. Can I also take this opportunity to wish all of our families a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Food Bank Collection at Sainsbury's

On Saturday 29th November our School Council proudly represented our school at the new Sainsbury's store to collect items for The Well Food Bank. In just two hours the children encouraged shoppers to donate items and managed to fill nearly three shopping trolleys! Well done to the children and families who gave their time to support this fantastic local cause.



Game 4 Reading Book Quiz

Our Year 6 Book Quiz team represented the school brilliantly at the Education Library service's annual Game 4 Reading Book Quiz in November. The team beat off stiff competition to reach the semi-finals of the quiz.

Healthy Lifestyles Family Learning Workshops

In October and November a number of families attended our healthy lifestyles workshops. Along with their children, parents and carers enjoyed cooking activities as well as learning about nutrition.



School Choir

Merridale Primary is very lucky to have a wonderful school choir who work very hard and enjoy performing. Recently, the choir have performed at a number of special events. On Friday 5th December, the choir visited McCalla House, a local residential care home to perform some carols for their residents. The choir also performed at St Chad and St Marks' Christingle service on Sunday 7th December and we look forward to their performance at Lea Road Church on Thursday 18th December at 6pm. This service is open to the public so come along if you would like to share in this special celebration and see our choir perform.

Brilliant Brains Family Learning Workshops

In November some of our key stage 2 children and their families took part in a series of 3 workshops run by Campaign for Learning and the Wolverhampton EAL & New Arrivals Team. The sessions were well attended; the children and their parents/carers enjoyed learning about how the human brain works and finding out about some learning strategies. The group produced some fantastic animations and thoroughly enjoyed this family learning opportunity.

Children in Need

Thanks to everyone who helped us to raise £190 for Children in Need back in November. The children very much enjoyed dressing up as superheroes for the day. We were also extremely proud of our school choir who performed at Birmingham Think Tank Museum – you might have even spotted them on TV that night! Well done to everyone who contributed to this fantastic charitable event.





Newsletter

Changes to the start of the day

In November we changed how children came into school at the start of the day. Children are now welcome to come straight into school between 8.40 and 8.50am each day. We have found these changes to be extremely beneficial and have resulted in a much calmer, productive start to each school day.

Thank you for your support in getting your child to school on time each day, being punctual for school has a massive impact on learning.

Lost Property

Please note that any items of lost property left in school at the end of term will be donated to charity.

Terrific for Twos

Our new "Terrific for Twos" centre is NOW OPEN in the bungalow on the school site. If you would like to find out more information or to check whether your two-year-old is eligible for a 15 hour funded place, please enquire at the school office.

Milk Money and Dinner Money

If your child would like milk in school during the Spring term, please send £11.00 into school at the start of term. Dinner money remains the same at £2.10 per child per day for Key stage 2 children.

First News

Many Year 4,5 and 6 parents and carers have now signed up to receive our weekly First News e-mail to support their child with reading at home. If you would like to receive this e-mail, please provide the school office with a working e-mail address.

Reception Phonics Family Learning

Workshops

Throughout this term we have been joined by staff from Wolverhampton Adult Education Service to lead sessions for our reception families to support them in teaching their children phonics. These sessions have been really well-attended and we look forward to some further sessions in the Spring term which will focus on Numbers.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

Thanks to everyone who donated shoeboxes and/or items for our recent Christmas shoebox appeal. The boxes are now on their travels around the world and will be enjoyed by children who wouldn't normally receive gifts this Christmas.

Term Dates

Friday 12th December: School Christmas Dinner

WB 15th December: **No after school clubs this week.** Clubs will start again the week beginning 19th January – you will receive a new letter at the start of next term to sign your child up for clubs.

Tuesday 16th December: Year 1-6 visit to the Panto. We will return to school at 5.15pm. Please ensure an adult collects your child.

Thursday 18th December: Christingle service at St Chad and St Mark's Church (10am)

Thursday 18th December: Christmas Disco at school (£1 entry per child plus tuck shop money if you wish).

Friday 19th December: Children break up for Christmas holidays (3.15pm)

Monday 5th January: **INSET day: School closed to pupils.**

Tuesday 6th January: School open to pupils.

Thursday 15th January: Year 6 visit to The Black Country Living Museum

Thursday 22nd January: Year 5 class assembly

Thursday 29th January: Year 5 trip to Birmingham Museum.

Friday 6th February: Food Bank Friday collection.

Monday 9th February: EYFS and Key Stage 1: Parent Consultations 3.30-5pm

Tuesday 10th February: Key Stage 2 Parent Consultations 3.30-5pm

Wednesday 11th February: Whole school Parent Consultations 6-8pm

Friday 13th February 3.15pm: School closes for half term

Monday 23rd February: School re-opens after half term.

