



Merridale Primary School Newsletter

1st September 2026

Autumn 1

Dear Parents, Carers, and Families,

A very warm welcome to the start of the new school year at Merridale. We hope that you have all had a wonderful summer break and found time to relax, recharge and enjoy special moments with family and friends. As we open our doors for another exciting year, we look forward to welcoming both familiar faces and those who are joining our school community for the very first time.

We are especially looking forward to our 50th anniversary celebrations in a couple of weeks - more information about this in this newsletter.

To our pupils, we are so excited to hear about your summer adventures and see our classrooms buzzing with energy once again. A new school year brings new opportunities to learn, explore, make friendships and challenge yourselves to achieve even more. We encourage every child to approach the year with confidence, curiosity, and a positive attitude, knowing that every day brings a chance to grow and succeed.

To our families, thank you for the continued support, encouragement and trust that you place in us. Strong partnerships between home and school are at the heart of every child's success, and we are proud to work alongside you to ensure that all of our pupils feel happy, valued, and inspired to achieve their very best.

As always, this newsletter contains important information, updates and key dates for the weeks ahead. Throughout the year, we will continue to keep you informed through our newsletters, website, and Arbor messaging system. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you need any support accessing these communications.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead, filled with memorable experiences, exciting learning opportunities, and many reasons to celebrate success. Together, let's make our 50th anniversary year another wonderful year at Merridale Primary School.

Warm regards,

Mrs Towle

Headteacher

Breakfast Club



From Thursday 3rd September 2026, we will be offering a **FREE** Breakfast Club at Merridale from 8am-8.30am for children in Reception to Year 6. In order to be able to attend, children must be registered using this form: [Breakfast Club Registration Form Link](#)

In order to be able to access the club, places must be booked in advance using Arbor and children must arrive at school at 8am (no later than 8.10am) each day. Parents and carers will be able to book places on Arbor from today.

Merridale's 50th Anniversary Celebrations



Did you know that Merridale Primary School opened in September 1976? To celebrate 50 years of Merridale, we will be holding some special 70s-themed celebration activities during the week beginning 14th September. We will be learning all about Merridale's history as well as finding out what life was like in the 70s and how it compares to today. On **Friday 18th September**, we will be holding a 70s day and invite children to dress up in 70s-style clothing if they wish.

Class teachers September 2026



Nursery: Mr J Newcombe

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

Year 1: Mrs A Tanner

Year 2: Ms A Knight until Miss P Sahni returns from Maternity leave

Year 3: Miss R Dolman

Year 4: Miss N Sangha

Year 5: Miss G Leavesley

Year 6: Mrs I Altaf

The Hive Teacher and SENDCo: Mrs N Tara

If you would like to arrange an appointment to talk to your child's teacher, please contact the school office. Our Meet the Teacher sessions will be held on Wednesday 7th October after school - further information will be sent out about this shortly and appointments will be booked via Arbor.

General reminders



RESPECT - We would like to remind all parents and carers that our school is a safe and respectful place for everyone in our community, including our staff. Abuse, aggression and inappropriate language and behaviour towards staff will not be tolerated under any circumstances. We value positive and constructive relationships with our families and thank you for your support in helping us to maintain a welcoming environment for all. If you have any issues you would like to discuss, the best way to do this is to make an appointment with your child's class teacher or a senior leader.

Please read and familiarise yourself with our Home/School Agreement, which can be found here: <https://www.merridaleprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Merridale-Home-School-Agreement.pdf>

You can also find our Parent/Carer/Visitor Code of Conduct here: [Parent-Carer-Visitor-Code-of-Conduct-Policy-2026.pdfhttps://www.merridaleprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Parent-Carer-Visitor-Code-of-Conduct-Policy-2026.pdf](https://www.merridaleprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Parent-Carer-Visitor-Code-of-Conduct-Policy-2026.pdf)

Merridale is a NO SMOKING/VAPING site. Smoking and vaping is not allowed anywhere on our school site at any time.

Dogs are not allowed onto our school site at any time.

Children in Reception to Year 6 can come into school between 8.30am and 8.40am each morning. If you have any messages to pass on, please speak to the member of staff on the gate each morning or visit the school office (please be aware that the school office is very busy in the mornings). You can also contact school through the Arbor app or e-mail if your message is not urgent.

After 8.40am, children must come into school via the main office and are considered to be late. A parent/carers must sign them in on the screen.

At the end of the school day, our one-way system is in operation. Please can we ask that all parents and carers respect and follow this system as it allows for smooth and swift exit for adults and children at 3.20pm - this is an incredibly busy time and there is only five minutes for everyone to move through the site.

School finishes at 1.20pm on Friday afternoons unless you have booked your child into our FREE Friday Fun Club childcare provision. You can register for this here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/ByYzEPm0SR> Children must be registered and booked on in advance to be able to attend.

At the end of the day, children are *not allowed to play on the trim trail*. Please supervise any children in your care when collecting and remind them of this rule.

Please do your best to arrive promptly at 3.20pm to collect your child/children as we often have many children repeatedly being collected late (after 3.25pm). Not only is this worrying and stressful for children but we also do not have staff available for childcare at the end of the day. You are able to leave a voice message on the office answering machine to make school aware of any issues or changes - a member of office staff will receive this and will return your call if necessary. As you can appreciate, the end of the school day can get very busy so please try to send communications and updates in good time ahead of the end of the school day.

If you need to make any changes to collections at the end of the day (for example, if someone different is collecting your child), please contact the school office as soon as possible and please understand that the office and phone lines are likely to be very busy from 3pm

onwards. We will not release children to adults that we do not know if we have not been notified by a parent/carer.

Children in Years 5 and 6 who have permission to walk home alone from school will be dismissed from their classroom doors at 3.20pm. Please teach your child how to walk home safely and what to do if they encounter any problems. Any child who walks to and from school alone is allowed to bring a mobile phone to school with them but this must be brought to the school office at the start of each day and must be off/on silent throughout the day.

Parents/carers must complete this consent form to give permission for this:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/E8RwxVTjBu>

Merridale does not have a school uniform but we do expect children to dress safely for school. This means:

- Shoulders and midriffs covered.
- Shoes must be safe and cover the whole foot - no crocs or flip-flops please.
- Long hair must be tied back for PE lessons and some clubs (e.g. dance and football)
- Children must wear suitable clothing for PE lessons - no jeans or restrictive/very loose clothing please - trainers, joggers, t-shirts and jumpers (in colder weather) are best.
- The only items that children are allowed to wear for school are small stud earrings and watches. All jewellery and watches MUST be removed for PE. Staff are not permitted to remove or look after items for children.
- At Merridale, we love to learn and play outdoors. Please provide your child with a named pair of wellies to keep in school to protect their feet and footwear.

Our School Clothing Policy can be found here: <https://www.merridaleprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/School-Clothing-Policy-Merridale-June-2026.pdf>

You can find out more information about your child's class, including PE days as well as curriculum information and newsletters, on our class pages on our website:

<https://www.merridaleprimary.co.uk/curriculum-by-class>

Merridale Marathon Thursday 24th September



Celebrating our Summer term prize winners



We would like to extend our congratulations to all the children who received awards at the end of the Summer Term. It was a wonderful occasion, celebrating the hard work, perseverance and

progress our pupils have shown throughout the year. These achievements are a reflection of the dedication and determination our children demonstrate every day and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. Well done to all our award winners!

Autumn Term After School Clubs

For children in Years 1 to 6, we will be sending our after school clubs form (by text message link) for the Autumn term by the end of Thursday 3rd September. Please read all of the information on the form and complete one form for each child at the school. Forms must be completed and submitted **no later than Monday 7th September**. Places in clubs are allocated on a first come, first served basis. All payments must be made by **14th September** to secure your child's place in their allocated club.

If you have any issues accessing the form, please contact Mrs Hitch or Miss Kirkham in the school office.

This is the link to the form - it will not be live until 5pm on Thursday 3rd September:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/PQ2G3Eum9L>

Attendance Matters at Merridale



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 last year!

Last academic year (September 2025-July 2026) our whole school attendance was 94.8% which is in line with national figures for primary schools (national attendance last year was 94.69%). Whilst we are pleased to be in line with the national picture, we are sure we can do better this year. Please support us in ensuring that all children attend school every day that they are well enough to and discuss any attendance issues with us at the earliest opportunity. Regular school attendance is crucial for primary school pupils as it lays the foundation for their future learning and success. Consistent attendance helps children develop a routine, build strong relationships with their peers and teachers, and fully engage in the educational opportunities provided. Every day at school is a chance to learn new skills, gain knowledge, and grow both academically and socially. By attending school regularly, children are better prepared for the challenges ahead and are more likely to achieve their full potential. Let's work together to ensure our pupils have the best possible start to their educational journey!

We know that, sometimes, children cannot attend school. If they are unwell, please make sure you contact the school on the morning of the first day of absence. You might be asked to provide evidence of GP appointments, especially if your child's attendance is lower than expected. School has a duty of care to ensure that all children are safe and in school as much as possible. This means that, where attendance is a concern, you may receive a visit from our Education Welfare Officer or school staff to explore the reasons for the absence and offer support and advice.

If you are worried about your child's attendance, please contact school —we know that all circumstances are different and we are keen to support our families as much as possible to ensure children are at school on time, everyday.

Please remember that we are **unable to authorise any absence for family holiday, trips or visits as per our attendance policy which you can find here:** [Attendance Policy](#)

Parents and carers can access information about their child's current attendance through the Arbor app or by talking to the school office.

You can find up to date attendance figures for the school and classes here: [Attendance Figures | Merridale Primary](#)

Attendance

Bring your child 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 positively 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 and punctuality issues.
- We provide rewards and incentive for children that meet our target weekly, termly and yearly.
- We will keep parents and carers regularly informed of their child's attendance. You can find an up to date percentage for your child on the Arbor app.
- 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



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

BRING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL ON TIME
Aim for 100% attendance for a better future

How does attendance affect outcomes for pupils?

There is a direct link between good school attendance and high levels of attainment.

Regardless of the reason, if your child is absent from school, it will impact on their learning.

Why Attendance Matters

Every school day counts! Recent research shows that children with 95-100% attendance in Year 6 are much more likely to meet the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths than those who miss more days. Even 10 extra days of absence can reduce a child's chances of success by about 25%.

Regular attendance helps children stay on track with learning and builds confidence. If you're facing any challenges with attendance, please speak to us—we're here to help.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure your child gets a full time-education.

Everyday in school makes a difference!

What do attendance percentages mean?
Over the school year -

95% ATTENDANCE means
10 whole days of school missed (2 weeks of learning)

90% ATTENDANCE means
20 whole days of school missed (4 weeks of learning)

90% ATTENDANCE throughout school life is equal to a whole year of school missed!

Being LATE disturbs the learning of the whole class.

Arriving 5 MINUTES LATE everyday = 3 days lost each year

Arriving 10 MINUTES LATE everyday = 6 days a year absent

There are 175 non-school days in a year
That's 175 days to book appointments, go on holiday, have family time and to go shopping.

We will not authorise absences for any of these reasons.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Reporting Absence

It is a parent/carers' responsibility to notify the school if their child is absent. This should be done **daily** unless otherwise authorised with by the main school office or Headteacher

Absence should be reported on 01902 558760 or email: office@merridale.twp.school

Please state the full reason for absence. You may be asked to provide evidence of visits to the doctor or any appointments attended during school time.

Persistent absence

Any child with attendance below 90% **regardless of the reason for absence** is considered to be a persistent absentee. This equates to just 2 days off school a month.

Absence during term time

- Children **must not** be absent from school for:
- Day Trips
- Shopping
- Parent/carer or sibling illness
- Birthdays

REMEMBER - School starts a 8.40am each day.
Children are welcome to come into school from 8.30am each morning.

After 8.40am, your child will be classed as late.



Dates for your diary - please make a note of these important dates



Tuesday 1st September: INSET Day - school closed to pupils

Wednesday 2nd September: INSET Day - school closed to pupils

Thursday 3rd September 2026: School re-opens to pupils. Children in Years 1-6 can come to school between 8.30am and 8.40am

Monday 7th September: After school booster sessions start this week

Tuesday 8th September 8.45am: FREE Keeping our Kids Safe Online parent/carers workshop

Tuesday 8th September 2.30pm: Year 3 Kingswood Parent/Carers meeting

Tuesday 8th September 3.30pm: Year 6 Parent/carers meeting - Secondary transfer, SATs and Borth residential

Thursday 10th September 2.30pm: Year 1 parents and carers - Phonics/Reading Workshop

Week beginning 14th September: Merridale's 50th anniversary celebration week

Wednesday 16th September: Years 1-6 70s Dance Workshop

Friday 18th September: 50th anniversary celebration day. Children are invited to wear 70s clothing if they wish. Special menu at lunchtime today

Thursday 24th September (AM): Year 6 to Children's Bookshow author visit (Michael Rosen) at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Thursday 24th September 2pm: Merridale Marathon. Parents and carers are invited to join us for this whole school event

Monday 28th September to Tuesday 29th September: Year 3 overnight visit to Kingswood

Thursday 1st October 2.30pm: Year 1 Doodle workshop for parents and carers

Thursday 1st October: Special lunchtime menu today - Golden ticket

Friday 2nd October: Year 6 Borth residential deposit to be paid by today (£40)

Wednesday 7th October 3.40-8pm: Meet the Teacher sessions for parents and carers (appointments to be booked via Arbor)

Thursday 8th October: Year 1 visit to Patshull Farm

Thursday 8th October: Year 5 visit to Bantock Park - crocus planting for The Rotary Wolverhampton

Thursday 8th October 2.45pm: Year 6 storytime session for parents and carers

Wednesday 14th October 2.30pm: Phonics/RWI workshop for Reception parents and carers

Thursday 15th October: Year 4 visit to Carding Mill Valley

Friday 16th October: Food Bank Friday Collection

Wednesday 21st October: Black History Month celebration day

Wednesday 21st October: Flu immunisations for Reception to Year 6 children

Thursday 22nd October 2.30pm: Year 6 Show and Share (Learning Showcase) for parents and carers

Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October: School Closed - HALF TERM

Monday 2nd November: School re-opens to children for the second half of the Autumn term

Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th November 3.30-4pm: Book fair in school

Tuesday 3rd November 2.30pm: Doodle workshop for parents and carers of children in Years 1-6

Wednesday 4th November 11am and 2.45pm: Nursery storytime session for parents and carers

Thursday 5th November: Special lunchtime menu - Bonfire Night

Thursday 5th November 2pm: Multiplication Tables Check workshop for Year 4 parents and carers

Friday 6th November: Diwali celebration morning

Friday 6th November: Year 6 Borth residential second payment to be paid by today (£50)

Monday 9th November (evening): Diversity celebration at The Halls (invited pupils)

Tuesday 10th November 2.45pm: Year 1 storytime session for parents and carers

Thursday 12th November 2.45pm: Year 2 storytime session for parents and carers

Week Beginning 16th November: Anti-Bullying Week

Thursday 19th November 2.30pm: Year 5 Show and Share (Learning Showcase) for parents and carers

Friday 20th November: Odd socks day for Anti-Bullying Week

Wednesday 25th November: INSET Day - school closed to pupils

Thursday 26th November 2.30pm: Year 3 Doodle and TTRockstars workshop for parents and carers

Wednesday 2nd December 2.45pm: Year 3 storytime session for parents and carers

Thursday 3rd December 2.30pm: Year 4 Doodle workshop for parents and carers

Wednesday 9th December 2pm: Year 1 and 2 Christmas Play performance for parents and carers

Wednesday 9th December 4pm: Dance club performance for parents and carers

Thursday 10th December: School Christmas Dinner day (special menu)

Thursday 10th December: Christmas celebration day - Christmas parties, Santa visit and Christmas jumper day

Week beginning Monday 14th December: No after school clubs or booster sessions this week

Monday 14th December 11am and 2.45pm: Nursery Christmas storytime session for parents and carers

Tuesday 15th December: Christmas Crib Service at St Chad and St Mark' Church for Year 1-6 children (pupils only)

Tuesday 15th December: Look for a Light lantern display straight after school for parents and carers

Wednesday 16th December 2.45pm: Reception Christmas storytime for parents and carers

Thursday 17th December: Christmas disco for children

Friday 18th December: School closes for Christmas holidays 1.20pm or 3.20pm (Friday Fun Club)

Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January: School closed for Christmas holidays

Monday 4th January: INSET Day - school closed to pupils

Tuesday 5th January: School re-opens to pupils for the Spring term

Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February: Half term. School closed

Monday 22nd February: School re-opens to pupils

Friday 26th March: Good Friday - school closed

Monday 29th March to Friday 9th April: Easter holidays - school closed

Monday 12th April: School re-opens to pupils for the Summer term

Monday 3rd May: Bank Holiday Monday - school closed

Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June: Half term - school closed

Monday 7th June: School re-opens to pupils.

Wednesday 21st July: INSET Day- school closed to pupils

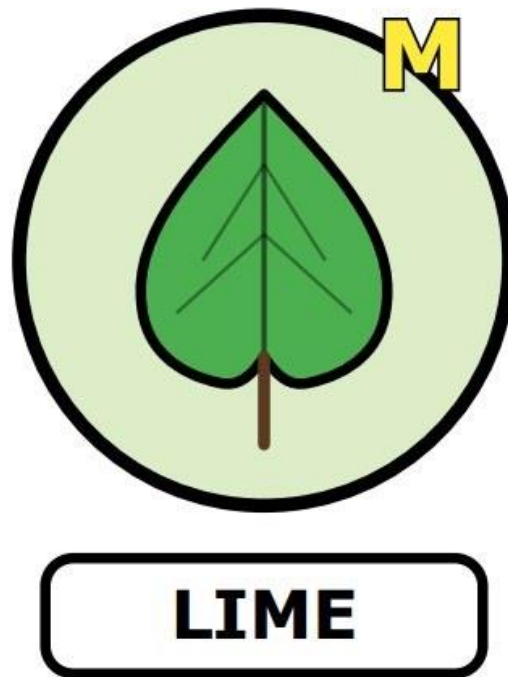
Thursday 22nd July to Wednesday 1st September: Summer holidays - school closed

Thursday 2nd September and Friday 3rd September 2027: INSET days - school closed to pupils

Monday 6th September: School re-opens to pupils

Merridale follows the Wolverhampton Local Authority agreed school term dates which can be found here: <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/education-and-schools/school-term-dates>

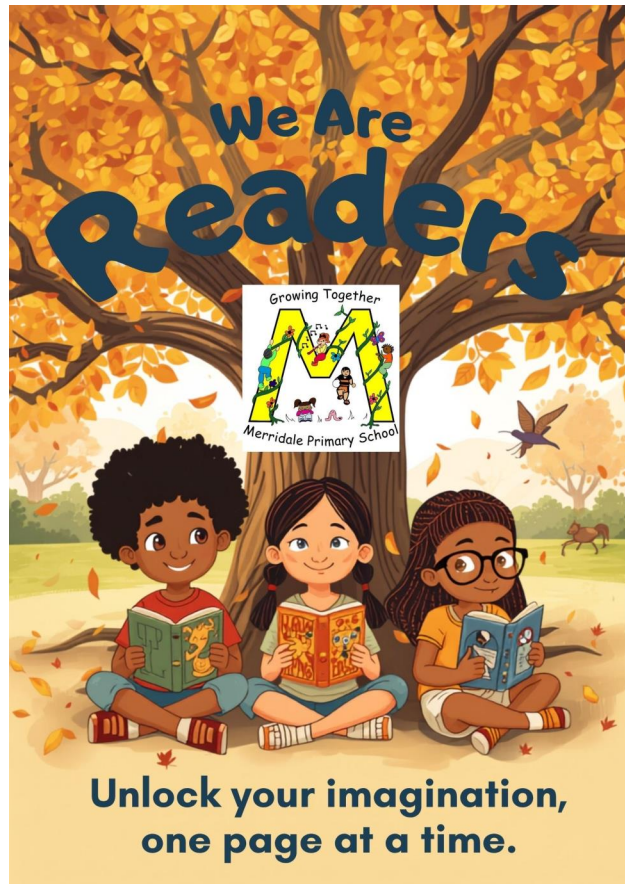
House point success for Lime!



As you know, all children are allocated a house as part of our house points system to recognise their efforts and achievements in school.

Children have been awarded raffle tickets and house points throughout the Summer term and, at our special end of term assembly, the House cup was awarded to LIME as the house with the most points in total (3,242 in total for the term). Well done LIME! I am sure you will all agree that all of the houses achieved brilliantly. 12,653 house points were awarded in total last term to all four houses combined! We now start a new term and a new challenge to find the Autumn term's winning house.

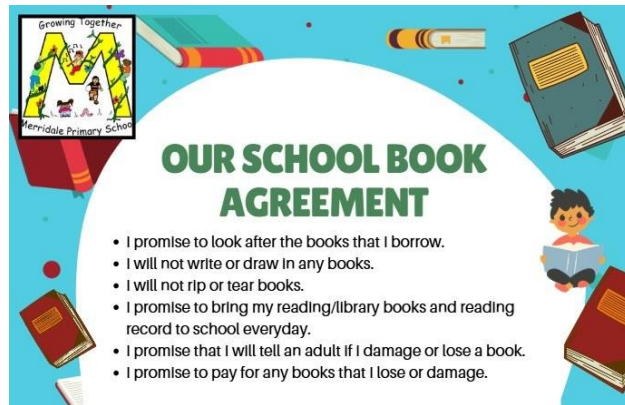
We are a Reading School



Learning to read and reading to learn is central to all that we do at Merridale. We ask parents and carers to do all they can to support children with their reading at home. Children will bring home reading books and library books to read and share with parents and carers. Please establish a positive reading environment in your home and make this part of your routine everyday. Reading together and sharing a book with a family member is the best way to develop a love of reading and books.

<https://www.merridaleprimary.co.uk/we-are-a-reading-school>

It is important that we teach children to look after our books as they are an expensive resource. School staff regularly remind children of this and encourage children to bring their reading books back to school each day. Please can we ask that parents and carers also reinforce this message at home and check your child's bag regularly to ensure that books are being cared for. We ask for a contribution from parents and carers for any lost school books.



Home Learning at Merridale



A reminder that all children in Years 1-6 have a log in to our home learning platform—Doodle.

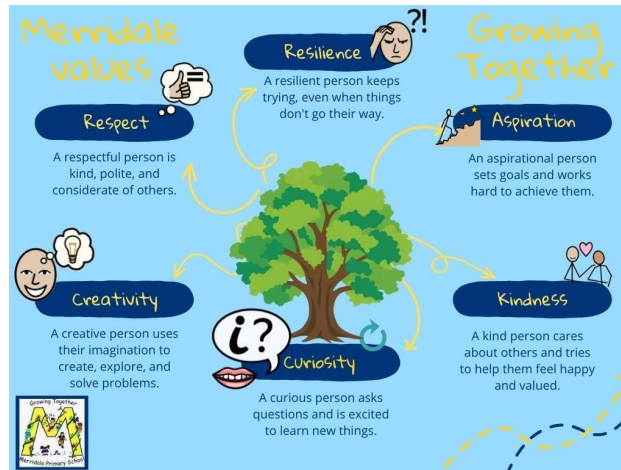
Log in information can be found in your child's reading record but, if you cannot locate it, please ask their class teacher who will be able to provide this for you to use at home.

Each week, we have a Doodle Challenge and encourage all children to use at least one of the 4 Doodle apps. You can log in here:

<https://doodlelearning.com/>

A little bit about Doodle: Doodle builds confidence and ability in maths and English by creating every child a personalised work programme tailored to their strengths and weaknesses. Using Doodle for just 10 minutes a day is proven to help children make three months of progress in just one month!

Merridale Values



Our Value of the Half Term is

Aspiration

An aspirational person sets goals and works hard to achieve them.

Aim high, believe in yourself, and always do your best!

"Growing Together"

Each half term, we focus on a core Merridale value.

This half term we are learning about **ASPIRATION**.

We will be looking out for children that demonstrate this value throughout the half term and rewarding them with special stickers. Please could you discuss **ASPIRATION** with children at home and explore ways to reinforce this value. What are your aspirations? How can you achieve your goals?

Clothing and lost property



Each week, we receive many new items into our Lost Property box. To avoid this, we ask parents and carers to put their children's names clearly on items of clothing (particularly jackets, jumpers, hoodies and sweatshirts) so that they can be returned to their owner. If you think your child has lost an item at school, please ask at the main office to check the Lost Property box.

Healthy Lunchboxes at Merridale

We all know how important it is for children to eat healthily. As a healthy school, we are keen to encourage children to make healthy food choices to equip them with the skills to do this independently as they grow older. Please also remember that we are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**.

Healthy Lunchboxes

At Merridale Primary School

How healthy is your child's packed lunch?

Wholemeal or wholegrain bread with a range of fillings - ham, cheese, tuna, salad, chicken

Fresh fruit and vegetables: carrot sticks, celery, tomatoes, cucumber, pepper, grapes, blueberries, apples, satsumas, bananas, strawberries. Try to include 3-4 different types of fruit and vegetables each day.

A small handful of raisins or dried apricots.

Breadsticks or crackers rather than biscuits (which are high in sugar).

Yogurts or yogurt drinks, fromage frais.

Water or fruit juice/squash. NO fizzy drinks at all in school please.



Cakes, chocolate and crisps should be an occasional treat and should not be included every day. We do not allow children to bring sweets or chewing/bubble gum into school

We all know how important it is for children to eat healthily. As a healthy school, we are keen to encourage children to make healthy food choices to equip them with the skills to do this independently as they grow older.

Merridale is a NUT-FREE school

Please also remember that Merridale is a NUT-FREE school. Do not include any nuts (peanuts, walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts etc) in your child's packed lunch or snack

More ideas can be found here:
www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes



Merridale is a NUT FREE school!

People who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.

If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger an allergic reaction which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties.

School staff are trained to use Epi-pens (an injection of adrenalin) which are required immediately if this happens.

We do not allow nuts in school in any form.



So please do not put any nut products in your child's lunch box.

There are many other products that can present a risk, so please check the packaging of products closely.

We appreciate that this is an additional thing to check but we know that you recognise the importance of it.

If it were your child affected, you would expect that we all help, especially as it can be a life-threatening condition.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.



School Meals and Dinner Money



School meals at Merridale are provided by a company called Miquill. Meals are cooked off site and delivered to school each day. Healthy hot and cold options are available daily. School meal information and menus are available on our website:

<https://www.merridaleprimary.co.uk/school-meals>

You can find out more about Miquill, here: <https://www.miquillcatering.co.uk/>

Children staying for lunch at Merridale have a choice of a school meal (through our caterers) or a packed lunch. A still drink may also be brought providing it is in an unbreakable, leak-proof container although all children have access to water throughout the school day and at lunchtime. 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 and take away food are not brought to school. It is advisable for items to be contained in a named lunch box.

All dinner money is paid through Arbor. If you require any help please contact the school office.

All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are entitled to "Universal Infant Free School Meals". If you do not wish for your child to have a free meal at school, please let us know.

If you think you might be eligible for Free School Meals, you can find out more information by clicking on the link below or come and ask at the school office for more information.

Or click here to see if you are eligible:

[Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK \(https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-mealswww.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals)

Pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals also receive a range of other benefits from school including free milk, free after school clubs and book vouchers. 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.

Current meal price – as of September 2026

Dinner money for Key Stage 2 children (Years 3/4/5/6) is £2.55 per day (£12.75 per week)

Is my child too ill for school?

When children are ill, there are times when they must not attend school so that they do not pass anything onto other children and staff. Find out more here:

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

[Guidance on infection control in schools poster.pdf \(hscni.net\)](https://hscni.net/guidance-on-infection-control-in-schools-poster.pdf)

Chicken Pox When all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis None*	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever None*	Hand, foot & mouth None*	Impetigo When lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies After first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek None*	Whooping Cough 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice None*	Threadworms None*	Tonsillitis None*		


 Cheshire West and Chester

 This information is based on the Public Health Agency guide - full copy [here](#)

 *No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed.


 Cheshire East

NHS Pharmacy First


Providing NHS services

Most pharmacies can help you with **seven common conditions** without needing a GP appointment

- Sinusitis**
(adults and children aged 12 years and over)
- Sore throat**
(adults and children aged 5 years and over)
- Earache**
(children and young adults aged 1 year to 17 years)
- Infected insect bite**
(adults and children aged 1 year and over)
- Impetigo**
(adults and children aged 1 year and over)
- Shingles**
(adults aged 18 years and over)
- Urinary tract infection**
(women, aged 16 to 64 years)


Ask your pharmacy for more information about this free* NHS service

Visit your Pharmacy First!

*NHS prescription charge rules apply where a medicine is supplied

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that we can help children feel better and get back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

A summary of the service is available as an [animation](#) and more information can also be found at nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst as well as at <https://www.boots.com/healthhub/a-z-services/pharmacy-first>.

Safety in school and PE Lessons

Safety in school:

The only items allowed to be worn in school, for safety reasons, are small, stud earrings and watches. Children are not allowed to wear smart watches for school. Footwear must be flat and safe, covering the whole foot. Clothing must cover the shoulders and midriff.

Safety in PE lessons:

On their PE days, children must come to school wearing suitable clothing and footwear to take part in PE (trainers, leggings, jogging bottoms, t-shirts, sweatshirts etc NO JEANS or denim items please). ALL jewellery MUST be **removed** for PE lessons – children must be able to do this themselves and staff are not allowed to keep items safe during PE lessons.

Long hair must **always** be tied up for PE lessons.

Please note that children are not allowed to wear heels, sandals or Crocs for school at any time and that all shoes worn for school must always fully cover the feet to ensure that children are safe. Shoes and boots cannot be worn for PE lessons though as these are not safe.

Earrings

We no longer allow children to take part in PE lessons if they are wearing earrings. We have previously allowed children to participate in PE lessons if they covered their earrings with a plaster/tape (sent from home). There is clear guidance and advice that makes it clear that this is not appropriate. This is for health and safety reasons so that our children can be as safe as possible during physical education lessons.

Guidance from AFPE (Association for Physical Education) makes it clear that all personal items must be removed for PE lessons for safety reasons. If items cannot be removed, staff must take action. In most cases, this means removing the child from the PE lesson. If your child has recently had their ears pierced (within the last 6 weeks) we are aware that their earrings cannot be removed for this period. **In this instance only**, we will allow children to cover their earrings with a plaster or tape (sent from home) to make them safe. This should not be an on-going

practice beyond 6 weeks and children must be able to apply the plaster themselves before the PE lesson. If you are considering getting your child's ears pierced, we would urge you to do this in July at the start of the 6 week summer holiday. School staff cannot be required to add or remove tape/plasters to children's ears. Staff cannot also not be required to remove children's earrings/jewellery or keep them safe.

PE Days:

Year 6 have PE on a Monday and Tuesday

Year 5 have PE on a Monday and Wednesday

Year 4 have PE on a Wednesday and Thursday

Year 3 have PE on a Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 2 have PE on a Monday and Thursday

Year 1 have PE on a Monday and Thursday

Reception have PE on a Friday

The above information is also available on the school website [The Curriculum by Class | Merridale Primary](#)

We are committed to learning outside as much as possible and we love to make good use of our extensive outdoor areas. We ask for all children to have a **named pair of wellies** in school so that they can take part in as much outdoor learning as possible throughout the year.

Parking restrictions

Please can I remind you that the school car park is for **staff use only**. Please park outside of school where it is safe and legal to do so. Please can I also ask that you respect our school neighbours by **not parking in front of drop-down kerbs**. Cars are not permitted, at any time, to park on the zig-zag markings near the zebra crossing or on the yellow lines near to school.

Please be considerate to our school community and other road users by parking safely and legally.

Local traffic enforcers will be visiting school to do checks and issue fines where drivers are breaking the law.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM LOCAL PARKING ENFORCEMENT:

I am emailing on behalf of the Parking Enforcement Team at Wolverhampton City Council.

We are continuing to experience significant issues with parents and carers parking on restricted areas during school drop-off and pick-up times. Unfortunately, despite previous engagement efforts, the situation has not improved.

Until now, our Civil Enforcement Officers have approached drivers observed parking in contravention and requested that they move their vehicles before issuing a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN). Increasingly, drivers are relying on this warning and continuing to park unlawfully until instructed to move. These restrictions must remain clear at all times to ensure the safety of pupils, parents and carers.

To address this ongoing issue, we will be changing our enforcement approach. Any vehicle parked in contravention of restrictions near schools will now receive a Penalty Charge Notice immediately, without prior request to move. If a driver leaves the location after the issuing process has begun, the PCN will be issued by post to the registered keeper of the vehicle.

We wanted to make you aware of this change and request that you share this information with parents and carers. We hope that a firmer approach will encourage greater compliance and help us to maintain safer environments around our school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Matthew Bowden

Senior Parking Service Officer





SAFE AND LEGAL PARKING

Please keep our children safe

The overriding reason for this guidance is to keep our children safe outside our school gates and to respect our neighbours whilst also making sure parents and carers do not break the law.

We know that the school run can be a stressful time. The last thing we want to do is to make it harder but it's really important for everyone's safety that parents, carers and visitors observe the law and park safely and legally. If you drive your children to school, it's a good idea to arrive early and find somewhere safe and legal to park.

CAN I PARK ON DOUBLE AND SINGLE YELLOW LINES?
 No. Please do not park on yellow lines. Cars parked there can obstruct the lines of sight for pedestrians who want to cross the road. Any car left unattended on a single or double yellow line for more than a few minutes can be issued a penalty charge notice. You are only allowed to stop on double or single yellow lines for a very short period of time to allow passengers to enter or exit the vehicle, providing no obstruction is being caused.

CAN I PARK ON SCHOOL ZIG-ZAG OR KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS?
 No. In the interests of safety, you must NEVER park on these markings. Any vehicle found on them can be issued with a penalty charge notice. This also applies to blue badge holders.

CAN I DOUBLE PARK IF I REMAIN IN MY VEHICLE?
 No. This causes an obstruction for other road users and is a danger to pedestrians.

CAN I PARK OVER DROP-DOWN KERBS IN FRONT OF THE HOUSES OPPOSITE SCHOOL?
 No. This causes an obstruction and means our neighbours around school are not able to get on and off their drives.

CAN I PARK ON THE SCHOOL CAR PARK?
 No. This car park is for STAFF ONLY. Parking on the school car park causes an obstruction for staff and is a safety risk for staff, pupils and families who might be crossing the car park on foot.



You can report illegal and unsafe parking using this site:
<https://www.westmidlands.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us-beta/contact-us/driving-vehicles-traffic/report-illegal-parking>

You can find out more about parking and roads in Wolverhampton, here:
<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/parking-and-roads>





Nursery Places available



Merridale Primary School Nursery
Aspen Way, Wolverhampton WV3 0UP

15 or 30* HOURS FREE CHILDCARE

*limited number of 30 hours places available
Morning sessions (8.30-11.30am)
Afternoon sessions (12.15-3.15pm)
Or 30 hour sessions (8.30am-2.30pm or 3.15pm)

PLACES AVAILABLE NOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2026
for eligible 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS

Our nursery is a vibrant, nurturing setting where children are supported by a highly skilled team, including a qualified teacher.
It's a place where curiosity is encouraged, early learning is carefully planned, and every child is known, valued, and celebrated.
With a rich, play-based curriculum and caring staff who understand how young children learn best, our nursery gives children the perfect start to their school journey.
We offer a welcoming environment where children feel safe, confident, and excited to explore – helping them grow, thrive, and develop a real love of learning.

Call: 01902 558760
or e-mail: office@merridale.twp.school
For more information

Visit our school website for further information:
www.merridaleprimary.co.uk

Growing Together

Merridale Primary School

Merridale Nursery—provision for 3 and 4 year olds

We are very proud of our school nursery provision at Merridale. Our Nursery has a qualified teacher, delivering high quality provision for our 3 and 4 year olds.

If you would like a place in nursery for your child please speak with the school office and complete a registration form. We hold a waiting list in school and will contact parents when a place becomes available.

It's never too early to register an interest if you have a child who will be turning 3 in the coming months. Call 01902 558760 or e-mail office@merridale.twp.school to find out more.

If you know any local families with pre-school age child, please spread the word.

School Milk



Milk Money is payable directly to Coolmilk. If your child is under 5, they will be provided free milk until their 5th Birthday. If you wish your child to continue to receive milk after they turn 5, please register with Coolmilk and make a payment at least a week before via the website: www.coolmilk.com. If your child is eligible for free school meals, the school will continue to provide free milk (please check with the school office if you are unsure if you need to pay). If you require any further information, please contact Mrs Hitch or Miss Kirkham in the main school office.

Support for parents and carers of children with SEND

Find out more about Wolverhampton's local offer for children and families with SEND, here:

Find out more about the services and support offered by Wolverhampton Outreach here (click on "parent support offer"):

<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/education-and-schools/send-early-identification-support-services>

Find out more about Cherry Street SEND and Sensory Hub (close to Merridale) from the drop down menu.

Wolverhampton's Local Offer: <https://www.localofferwolves.co.uk/>

Wolverhampton Information Advice and Support Service (IASS): <https://wolvesiass.org/>

General advice and support: [General advice and support | Wolverhampton SEND Local Offer](#)

Family Safety focus

Keeping your family safe from fire.



Keeping your family safe from fire

Advice for Parents and Carers



Fire safety starts at home

Most fires in the home can be prevented. Actions such as:

Testing smoke alarms every week, keeping them clean and well maintained

Storing and charging electrical items safely

Talking to children about fire risks can make a significant difference.

Fire safety is not about causing worry; it is about helping families feel prepared and confident about what to do if an emergency occurs. Working smoke alarms are one of the most effective ways to protect your household, and every family should be aware of their escape routes and what to do if an alarm sounds.

Safety actions to protect your home

Many household fires start through everyday activities. Cooking remains one of the most common causes of accidental fires, particularly when food is left unattended or when cookers and cooking surfaces are used for extra storage, as items left on or near hobs can accidentally catch fire.



Faulty electrical equipment, damaged charging cables and overloaded plug sockets can also present significant risks. Developing safe habits, such as switching appliances off when not in use, avoiding overloading extension leads and keeping flammable materials away from heat sources, can help reduce the likelihood of a fire starting in your home.

As children grow older, they often spend more time independently in their bedrooms and make greater use of technology. It is important for parents and carers to know where devices are being charged and to encourage safe charging habits.

Phones, tablets, laptops and gaming equipment should never be charged under pillows, on beds or beneath blankets where heat can build up. Hair straighteners should be fully switched off after use and allowed to cool safely. It is also worth having conversations about candles, incense burners and any other items that generate heat.

Children are naturally curious and may have questions about fire, fireworks or emergency services. Open and age-appropriate conversations can help them understand both the dangers and the importance of safe behaviour. Encourage children to tell an adult if they find matches, lighters or damaged electrical items. Explain that smoke can be just as dangerous as flames and that hiding during a fire can make it more difficult for firefighters to help them. Reassure children that knowing what to do in an emergency helps to keep everyone safe.



Creating a family escape plan

Every family should have a simple escape plan. Take time to identify the quickest way out of each room and, where possible, a second route in case the first is blocked. Make sure everyone in the household knows these routes and understands what to do if they hear the smoke alarm. Keep exits clear so that everyone can leave quickly in an emergency and ensure keys are stored in a safe but accessible place.

All family members should know where they are kept. Choose a family meeting point outside the home as this helps ensure everyone can be accounted for safely and reduces the risk of anyone re-entering the building. If there is a fire, get out, stay out and call 999. Teach younger children never to hide during a fire and never to go back inside for toys, pets or belongings.

Your family escape plan should also cover what to do if you cannot leave the property safely. If your escape route is blocked, move to a room with a window if possible and close the door behind you. Use towels, bedding or clothing to block gaps around the door to help prevent smoke entering the room. Open the window, call for help and dial 999 if you can. If you are on an upper floor, do not jump from a window; stay where you are and wait for rescue. If you live in a flat, make sure everyone in the household is familiar with the building's fire safety arrangements, evacuation procedures and escape routes, including the importance of not using lifts during a fire.



Fireworks, Deliberate Fires and Hoax Calls

Some children might not fully understand the consequences of irresponsible behaviour involving fire. Deliberately setting fires, misusing fireworks or making hoax calls to emergency services can place lives at risk and divert valuable resources away from genuine emergencies. Parents and carers play an important role in helping young people understand how these actions can affect individuals, families and communities. Taking opportunities to discuss news stories, local incidents or community events can help reinforce these messages.



Knowing your rights and the support available

Local authorities, housing teams, Citizens Advice, community organisations and charities may be able to assist with a range of issues, including housing conditions, household safety and family wellbeing. Many local Fire and Rescue Services also offer free Home Fire Safety Checks, providing practical advice tailored to individual households and circumstances.

If you rent your home, your landlord has legal responsibilities to help keep you safe. In England, landlords must provide smoke alarms on every storey of a property, ensure gas appliances are checked annually where provided, maintain safe electrical installations and provide appropriate carbon monoxide alarms where required. They should also ensure that escape routes can be used safely at all times.

If you have concerns about fire safety, speak to your landlord or letting agent first. If problems are not resolved, your local council's housing team, Shelter or Citizens Advice may be able to offer support and guidance.

Useful Sources of Support

Further advice and support can be obtained from:

- Your Local Fire and Rescue Service
- Citizens Advice
- Shelter
- GOV.UK

These organisations provide information on home fire safety, housing rights, landlord responsibilities and support for families who may be experiencing difficulties.

Want to find out more?

- www.Pol-Ed.co.uk
- hello@pol-ed.police.uk
- @Pol-Ed.UK
- [facebook.com/Pol-Ed.UK](https://www.facebook.com/Pol-Ed.UK)

Created in collaboration with



Contact Us



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Aspen Way

Wolverhampton

WV3 0UP

01902 558760

e-mail: office@merridale.twp.school

www.merridaleprimary.co.uk