

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Sainsbury's Store Opening



On Wednesday 9th July Madison, Ghazala and Eesha attended the opening of the new Sainsbury's store. As winner of their "Design and Bag" competition, Madison cut the ribbon to officially open the store. We are very proud of all three girls and their fantastic design entries!

End of Year Reports

All parents and carers should now have received their child's end of year written report. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or return the slip at the back of the report to school.

End of Key Stage 2 Assessments

A huge congratulations to our Year 6 pupils who completed their end of key stage two tests in May. The results are in and we are really pleased with all pupils. We know how hard children and families work to ensure that their children are prepared for these important assessments and we now wish Year 6 all the best as they begin a new phase in their lives and head off to secondary school.

Absence from School

This year our whole school attendance has improved greatly and we are really pleased that so many of our families recognise the importance of children attending school every day that they are able to. However, we still received a number of requests for term-time absence from families for family holidays.

Please can I remind you that the school is unable to grant holiday leave during term time as it is against the law. Family holidays are not regarded as exceptional circumstances. Please only apply for absence during term time for exceptional circumstances and be aware that the authorisation of any such absence is discretionary and not a right.

Thank you to all parents and carers who have adhered to these rules this year, resulting in our highest ever overall attendance figures.

Attendance Update

Attendance figures for the year so far (September to July):

Whole school: 95.6%

For the Summer term:

Whole school: 96.2%

Reception: 97.6%

Year 1: 95.6%

Year 2: 96.9%

Year 3: 96.9%

Year 4: 95.2%

Year 5: 93.9%

Year 6: 97.0%

Reception class won the attendance award for the highest class attendance this term. They enjoyed a special Bouncy castle fun day last week to celebrate this fantastic achievement! Well done Reception!

Friends of Merridale World Cup Competition

Seven children selected Germany as the winning team for the World Cup Competition. The winner, selected at random from the seven winning entries, was Eve in Year 3 who was presented with her prize on Tuesday. Well done Eve and thank you to everyone that entered.

Merridale's Got Talent

Children from Year 1 to Year 6 really excelled this year at our annual "Merridale's Got Talent" showcase. Children performed a wide range of acts and we were very proud of their skills and confidence at being able to perform in front of such a large audience. Thank you to all the children who took part.

Food Bank Friday



Thank you to everyone who donated to our last Food bank Friday of the year on Friday 11th July. The Well Food bank asked me to pass on their gratitude for all the donations which will be distributed across the city to families in difficult circumstances.

Summer Fair

The Friends of Merridale annual Summer Fair was a huge success. Thanks to everyone that was able to give their time and energies to help with this fantastic event.

Summer Disco

Our Summer disco will be held on Thursday 17th July, entry £1 per child. Children may also bring in a small amount of money for the tuck shop if they wish.



Newsletter

Universal infant Free School Meals

I know that it might seem too good to be true, but from 1st September Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are entitled to a free school meal every day.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 in September all you need to do is to tell the school office whether or not they wish to take up the free meal and let us know of any dietary requirements (e.g. allergies, vegetarian). That's it!

Families of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are still eligible to apply for free school meals as this will entitle your child to receive other benefits through the school such as book fair vouchers, free school milk and free after school clubs. The process for applying for this is simple – you can apply online at www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or come into the school office and we can assist you.

Unfortunately lunches for children in Years 3-6 are still to be paid for by parents and will remain at £2 per day, £10 per week. If you are eligible for the appropriate benefits, families should still apply for free school meals in the usual way and this will still apply for children in Years 3-6.

Dinner Money

From September dinner money remains £2.00 per day (£10.00 per week) for children in Year 3-6. Please ensure dinner money is paid every Monday for the week ahead. We ask that children keep to the same meal choice (e.g. sandwiches or school dinners) for at least half a term to ensure that the kitchens are able to order the correct amount of food.

Please can we ask that all money is sent into school in a sealed envelope with your child's name and class clearly written on the front. The school office has a stock of money envelopes which families are welcome to use if they need to. As you can appreciate, this helps with the collection of money at the start of each day.

Milk Money



Milk money for the Autumn term will be £11 if your child is not entitled to free school milk. Please note that children in Year 1 and Year 2 will not be entitled to free school milk unless parents have applied for this (it is not included in the Universal Infant free School Meal entitlement). Please send milk money into school no later than 19th September.

Autumn Term After School Clubs

After school clubs will commence the week beginning 15th September. Children will receive their club application letter when they return to school on Tuesday 2nd September. Please be aware that all clubs are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Children who are eligible for free school meals are entitled to join one club free of charge for the term.

End of term

Pupils break up for the Summer holidays on Friday 18th July at 3.15pm. Please ensure your child brings all items home with them at the end of the day – remember to check the lost property box too as any items left at the end of the day in the lost property box or cloakroom will be donated to charity if not collected.

Term Dates

Thursday 17th July 9.30am: Year 6 Leavers' Performance for Parents, carers and family members.

Thursday 17th July: Summer Disco

Friday 18th July 3.15pm: Pupils break up for Summer Holidays

Monday 21st July: INSET Day: School closed to pupils

Monday 1st September: INSET Day: school closed to pupils

Pupils return to school after the Summer holidays on Tuesday 2nd September 2014

Term Dates 2014-15:

Autumn Term 2014

Term time: Monday 1 September 2014 to Friday 24 October

Half term: Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October

Term time: Monday 3 November 2014 to Friday 19 December

Spring Term 2015

Term time: Monday 5 January 2015 to Friday 13 February

Half term: Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February

Term time: Monday 23 February 2015 to Friday 27 March

Bank Holidays: Friday 3 April and Monday 6 April

Summer Term 2015

Term time: Monday 13 April 2015 to Friday 22 May

Bank Holidays: Monday 4 May 2015 and Monday 25 May

Half term: Monday 25 to Friday 29 May

Term time: Monday 1 June 2015 to Monday 20 July