



Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we are now halfway through the academic year, we would like to share our news and events with you for the year so far.

Year 6 Book Quiz Success

On 21st January, six Year 6 children represented Merridale at Wolverhampton Grammar school, competing against other local schools, coming in first place! We were incredibly proud of their book knowledge and reading skill during the quiz. The team also got to meet four of the shortlisted authors at another Book Award event on the 6th February.



Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 12th February, eight Year 5 and 6 pupils represented Merridale at a Maths Challenge at Castlecroft Primary. The children worked hard to solve a wide range of tricky problems. The children represented Merridale brilliantly and we were very impressed with their mathematical knowledge.



Food Bank Friday

On Friday 8th February, we held our termly Friday Food Bank collection for The Well, Wolverhampton. We collected 320 items which will be distributed to families in need throughout the city. Thanks to everyone who donated to this fantastic cause.

Year 4 Music Concert

On Tuesday 22nd January our Year 4 pupils performed for parents, carers and families as part of their Wider Opportunities music lessons. The children performed brilliantly—the event was a real showcase of all that they had learned over the last term.



Year 3 Class Assembly

On Thursday 31st January, we were entertained by Year 3's Roman assembly. Children showcased their drama and singing skills and demonstrated all that they have learned through their weekly drama sessions with our Liberate Drama teacher, Emily May.

Key Stage 2 Poetry Competition

Key Stage 2 children were challenged, at the start of term, to learn a poem off-by-heart to perform to others. On Thursday 7th February, a selection of pupils from each junior class presented their poems to the rest of the school. The children performed brilliantly, not only learning poems off-by-heart but also including a range of performance skills into their presentations.

Year 4 Art Gallery Visit



On Friday 18th January, Year 4 enjoyed a visit to Wolverhampton Art gallery to find out about "Maths in Museums".

Cooking Sessions

On the 24th January, Year 4 and 5 enjoyed a cooking session with a professional chef from the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts. Children enjoyed learning about and preparing a wide range of foods through the workshops.



NSPCC Number Day 2019

On Friday 1st February, we celebrated Number day by coming to school wearing "numbered" clothing. We raised £102 for NSPCC. Thanks to everyone who donated.

Poetry Workshop



On Friday 1st February, Year 6 were delighted to be invited to Wolverhampton central Library for a workshop with poet, Chris White. Children enjoyed learning about the poetry writing process and sharing some of Chris's poems.



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Attendance and Punctuality

We continue to strive for our whole school attendance to stay above 95%! Well done to all of the children who have achieved this so far this year.

Each child will receive a personalised attendance update letter this week – please let school know if you do not receive one for your child.

For the school year so far (September to February)

Whole school: 95.7%

- Reception: 94.8%
- Year 1: 93.8%
- Year 2: 95.4%
- Year 3: 95.7%
- Year 4: 95.8%
- Year 5: 97.5%
- Year 6: 96.9%

The class with the highest attendance at the end of this term will enjoy a special treat.

Can I remind you of the importance of children attending school every day unless they are unwell. If your child is ill, please telephone the school office to inform them on the first day of absence.

Reception to Year 6 Children can come straight into the school building between 8.40am and 8.50am each morning where they will be supervised by school staff. From 8.50am, children must enter school through the main office at the front of the building and they will be classed as late.

All children must be collected by an adult from school at 3.15pm unless they have permission to walk home alone. We appreciate your support in this.

Our attendance policy states that we are unable to authorise any absence for family holiday, trips or visits. If you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see Mr Lane. Patterns of poor attendance and punctuality will be followed-up by the school's educational welfare officer to look at ways of reducing these instances. If you require any support with these areas, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

So far this academic year, **13 families have taken their children out of school without permission (unauthorised absences). These families have been referred to the Local Authority who will look at each case and decide whether to take legal action, resulting in a fine.**

Term Dates:

- Thursday 28th February 8.45am:** School nurse drop-in session for parents and carers
- Thursday 7th March:** World Book Day
- WB 11th March:** Science week
- Monday 11th March:** Year 4 Bikeability session
- Friday 15th March 2pm:** Science Fair in school. Parents, carers and family are invited to attend
- Thursday 21st March 9.15am 2.30pm:** Year 4 class assembly (parents, carers and family are invited to attend).
- Friday 22nd March:** Final Year 6 Borth payment (£25) due

Term Dates continued...

- WB 25th March:** Daily Mile this week at school
- Friday 5th April:** Year 1 and 2 visit to Dudley Zoo
- WB 8th April:** No after school clubs this week
- Wednesday 10th April:** No swimming session for Year 4 pupils
- Thursday 11th April:** Easter Disco
- Thursday 11th April 8.45am:** School nurse drop-in session for parents and carers
- Friday 12th April 3.15pm:** School closes for Easter holidays
- Monday 15th April – Friday 26th April:** Easter holidays – school closed
- Monday 29th April:** School re-opens to pupils for Summer term
- Monday 6th May:** Bank Holiday (school closed)
- Thursday 9th May 9.15am:** Year 5 class assembly (parents, carers and family are invited to attend).
- WB 13th May:** Year 6 SATs week
- Thursday 23rd May 9.15am:** Year 1 class assembly (parents, carers and family are invited to attend).
- Thursday 23rd May 3.15pm:** School closes to pupils for half term
- Friday 24th May:** INSET day – school closed to pupils
- Monday 27th May- 31st May:** Half term – school closed
- Monday 3rd June:** School re-opens to pupils
- Friday 7th June:** Photographer in school
- Monday 10th June –Thursday 13th June:** Book fair in school 3.15-4pm each day
- WB 10th June:** Year 1 Phonic check week
- Friday 14th June:** Food Bank Friday collection
- Thursday 20th June 9.15am:** Year 2 class assembly (parents, carers and family are invited to attend).
- Wednesday 26th – Friday 28th June:** Year 6 Borth residential
- Thursday 27th June 8.45am:** School nurse drop-in session for parents and carers
- WB 1st July:** Enterprise Week
- Tuesday 2nd July 2.30pm:** Year 4 wider opportunities music performance for parents and carers
- Wednesday 3rd July 9.15am:** Reception class assembly (parents, carers and family are invited to attend).
- Friday 5th July 2pm:** Enterprise Week sale for parents, carers and family
- WB 8th July:** Healthy Living week and Daily Mile
- Wednesday 10th July 1.45pm:** Reception – Year 6 Sports day
- Thursday 11th July 1.45pm:** Reserve Sports Day
- Friday 12th July:** Merridale's Got Talent
- Wednesday 17th July 9.30am:** Year 6 Leaver's Play for parents, carers and family
- Friday 19th July 3.15pm:** School closes to pupils for Summer holidays
- Monday 22nd July:** INSET Day – school closed to pupils
- Tuesday 23rd July – Friday 30th August:** Summer Holidays
- Monday 2nd September:** INSET Day – school closed to pupils
- Tuesday 3rd September:** School re-opens to pupils