



# Welcome to Merridale Primary School



2020-21

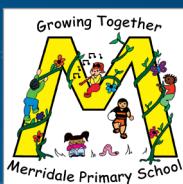
# Welcome to

# Merridale Primary School

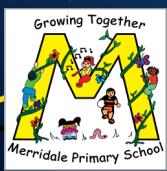
## Aims of the school

### At Merridale Primary School we aim:

- To ensure everyone in the school has the opportunity to maximise their full potential.
- To provide every child with the highest quality teaching and learning opportunities.
- To provide a welcoming, safe and happy school environment.
- To provide role models who promote positive values to prepare children for life in modern Britain.
- To provide an exciting, engaging and effective curriculum.
- To celebrate the cultural diversity of the school and local community
- For parents, carers and families to be partners in learning.



Merridale Primary School  
Aspen Way, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV3 0UP  
Tel: 01902 55 87 60  
Website: [www.merridaleprimary.co.uk](http://www.merridaleprimary.co.uk)  
E-mail: [office@merridaleprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@merridaleprimary.co.uk)



# Welcome to Merridale Primary School

## From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

This booklet aims to answer the questions you may have about how our school is organised and give you an opportunity to find out more about what Merridale Primary School is like.

We recognise that the decision of which school to send your child to is a very important one and we want to ensure that we provide as much information to enable you to make the right choice about this important stage in your child's life.

Here at Merridale Primary School, we are committed to providing a happy, stimulating and safe environment where staff work alongside children to help them to reach their full potential.

Every effort is made to provide a full and exciting curriculum to prepare your child for future education and give them skills and enthusiasm to pursue learning for the rest of their lives.

We hope you will encourage your child to contribute to the life of the school and take part in, and enjoy, the many opportunities on offer to them here.

We hope that your involvement with the school is a long and happy one.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Simon Lane  
Headteacher

Merridale Primary School



## From the Chair of Governors

If you want your child to join a caring and supportive environment, be challenged to achieve and expected to do so, then you will find, at Merridale School, we have much to offer. Merridale School cares deeply for every pupil in its care and is committed to giving the very best education to all of its pupils from the Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 6.

We are a one form entry school that prides itself on our principles and values to enable your child to get the best possible learning environment as they grow and develop. We are dedicated to developing the school, raising educational standards and ensuring that we put our children at the heart of all our decisions to support your child to become a well-mannered, nurtured, happy, member of the school who achieves to the best of their ability.

One of our many strengths is the school's diversity: we have pupils with a wide range of abilities, rich cultural backgrounds and various religions. The school staff are passionate about improving the opportunities for each child and truly believe that every child is an individual and has a unique offering to the school. By having the highest standards and expectations and an exciting curriculum, we will build on the strengths of all individual pupils.

I believe that you will find that the school has an intimate, friendly and family-centred approach through the leadership of our Head, Mr Simon Lane. We truly believe that a strong partnership between the children, Simon Lane and the staff, Governors and parents will take our school from strength to strength.

We have high expectations of our children and also of our parents/carers. Your role, as a parent/carer, will be to help and support the teachers and staff who are primarily responsible for your child's progress. We also believe parents/carers have a crucial role in ensuring their child has the best possible educational experience at Merridale School by supporting their child's education at home.

As Governors, we monitor pupil's progress with high expectations that all can achieve the best that they are able to. As part of our involvement, we have a named governor linked with specific targets. We visit the school on a regular basis, liaising with the teaching staff, monitoring progress and reporting back to the wider governing body.

All the staff, Head teacher and Governors work in partnership to ensure the children who attend Merridale School receive a high quality education in an atmosphere of warmth and security. Most importantly, we want children to enjoy the school experience to support their development and growth. At Merridale School we make learning fun to ensure we are all "Growing Together".

Gurinder Atwal, Chair of Governors



# From the School Council

## Our Mission Statement

To help look after the needs of the children at Merridale. We want to help make their learning as enjoyable as possible whilst making them feel safe and secure.

## Our Job

To listen to the ideas of pupils, try to turn them into reality and try to improve the school.

## How does it Work?

The School Council is made up of two members from each class in Years 3 to 6. Each Councillor is nominated and voted for through a class election and given the responsibility of representing their class. The School Council meets regularly to design agendas and action plans to deal with issues and implement ideas to address the needs of the children of Merridale. We also have a monthly meeting with Mr Lane to discuss our ideas along with any tasks that the school would like the School Council to work on also.

## Team Work

School Council works as a team! We elect a chairperson and secretary who lead and take minutes of our meetings. We share out jobs equally and feedback to others in class at our weekly class council meetings. We have a suggestion box where children can share ideas with us ; we look at these every week and pick one to try and make possible.

## Exciting Events

Merridale continues to put the needs of the children first by holding events such as the Merridale Marathon and school discos. We like to get involved in activities which are fun for us and our classmates and, importantly, help us raise money for things we want.

We also raise support for events which are important to us and our school, like donations from wholesalers towards our sensory garden development and also companies such as Sainsbury's to enquire about donations for PE. The School Council were also part of selecting our new catering company and purchasing new play equipment for every class. This included brand new football goals and new outdoor games for lunchtime. We did this by carrying out research to see what children wanted and needed and then delivered our findings and final judgments to our Headteacher. The School Council also contributed towards our recent "good" judgement from Ofsted: we spoke to inspectors about our roles, hopes and plans for the children at Merridale. We appreciate that our voice is heard and well respected. We also help to promote our regular Food Bank Fridays within school by making posters and leaflets that go home to parents. School councillors also encourage children to bring in donation for Food Bank Friday in school assemblies. We help to raise extra money for Children in Need by running a face painting stall at lunch time. We recently gathered pupils opinions on changing the timings within our school day: we gathered the views of our classmates and presented them to our Headteacher which helped him to make his final decision about these changes.

## Special Days

Learning at Merridale is truly made more memorable when teachers organise special days like Enterprise Week, Out and About week, Diwali Day, World Book Day, Merridale's Got Talent, Merridale's Discos, Sports day and our Eid, Harvest, Easter and Christmas celebrations. We get to work with other teachers and children from other year groups and get to do amazing activities both indoor and outdoors!

We know how happy the children at Merridale are and feel very proud to be part of such a great team and, more importantly, help contribute towards its success. We hope you will come and join our fantastic school! See you soon!

Thank you

The School Council



## School Organisation

**M**erridale Primary School is a local authority community school with a delegated budget. It is a one form entry school with provision for pupils from three to eleven years. The maximum number of pupils that may be admitted into Reception and other full-time classes is 30.

The school is organised into three phases, each responsible for a particular age range these are:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception classes)
- Key Stage One (Years one and two)
- Key Stage Two (Years three, four, five and six)

Children are organised into registration groups based on their age from Nursery through to Year six.

The attached Nursery accommodates forty children on a part-time basis, twenty children attend the morning session and twenty during the afternoon.



# School Inspection

A n Ofsted inspection took place at the school in November 2018 with the overall effectiveness of the school judged to be “good”. Here are some of the comments included in the report which can be accessed at [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

“Standards in English and Mathematics at the end of key stage 2 have risen.”

“In 2018, the proportion of pupils reaching the expected standard for their age in reading, writing and mathematics was above average. This represents at least good progress for most pupils and is a commendable achievement.”

“Teaching continues to be successful, leadership potential in staff has been developed and pupils are kept safe and happy at school.”

“From the day children first start in Nursery until when they leave at the end of Year 6, parents are kept informed about school life and how to help their children at home.”

“..whatever their starting points, ... provision ensures that children settle in quickly, make good progress and develop an interest in school life and learning.”

“Both early years classes are very well organised with lots of equipment and inviting areas and activities. These encourage children to investigate, question, discuss, imagine and create.”

“There is no doubt that teaching in the early years is attentive and responsive to children’s different needs.”

“The school’s attention to reading has clearly been a factor in pushing standards higher at the end of key stage 2. Indeed, for the past three years, the proportion of pupils reaching the expected standard for their age in reading has risen and, most recently, was above average.”

“The school has allocated time and funds to taking pupils out and about on what are called ‘Merridale memory days’. These memory days involve pupils climbing hills, visiting the theatre and seaside in order to widen their experiences and interests.”

“Another simple, yet highly effective, initiative has been the creation of parent ambassadors, who act as an extra link between home and school. These bilingual parent members of staff are at the school gates each morning and afternoon so that parents can speak with them. They help to overcome any language barriers or other difficulties that may hinder parents’ communication with school. This supportive and listening relationship between home and school helps to build trust.”





## What Parents and Carers think...

The school has a very good relationship with its parents and carers and is always keen to listen to their views and opinions and respond where appropriate. We carry out a comprehensive annual Parent/Carer survey. Our last survey, in February 2020, identified areas for improvement which were discussed by staff, Governors and children and responses were made appropriately.

Here are a selection of comments that have been made in our surveys by our parents and carers:

### Enjoyment of school

- "My children always look forward to coming to school. They love being there and learning."
- "My son is very happy at Merridale. He loves all of the school events and activities. He enjoys learning."

### Safety and care of children

- "The school looks after the children well and makes sure problems don't escalate."
- "The staff help to sort out problems quickly and communicate well with parents."
- "My child feels safe and happy at school. She knows what to do if she has a problem."

### Pupil Progress

- "Teaching is excellent – very supportive teachers and staff"
- "She is developing her full potential and progressing well with the support of school staff."

### Leadership of the school

- "The headteacher has excellent interpersonal skills and ensures that the school is well led."
- "School leaders ensure a wide and varied curriculum enhanced by extra-curricular activities and enjoyable learning experiences."





## What Parents and Carers think...

### Teaching and Homework

- "The teachers do an excellent job and the homework is challenging."
- "The teaching and support makes sure all children can progress."
- "The teaching is engaging which makes learning fun."
- "Homework, including online tasks, help to support my children in their learning."

### Behaviour

- "Behaviour at Merridale is very good. Whenever I attend the school, all of the children behave well and are respectful."
- "The children are well behaved and this is thanks to the school staff."
- "The children are always well behaved. Friends and family have commented on this."

### What the school does well

- "The school ensures that children make good progress."
- "The staff are helpful, caring and communicate well with parents."
- "Involving parents in the life of the school so we can help our children to learn too."
- "Treats children as individuals. I have always felt that my children are listened to and rewarded for good behaviour and achievements."
- "The school creates a calm and peaceful multi-cultural environment. They facilitate freedom and diversity."
- "My children work hard at Merridale Primary School. They love the school and the teacherstoo. It's a peaceful environment."
- "The school is multi-cultural, inclusive and welcoming."

### General comments:

- "The school believes that reading is important and now we do too."
- "The school celebrates achievements through rewards and assemblies."
- "I enjoy getting regular feedback on how my child is doing at school."
- "I really like how the school staff are present in the mornings at the school gate and they are very welcoming. I like how school engages and invite parents to various events/workshops. I like how parents are continuously kept updated via text about school information e.g. school closure, events coming up."





## Accommodation

The staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that the school buildings and surrounding areas are maximised to support children's learning and enjoyment whilst at school. The school is fortunate to have good-sized classrooms, a separate well-being centre and library, intervention teaching spaces and a re-developed Early Years department.

The school also has the use of an exciting and valuable outdoor classroom known as "The Den". This is fully equipped to support the work that all classes undertake in the outdoor environment. The Den is also made available to groups within the local community.

The school was successful in securing some funding to develop its own trim trail in the school grounds. This has been an exciting addition to our outdoor space. The trim trail provides opportunities for children to exercise and have fun during their break times.

Our grounds also include a pond dipping area, bird hide, Forest School, orienteering trail, avenue of trees, gardening areas and woodland walks.



## Parents In Partnership

**M**erridale is very proud of the close relationship it has built up with the parents, carers and family members of children at the school. We are keen to provide opportunities for parents, carers and family members to come into school, to work alongside children, help with special days and activities and also have regular contact with staff to find out about their children's progress.

We regularly invite parents, carers and family members into school for performances, class assemblies, learning showcases, workshops as well as parent consultation appointments.

Parents and carers are welcome into school to talk to staff at any time, simply make an appointment at the school office.



Merridale Primary School





## Joining the school

Parents and carers considering applying to the school are encouraged to arrange a visit to view the school. Simon Lane, the Headteacher, prefers to take parents around the school personally and feels that to do this on a normal working day is by far the best way for you to get to know Merridale.



Children become eligible for Nursery following their third birthday, as soon as places become available. Places in Nursery are allocated on date of birth order. Allocation of a place in Nursery does not automatically guarantee a full-time place in school.

Separate admission arrangements, administered through the Local Authority, are in operation for allocation of places in full-time education. Children to be admitted in Reception need to be 5 by the end of their first academic school year, i.e. date of birth 1st September - 31st August. An application pack will be sent out, in good time, to allow you to select an order of preference for the school which you would like your child to attend. Staff at school are more than happy to support parents/carers with any questions or difficulties concerning the process.

The procedure for applying for a secondary school place will begin in the September of Year 6. Once again, the Local Authority will provide a comprehensive information pack relating to the application form and information about the different schools within the Authority. The school provides an information evening to support parents/carers with the application process and answer any questions that might arise from what can be a difficult and stressful time.

# General Information

## School Hours

Nursery:	Morning session: 8.30am – 11.30am Afternoon session: 12.15pm – 3.15pm
Reception and Key Stage One:	8.50am – 12.15pm /1.30pm – 3.15pm
Key Stage Two:	8.50am – 12.30pm /1.30pm – 3.15pm
Teaching hours:	Age: 5-7 years: 21 hours and 50 minutes per week Age: 8-11 years: 23 hours and 40 minutes per week

Reception to Year 6 pupils: Children should not arrive at school before 8.40am, after which time, members of staff will be responsible for their supervision. Between 8.40am and 8.50am children may come straight into their classrooms where they will be supervised by school staff. Children should not enter the school building via the doors on the playground until instructed to do so by a member of staff. Children coming to school after 8.50am must come through the main school office and are classed as late.

Parents and carers wishing to speak to a member of staff should do so by making an appointment through the main office at the front of the building. Parents and carers **must not** enter the school building without an appointment. You may also pass messages to your class teacher via a member of staff on the gate each morning between 8.40 - 8.50am.

## Absences

If your child is absent from school, please inform the school of the reason for absence. Ideally this should take the form of a telephone call to school on the first day of absence or a letter on the child's return to school.

Recent amendments to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 which came into effect on 1st September 2013, stipulate that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence from school during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. This means that Merridale Primary School is unable to authorise a child's absence from school for family holidays or visits/trips.

Absences for visits to clinics, doctors or dentists are, of course, permissible but parents **MUST** collect children from school – they will not be allowed to leave school on their own.



## General Information

Children returning to school after illness should be clearly fit to do so and free from any infection. Please err on the side of caution when making a decision about returning your child to school. Children should be fit to participate in all school activities, including outdoor games and playtime. Injury, asthma, respiratory complaints and circulation difficulties are, of course, exceptions. If you are in any doubt, the school will be happy to advise you.

### First Aid

Minor injuries are treated in school. If your child receives a bump on the head you will always be informed in writing along with your child being given a wristband to wear and, in the case of younger children, by their class teacher at the end of the day. All accidents, however minor, are recorded in an accident book.

If your child has a more serious accident in school, you will be informed immediately. It is vital that we have up-to-date contact numbers for you. Please inform the school office or class teacher if any contact telephone numbers change. We recommend that school has **more than one** emergency contact number for each child.

You will be asked to inform us if your child has a recurring illness, medical condition or allergy when you complete our application form and again at the start of each school year. It is very important that we are aware of any such conditions and, again, are notified of any changes.

### Medicine

If your child has been prescribed a medicine by a doctor which needs to be taken during the day then we will administer it. Medicine should be handed in at the school office and a consent form completed. Please note that school can only administer medicines that have been **prescribed** by a doctor.



# General Information

## Asthma Inhalers

The policy of the school, after consulting the School Nurse, is that children keep asthma inhalers with them in the classroom at all times. There is an inhaler kept in the school office for use in an emergency. It is essential that the children's need for an inhaler is indicated to staff when the child first joins the school. All children requiring inhalers, will be issued with an Asthma Card (to be completed and signed by parents/carers) in school.

## Sun protection

During warm summer months, children are advised to wear a sun hat and to keep shoulders covered when working or playing outdoors. Wide-brimmed hats that cover the neck are advisable.

School staff are not permitted to apply sun cream to children but we would ask that you apply long-lasting sun cream before school in sunny weather. Children may re-apply their own sun cream, which must be provided by parents and carers in a clearly named tube or bottle.

## Headlice

From time to time, children will catch headlice. We would ask parent/carers to check their children's hair regularly and treat accordingly, if required. The school nurse is always available to provide parent/carers with advice and support where necessary.

## Jewellery and other adornments

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 jewellery or cosmetics unless for cultural reasons and then, only if approved by the Headteacher. Any items that are worn must be removed or covered with a sweat band/plaster for PE and is the responsibility of the pupil. Please note that staff are not allowed to remove or look after jewellery for children.





## General Information

### Parking

If you bring your child to school by car, for safety reasons we ask you not to park on the school car park. It presents a safety hazard to children walking to school who have to cross the drive where it meets the path and is also a hazard to staff cars. We ask that you respect our neighbours by not blocking drop-down curbs. Please park on the road where parking is permitted or, if you can, walk to and from school.

### Road Safety

Road safety is integrated into the school curriculum, the school has regular visits from the road safety team who provide opportunities for practical sessions, developing children's awareness of ways they can keep themselves safe whilst crossing the road. A zebra crossing is provided on Aspen Way to ensure the safety of children and families when crossing the road. We encourage parents and carers to also teach their children about road safety.

### Smoking

At Merridale, we encourage and promote healthy lifestyles and choices, therefore, smoking (which also includes the use of e-cigarettes and vaping) is **not permitted** anywhere on the school grounds, we ask parents to extinguish all smoking material before entering the school site.

### Dogs

For health and safety reasons, we ask parents and carers not to bring dogs onto the school premises when dropping off and picking up children.

### School Uniform/Dress Code

At Merridale, the Governing Body have always felt that the choice of clothing for school should be a decision for parents and carers alone. In view of this, there is no prescribed uniform or prescribed colour for school clothing. Some parents wish to send their children to school in uniform-style clothing, whilst others prefer to send their children in more casual clothing. Both are equally acceptable. We would, however, ask that sensible footwear is chosen for school simply from a health and safety point of view. We would also request that tops worn for school completely cover the child's shoulders.

# General Information

## Lost Property

Naming all items of clothing reduces the risk! Please ensure that all items are clearly marked with your child's name - this is particularly important for coats and PE kits. We do keep items of lost property for a reasonable time but it is often difficult to identify items that are not labelled. If your child has lost something, please check in their classroom and cloakroom first. Displays of lost property are made at the end of every school term and if items are not claimed, they will be given to a local charity.

## PE and Games kit

It is important that your child wears appropriate clothing for Physical Education (PE). This should be a T-shirt and shorts (or tracksuit/sweatshirt in the winter) with trainers or pumps. It is vital that your child changes out of their school clothing for PE and games and that their kit is regularly washed. These items should be brought to school in a bag, clearly labelled with your child's name. Long hair must be tied back for PE and any stud earrings or watches must be removed or covered with plasters and/or a sweat band.

## School Meals

Children staying for lunch have a choice of a school meal or a packed lunch. A still drink may also be brought into school, providing it is in an unbreakable, leak-proof container. We ask that children bring a healthy lunch to school - if you would like advice or support with this, please contact us. We also request that canned drinks are not brought to school. We ask that all food items are contained in a named lunch box.

Dinner money is collected each Monday morning. We ask parents and carers to commit their meal choice for at least half a term to help support the kitchen in their ordering and administration.

As with any money brought to school, the correct amount should be sent in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with the child's name and class and what the money is for e.g.

Janelle Simpson  
Year 3  
£2.30 Dinner money

Parents wishing to apply for free school meals should obtain the appropriate form from the school office or the Education Department, at the Civic Centre or apply online here: <https://myfreeschoolmeals.com>. All enquiries are dealt with in the strictest confidence and the children are not made aware of who does and who does not pay for school meals.

\*From September 2020 dinner money for junior children is £2.30 day (£11.50 per week).



# General Information

## Milk

Milk is available in school for a small fee, currently £13.50 per term (correct as of September 2020). Parents wishing for their child to have milk should, again, send the correct money in a clearly marked envelope at the beginning of each term. Children who are under five at the start of each term receive their milk free of charge. There is also no charge for milk for children who are eligible for free school meals.

## Complaints

Any complaints about school matters should be first brought to the attention of the Headteacher. If the complaint is not resolved, a formal complaint may be made firstly, to the Governing Body and secondly, to the Local Authority. Our complaints policy is available on request and via our school website.



## Hiring the School

The school building is available for private hire. If you would like to use the school for a private letting, please contact the school office.

## School Book Bags

Infant and Junior book bags are available for purchase from the school office.

## Safeguarding

The safety and well-being of all our children is a key priority for our school. To ensure this, we have a number of procedures in place:

- All staff receive formal child protection and safeguarding training.
- Mr Simon Lane, Headteacher, is the designated safeguarding person who is responsible for dealing with any issues in and around safeguarding or child protection.
- Representatives of the Governing Body receive training for safer recruitment to ensure that new staff entering the school are appropriate people to care for your children.
- All children are reminded in assemblies and in class on how to respond if they



- have any concerns or worries. Also, through our RHE (Relationships and Health Education) programmes of work, issues in and around staying safe are covered throughout the school.
- Educational visits are an important part of the curriculum. It is essential that these are planned carefully and safely. For that reason, all educational visits require a risk assessment to be completed before the visit takes place.
  - The school has a number of policies in place in relation to safeguarding. These are available for parents from the school office. If you have any questions relating to child protection and safeguarding, please do not hesitate to contact the headteacher at school.

## **Healthy Schools**

The school was proud to receive Healthy Schools accreditation in Spring 2008 and re-accreditation in 2011. All staff and Governors are committed to provide and promote healthy lifestyles of all children here at Merridale. The school provides a water bottle which children have access to throughout the day. All children in Key Stage 1 and Reception are provided with a free piece of fruit each day. Pupils in Key Stage 2 are encouraged to bring in healthy snacks and lunches.

Healthy lifestyles are taught and discussed throughout the curriculum, covering areas such as healthy eating, drug awareness, smoking and the importance of exercise. The school also holds two "Healthy Living" weeks each year to teach children about the importance of healthy minds and bodies.

The school has a comprehensive sex and relationships education scheme of work to introduce appropriate information and discussion from Year 1 onwards. This policy has been put in place through working alongside staff, the school nurse, governors and parents. If you would like to find out more details concerning what is taught, please contact the school office.

## **Every Child Matters**

The school has a firm commitment to delivering the five strands identified in Every child Matters. These are:

- Be Healthy – we encourage and promote healthy lifestyles.
- Stay Safe – This is taught through RHE.
- Enjoy and Achieve – All children are supported to maximise their potential through a broad and varied curriculum.
- Make a positive contribution – Children are given opportunities to take on responsibilities within the school and work within the local community.
- Achieve economic well-being – The curriculum provides the foundations for children to be happy and successful in adult life.



# Merridale's Golden Rules

We are very proud of the excellent behaviour of our pupils. At Merridale Primary School, all children are taught to follow the golden rules on the opposite page.

The school has a clear policy on behaviour management. This is based on a positive rewards and praise system. Children may receive verbal or written praise, raffle tickets, prizes, stickers and notes or texts/telephone calls home to reward good behaviour and effort.

Each term a special "Gifted and Talented Govenors' Award" is presented to a child who has achieved highly in an area of academic or extra-curricular activities. At the end of each term, one child from each class receives an award for outstanding achievement.



# 1



# 2



## Merridale's Golden Rules

# R



# g



# 5



# 4



# 1

**We always try our hardest.**

# 2

**We follow instructions  
first time.**

# 3

**We treat others as we would  
like to be treated.**

# 4

**We are honest and kind.**

# 5

**We keep ourselves and  
others safe.**

# 3



# 5

## Manners matter!



Growing Together





## The Foundation Stage

**T**he Early Years Foundation Stage of education begins when children reach the age of three and continues until they reach the age of five. Our Nursery forms the first year of the Foundation Stage and the Reception class forms the final year. The Foundation Stage prepares children for learning in Key Stage One.

The Foundation Stage is organised into seven areas of learning:

- 1 Personal, social and emotional development.
- 2 Physical development
- 3 Communication and Language
- 4 Literacy
- 5 Mathematics
- 6 Understanding the World
- 7 Expressive Arts and Design



This does not mean that all Foundation Stage experiences are divided into these areas. One experience can provide a child with opportunities to develop a number of competencies, skills and concepts across several areas of learning.

Early learning goals establish expectations for most children to reach by the end of the Foundation Stage. In Nursery, the children will be working on activities that act as 'stepping stones' towards the early learning goals.



# Forest School and the outdoor environment



Merridale Primary School



## Forest School and the outdoor environment

**O**ur outdoor environment is very important to us as a school. It is an invaluable and a unique resource that we use regularly for play and learning. The school is fortunate to benefit from extensive outdoor areas which we make use of to enhance learning in all curriculum areas. Our Foundation Stage children also regularly take part in outdoor learning through our Forest School.

‘Forest School’ is a Scandinavian concept where the outdoors is used as an area for learning. Many of the activities evolve from the children’s interest and ideas and the natural materials found in the outdoors rather than paper, pencils and worksheets.

‘Forest School’ is about using the outdoors to promote confidence, self-esteem and independence. At Merridale, we are keen to develop the whole child, not just their academic ability. The benefits of ‘Forest School’ to the children are many. Confidence, behaviour, concentration, independence, social, emotional and physical skills are all developed with positive effects on all areas of the child’s life and learning.

‘Forest School’ is about exploring and experiencing the natural world through practical activities. The children go out in all weathers, all year round, exploring and learning from the seasons and environment changes. The children’s interests along with the varied natural resources in our woodland are used to stimulate creative thinking, problem solving and skill development, all in the guise of play.



## Forest School and the outdoor environment cont.

We recognise that in order to learn, you have to engage and participate. For many children that engagement comes easily. However, some children find this really difficult and these children often lack confidence and have low self – esteem. Evidence shows that the main outcome of 'Forest school' is the nurturing, support and development of self-esteem for participants so that they develop a sense of self-worth and value themselves.



Forest school and outdoor learning gives children the opportunity to test themselves, explore the unknown and find out what they are truly capable of in a wonderful outdoor environment,

'Forest school' builds on a child's innate motivation and positive attitude to learning, offering them the opportunities to take risks, make choices and initiate learning for themselves.



## Peer Mentors

We strive to provide wide and varied opportunities for children to enjoy positive play during break and lunch times. At lunch time and break times, a range of activities and small-sided games are organised and led by peer mentors and midday supervisors to give opportunities for all children to participate in a range of activities which are both enjoyable and support their health and fitness.

Our midday supervisors are also trained as play leaders, their role is to develop and promote positive play opportunities for all children and to encourage team and group co-operation.

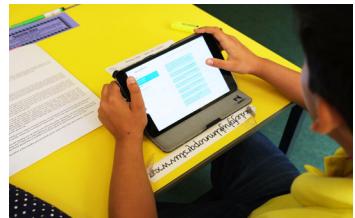
## Read, Write Inc.

At Merridale we follow an inclusive literacy programme called Read, Write Inc. which is used successfully to teach all children to read and write quickly and easily. Children from the Foundation Stage to Year 6 are grouped according to their reading ability which means that teachers can focus on exactly what the children need, challenging and supporting them where necessary and ensuring that they become successful and confident learners. Read, Write Inc. focuses around the daily and rigorous teaching of synthetic phonics, taught with the help of Fred the frog, where children initially learn to read the 44 common sounds in the English language. From this solid foundation of phonetic knowledge, children learn to sound-blend words to read.

Within the programme there is also a strong focus on letter formation, spelling, writing, vocabulary extension and speaking and listening opportunities. As the children make progress with reading, other important elements of literacy are introduced using fun, engaging and varied activities and texts. They learn important literacy skills such as comprehension, sentence writing, grammar and punctuation. Formal assessments are made regularly and, when we are confident that children are fluent readers and no longer need the Read Write Inc. programme, they are provided with further challenges in the form of English lessons.

## E-Learning

Merridale is fortunate to have an Interactive Whiteboard in every classroom and additional Interactive Whiteboards in our Launchpad and our other teaching spaces. These are used as a teaching tool across the curriculum.



Each class has regular Computing lessons using our wireless laptop trolley and/or our 16 Ipads, and an option to book further sessions to support other areas of the curriculum.

The school has a range of software and hardware that pupils and staff are able to use to support the delivery of lessons. Children are encouraged to use ICT and the Internet at home, where possible, to support learning. Each child has access to TT Rockstars, Spelling Shed and MyMaths which are used to support learning in English and Maths.



The school complies with the data protection act to ensure that all information held about pupils is confidential and secure. Photographs and videos of children will not be used without parental/carer consent. All children are made fully aware of safety issues when using the Internet and follow strict guidelines and are supervised at all times when using computing equipment.

## We are a Reading School!

### **First children must learn to read – only then can they read to learn.**

At Merridale, our aim is to teach all children to read fluently and to develop a passion for reading. Reading is the single most important thing a child will learn to do. Reading develops a child's brain, provides a window into the world around them and helps them to do better in all school subjects.

The school's partnership with parents is vital to ensure that our children are able to become happy and successful readers. We expect parents to hear their children read (and read to their children) for at least twenty minutes per day for at least 5 days per week (our "Reading Challenge"). We send home reading books and reading records to all children and, where appropriate, word packs according to their child's reading ability.

Children intuitively understand that when parents and carers make reading a priority at home, reading is important. One of the most powerful things parents and carers can do is to spend some time every day reading with and to their children – including reading a bedtime story. We also encourage families to regularly visit their local library to enjoy the wide range of books on offer there.

Merridale Primary School





## Extra Curricular Activities

We aim to offer our children a variety of extra curricular activities which provide opportunities to develop a range of new skills while at the same time enjoying themselves alongside friends and staff. We believe that the education of the whole child involves gaining experiences outside the classroom and is central to our commitment to a well-rounded education. The activities offered are discussed with the school council to ensure the childrens' interests are responded to.

The activities currently offered include sport, music, yoga, drama and dance as well as art and crafts. Permission is required from parents or carers before a child is able to take part in any after-school activity. A member of staff is always present to oversee any activity to ensure the safety of the children. To cover costs, there is a small, termly charge for after school clubs.



# Homework

**H**omework is an important aspect of school in supporting children's learning experience outside of the school day. A curriculum newsletter and a learning log is sent out at the start of each term or topic providing details of the areas covered in class and suggestions for support and activities that can be provided at home.

Each week, children are set specific online homework tasks as well as spellings to learn; the expectations for this will differ depending on which year group your child is in. We ask parents to support their children each week by hearing them read for at least 20 minutes at least five times per week, practising their times tables and learning new spellings.

If there are any difficulties with homework, teachers are more than happy to provide help and advice.





## Visits

Educational visits are made by the children in connection with the work they are undertaking in school. Each year group aims to provide at least two educational visits per year. Some examples of visits recently undertaken include: a visit to The Wildside Centre, Bantock House Museum, Wolverhampton and Bilston Art Galleries, Wightwick Manor, Cosford RAF Museum, Cosford Grange, Staffordsire Regiment Museum, Carding Mill Valley, Cannock Chase, Birmingham Museum, The Sea Life Centre and Rays Farm. All visits are carefully supervised and carried out following the Local Authority guidelines.



## Residential Visits

The school has a strong commitment to providing residential visits for all our children. The school offers a one night "sleepover" on the school grounds for Year 2 pupils and a two night residential visit to Borth in Wales for Year 6 pupils. With parental support, the school is keen to maintain this unique and enjoyable experience for our children.



## Multi-Cultural Celebrations and Diversity

The school represents a rich, multi-cultural community. The school aims to reflect this through its everyday practice and the celebrations that take place through the course of the year. This involves class assemblies, school productions, visiting speakers and special whole-school events for everyone to enjoy.



## Parent/Carer Consultations

We recognise that parent/carers are keen to be kept up to date with the progress that their children are making and so provide parent/carer consultations in the Autumn and Spring terms.

These provide an opportunity for teachers and parent/carers to discuss aspects of children's work, behaviour and attitudes to learning. We are always keen to look at ways that improvements can be made to ensure that your child is happy and secure here at Merridale Primary School.

During these consultations, parents and carers also have an opportunity to look at their child's work in books and on display.

## Reporting to Parents and Carers

A formal written report is sent to parents and carers in July each year, which provides a detailed review of your child's progress across all curricular areas and identifies next steps in their learning. It also includes a section on your child's personal and social development in relation to their time at school.

Parent and carers have an opportunity to respond to the report both in writing or through an appointment with the class teacher or Headteacher if they so wish.



## Pupil Support and Inclusion

**M**erridale is an inclusive school which values the contribution every child brings to each aspect of school life. Lessons are carefully planned so that all children are involved, motivated and able to achieve. At Merridale, every child matters and we believe that it is vital that all children should be able to access all areas of the curriculum and are supported to achieve their full potential.

We believe that children with Additional Needs should have their needs identified as soon as possible in their school careers so that we can support them quickly and help them to progress. At the start of each term, children with additional needs are set individual targets according to their attainment and progress. The children work towards these targets both on a 1-to-1 level with teachers and experienced support staff and in the classroom within small groups to aid their progress.

At Merridale, pupils who are gifted and talented are recognised and given opportunities to express themselves and continue to improve their talents and skills. School Governors have taken a particular interest in this area and have contributed a Gifted and Talented termly award. Each term staff choose a pupil to receive the award as a recognition of their achievements. This can be for academic excellence or displaying a talent across a wide range of fields such as sport, music and arts.



All pupils are provided with an appropriately differentiated curriculum, giving due attention to the development of thinking and problem solving skills and incorporating extension activities.



# School Staffing\*

Headteacher – Mr S Lane  
Deputy Headteacher – Mrs L Towle

## School Administrator:

Mrs M Morgan

## Teaching Staff:

Miss N Brown – Nursery  
Mrs E Hughes (EYFS Leader) and Mrs H Craggs (job share) – Reception  
Miss P Sahni – Year One  
Mrs A Tanner – Year Two  
Mrs N Tara (SENCO) – Year Three  
Miss A Richardson – Year Four  
Miss N Sangha – Year Five  
Mrs S Byrne – Year Six

## Support Staff:

Mrs A Bullock - HLTA  
Miss B Hargrove  
Miss T Paterson: Reading Champion  
Mrs J Robinson - HLTA  
Miss S Patel  
Mrs B Corbett: Learning Mentor  
Miss K Powell  
Mrs A Matthews - HLTA  
Mrs L Robinson - HLTA

## Welfare Officer:

Mrs J Lay

## Financial Consultant:

Mr C Dyer

## Site Manager:

Mr K Homer

## Midday Supervisors:

Mrs M Marandola  
Mrs J Dusanj  
Mrs H Salim  
Ms M Conceicao  
Mrs K Schonffend

\*accurate at time of printing

Merridale Primary School



# Assessment and Record Keeping

The school keeps regular and detailed records of children's progress across their time at school. These start from the first days when the children join the Foundation Stage in Nursery, where staff carefully assess children's skills, abilities and knowledge across a wide range of areas. As the children progress through into Key Stage 1 and 2, assessments continue on a daily basis to inform teachers of next steps in all children's learning. This supports teachers' planning to ensure that all work is pitched appropriately to allow all children to maximise their potential.

In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, formal teacher assessments and tests are completed on a regular basis to ensure children are making progress at the appropriate rate and allowing them, once again, to respond quickly to the needs of all children.

Children's formal assessments are reported to parents and carers identifying next steps to support the children's learning towards the next stage in reading, writing and maths. This allows parent/carers to become involved in the learning process, at home, if they so wish.

## Absence Statistics

Children's regular attendance at school is important to support their progress. If your child is unable to come to school we ask parents/carers to contact school before 10.00 a.m. to confirm the reason for the absence. The school has a number of initiatives to encourage regular attendance at school:

- First day absence calls
- Individual 100% attendance awards
- Weekly class best attendance award
- Termly class attendance award
- Early involvement of Educational Welfare Officer and school Welfare Officer

Absence figures for the academic year 2018-19 were:

- Authorised absences: 3.8%
- Unauthorised absences: 0.9%
- Whole school attendance: 95.3%



# School Term and Holiday Dates

## Autumn Term 2020

Term Time: Tuesday 1 September 2020 to Friday 23 October 2020

Half Term: Monday 26 October 2020 to Friday 30 October 2020

Term Time: Monday 2 November 2020 to Friday 18 December 2020

## Spring Term 2021

Term Time: Monday 4 January 2021 to Friday 12 February 2021

Half Term: Monday 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021

Term Time: Monday 22 February 2021 to Thursday 1 April 2021

## Summer Term 2021

Term Time: Monday 19 April 2021 to Friday 28 May 2021

Half Term: Monday 31 May 2021 to Friday 4 June 2021

Term Time: Monday 7 June 2021 to Wednesday 21 July 2021



Merridale Primary School





# National Curriculum Assessment Results

KS1 2019	
	At the Expected Standard
Reading	62%
Writing	59%
Maths	69%

KS2 2019	
	At the Expected Standard
Reading	93%
Writing	81%
*GPS	93%
Maths	93%

\*Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test

Due to Covid-19, there were no statutory assessments in 2020

For more detailed information, visit: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/104334/merridale-primary-school/primary>

## Destination of school leavers

Destination of Year 6 Leavers July 2020:

Highfields Science Specialist School: 5

Smestow School: 7

Colton Hills Community School: 1

Wolverhampton Girls' High School: 1

St Peters Collegiate School: 5

St Edmund's Catholic Academy: 4

Ormiston SWB Academy: 1

Wombourne High School: 1

The Khalsa Academy: 1

St matthias School: 1

Moreton School: 1

Aldersley High School: 3



# We love to learn!



Merridale Primary School



## The Governing Body\*

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS Mrs Gurinder Atwal (Co-opted)

HEADTEACHER Mr Simon Lane

Cllr John Reynolds (Local Authority)

Mr. Javed Mohammed (Co-opted)

Mrs Amanda Costello (Local Authority)

Mrs Alexa Tanner (Staff)

Mr Gurdeep Singh Aulakh (Local Authority)

Mr Lal Chand (Co-opted)

Mrs Laura Towle (Associate)

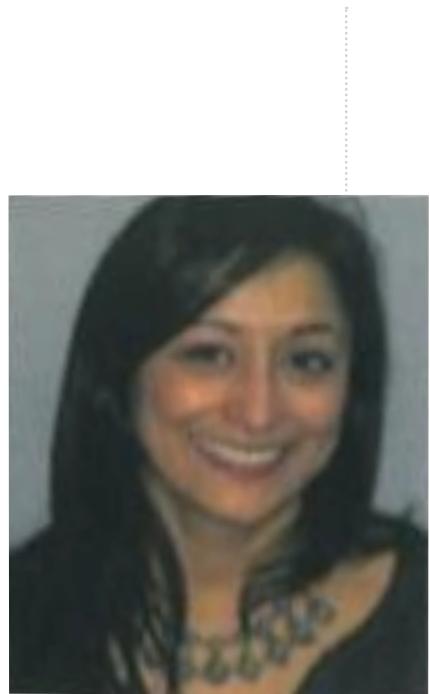
\*accurate at time of printing



# Meet our Governors



Amanda Costello  
Local Authority Governor



Gurinder Atwal  
Chair of Governors  
Co-opted Governor



© Tempus

Alexa Martin  
Staff Governor

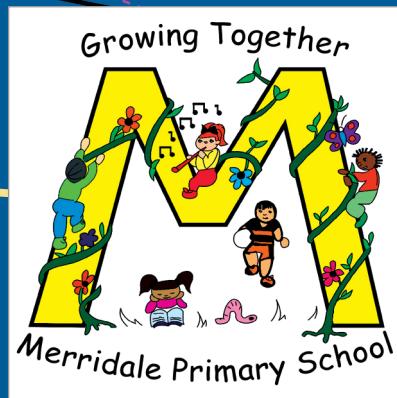


Cllr. John Reynolds  
Local Authority Governor



Javed Mohammad  
Co-opted Governor





Merridale Primary School  
Aspen Way, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV3 OUP  
Tel: 01902 55 87 60  
Website: [www.merridaleprimary.co.uk](http://www.merridaleprimary.co.uk)  
E-mail: [office@merridaleprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@merridaleprimary.co.uk)

