

Merley First School News

Autumn 2018 Number 1

Dear Parents and Carers

As this is our first newsletter of the year I would like to welcome our new families in school, particularly the families in Butterfly and Ladybird classes. We very much look forward to working with you as your child's learning journey starts with us. We would also like to give a warm welcome to Mr Wheeler who joins us as our new Assistant Head Teacher and Fox Class Teacher. Over the summer the roofers have continued to replace our roof and skylights and 'fingers crossed' this will be finished at the end of this week.

Goodbye

I am very sad to say that Mrs Clulow will be leaving us at the end of September. I am sure you will agree Mrs Clulow is an amazing member of our team and will be greatly missed, but she feels the time is right to pursue other avenues. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication over the past 14 years and wish her every success for her future ventures.

Carpark

I would like to remind everyone that the school carpark, at all times, is for staff or parents with permission to park in only. Please do not use this route as a shortcut as we do not want any accidents.

Toys

As a school our policy is that no toys are allowed in school. Please help us to keep this policy. Toys not only add a distraction but they can also cause distress if your child loses or breaks them.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 25th September

Parent Information Evening

Thursday 27th September

Harvest Festival

Week Beginning 1st October

Book Fair

Monday 8th – Wednesday 10th October

Life Education Bus

Monday 8th October

Hedgehog Class trip to The Priest House Museum

Tuesday 9th October

Rabbit Class trip to The Priest House Museum

Year 3 trip to Cranbourne Ancient Technology Centre

Wednesday 10th October

Year 1 trip to Waitrose

Thursday 11th October

Open Morning

Tuesday 16th and Thursday 18th October

Parents Evening

Friday 19th October

End of Half Term 3.15pm

Monday 29th October

School Closed for training

Tuesday 30th October

School reopens

Thursday 1st November

Individual and Sibling Photographs

01202 888455

office@merleyfirstschool.net

www.merleyfirstschool.com

School Uniform

It was really good to see the children arrive in their new school uniform they looked incredibly smart. I would like to remind everyone that it is school policy that **all children wear a jumper or cardigan with the school logo on**. I would also like to remind everyone that children should wear a **white shirt or polo shirt**. We will be reminding children about what they can wear and how to look smart at all times and we would appreciate your help and support with this. Please can you also ensure that all uniform is named by sewing/sticking in labels. I would also like to stress that long hair must be tied back using a small blue or black hair band and that hairgrips are to be plain and small.

Information Evenings Tuesday 25th September

We would like to invite you to our information evenings. The meeting last approximately 30 minutes and it is an opportunity for you to find out what your child will be learning this year.

- Year 1 5.00pm
- Year 2 5.30pm
- Year 3 6.00pm
- Reception 6.00pm
- Year 4 6.30pm

Results

Last year our children achieved so many things and this year we will be building upon this to achieve even more. Our end of Reception results continue to be above National with 82% of our children achieving a good level of development. In Year 1 85% of our children met the standard in Phonics. The progress the children made in Year 2 was good

Year 2 Results

	Below Expected Standard	Expected Standard +	Greater Development
Reading	11%	89%	33%
Writing	26%	74%	13%
Maths	20%	80%	20%

Collecting Children at the End of the Day

Can I remind you that if your child is to be picked up by someone who is not on their contact list, please can you inform the class teacher, teaching assistant or the school office either verbally or in written form. Please do not give your child or another adult a verbal message as staff will not release your child to someone else unless we have received confirmation from



Snacks: In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable for their break time. However in Year 3 and 4 the children will need to bring in their own piece of fruit or vegetable for break time if they wish.



Attendance:

At our school we believe that regular, uninterrupted attendance secures the best possible learning achievement for all our children and we are committed to working in partnership with families to achieve this. Schools are expected to monitor all pupils' attendance records closely and to pass these on to the receiving school when pupils transfer.

All requests for absence from school must be made in writing to the school on the school form as far in advance as possible. In line with Department of Education regulations, **no** holiday will be authorised in term time unless there is genuinely exceptional circumstances. For 10 or more half day sessions of unauthorised absence a fixed penalty notice may be issued.

We ask that parents consider the impact holidays during term time could have on their child's education. There is evidence that missing school can lower academic achievement, will interrupt the learning of the whole class with teachers having to spend time helping children catch up when they return. One of our top priorities is enabling children to have the very best start in life, and a major part of that is education.

A note about safeguarding....

If you ever have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of our children please contact the school to speak to Jane Phillips (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Carolyn Waldron (Deputy DSLs). The safety of our young people is the responsibility of us all.