



Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year. We are looking forward to working with you and your children to ensure that 2016-17 is a happy and successful one.

School Staff

We are pleased to welcome two new members of staff to the school. Miss Hickman is our new Year 3 teacher and Miss Collins is our new Year 4 teacher.

You will be pleased to hear that Mrs Tara gave birth to a baby boy during the Summer holidays. I am sure you will join me in sending our congratulations.

Attendance and Punctuality

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.

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.

Can I remind you that children can come straight into the school building between 8.40am and 8.50am 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 from school at 3.15pm unless they have permission to walk home alone. I appreciate your support in this.

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.

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**.

Jewellery Policy

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 other jewellery or cosmetics unless for cultural reasons. Any items that are worn must be removed or covered with a sweat band/plaster for PE and all items are the responsibility of the pupil. Please note that staff are not allowed to remove or look after jewellery for children.

Meet the Teacher

Meet the teacher is an opportunity for parents and carers to meet their child's new teacher and talk briefly about any issues or concerns for the coming year.

Consultations will take place on:

Monday 3rd October 3.30pm - 5pm:

Reception and Key Stage 1 Meet The Teacher

Tuesday 4th October 3.30pm - 5pm: Key Stage 2 Meet The Teacher

Wednesday 5th October 6pm-8pm: Whole school Meet The Teacher

Further details to follow.

After School Clubs

After school clubs commence week beginning Monday 19th September. There will be no after school clubs in the last week of term, the week beginning 12th December. You will be notified if your child **HAS NOT** been allocated a place in their chosen club.

Contact Details

It is vital that the school office has up to date, correct contact details for all parents and carers in the event of an emergency. A contact sheet and medical form will shortly be sent out to all families. This is an opportunity to amend and correct your details where necessary. Please ensure that all information about your child is included on this form, including their home language, medical needs and whether or not they are a vegetarian or have any special dietary requirements. Forms must be returned to school as soon as possible.

Newsletter

Summer Term Prize Winners



Well done to the pupils who won their class attainment and achievement prize last term. We are all very proud of their hard work and progress.

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 are not 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 23rd September.

Dinner Money

Dinner money is £2.50 per day (£12.50 per week). Please can dinner money be sent into school at the start of each week in a named, sealed envelope. Some parents and carers in receipt of income support and Working Family Tax Credits are entitled to free school meals and milk. Please ask at the school office for more information. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible to receive a free school meal everyday under the Universal Infant Free School Meals funding.

School Communications

We appreciate that you will be receiving lots of letters and information at the start of the new school year. Can I remind you that you can also receive e-mail updates by registering your e-mail address with us. Please send an e-mail to office@merridaleprimary.co.uk to register.

Road Dahl Day

Tuesday 13th September 2016 is the 100th anniversary of the birth of the author Roald Dahl. To celebrate this, we will be having a special celebration day on this date. Children are invited to dress up as a Roald Dahl story character if they wish.

Term Dates

Thursday 15th September: Eid celebration afternoon
WB Monday 19th September: After school clubs start this week
WB Monday 19th September: Healthy Living week
Friday 23rd September: Fun and Fitness day & Merridale Marathon – parents, carers and family are invited to join us for this from 1.45pm.
Monday 3rd October 3.30pm - 5pm: Reception and Key Stage 1 Meet The Teacher
Tuesday 4th October 3.30pm - 5pm: Key Stage 2 Meet The Teacher
Wednesday 5th October 6pm-8pm: Whole school Meet the Teacher
Friday 7th October: Food Bank Friday collection
Thursday 20th October: Diwali showcase event 2pm for parents, carers and family (KS2 only).
Friday 21st October 3.15pm: School closes for half term
Monday 24th – Friday 28th October: School closed for half term
WB 14th November: Anti-bullying/E-Safety week
Monday 21st – Thursday 24th November: Book fair in school.
Tuesday 6th December 2pm: Reception and KS1 Christmas Play performance for parents, carers and family.
Wednesday 7th December 2pm: Reception and KS1 Christmas Play performance for parents, carers and family.
WB 12th December: No after school clubs this week.
Tuesday 13th December 10am: Christingle Service at St Chad's Church
Thursday 15th December: Christmas Disco
Friday 16th December 3.15pm: School closes for the Christmas holidays.
Tuesday 3rd January: INSET Day – school closed to pupils
Wednesday 4th January: School re-opens to pupils for Spring term.
Thursday 26th January 9.15am: Year 2 class assembly