

Newsletter

Welcome back! We hope you have had an enjoyable half term break. We are already half a term into the new school year and we have lots of information to share with you, as well as celebrating lots of special events which happened last half term.

Food Bank Collection



As part of our harvest festival, on Friday 3rd October we held a "Friday Food Bank" collection and received a fantastic response! We collected over 700 items which have now been sent to The Well Food bank in Wolverhampton to be distributed across the city. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Eid



On Friday 10th October we celebrated the festival of Eid-UI-Adha in school. The children were joined by many parents and carers to learn about this celebration and take part in some lovely activities. The afternoon was full of fun as each class held their own Eid celebration party. Thanks to all of the parents, carers and family members who came along to share in this celebration.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

Please send any donations for the shoebox appeal into school no later than Friday 7th November and help us to support this very valuable cause.

Diwali



Merridale celebrated Diwali on Thursday 23rd October, it was a fantastic event! As well as workshops and activities, parents, carers and family members were welcomed into school to enjoy our Key stage 2 showcase which was filled with music and dancing.

Diversity Celebration



Some of our wonderful stick dancers represented Merridale at the annual Diversity celebration at The Civic Hall on Thursday 23rd October. The children performed in front of hundreds of pupils and their families from schools across Wolverhampton. We are so proud of the way in which they represented our school, well done dancers!

Children in Need

On Friday 14th November, Merridale will be helping to raise money for Children in Need. We are asking children to pay £1 (or more if they wish) to come to school dressed as their favourite superhero. Costumes could be home-made, the more creative the better!

Staff Car Park

Please can I remind you that the car park is for use by staff only. Please park courteously on the road where parking is permitted when dropping off or collecting children.



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Changes to the start of the day

From Monday 3rd November we have changed how children enter school at the start of the day. Children can now come into straight school from 8.40am and will be able to complete tasks in their classrooms, supervised by staff. From 8.50am, the gate will be locked and children will need to enter school via the main school office.

Parents no longer need to accompany their children onto the playground and may pass on any messages to staff via the member of staff on duty on the gate. If you need to speak to your child's teacher, please make an appointment at the school office.

Lost Property

We regularly have many items of lost property left at school. Parents and carers can help to reduce the risk of lost items by labelling all items of clothing (including hats and gloves) with their child's name. If your child has lost anything, please feel free to come into school and check the lost property box in the school hall. At the end of each term, any unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

Poppy Appeal

Royal British legion poppies will be on sale in school from Wednesday 5th November at lunchtimes. Please send any money for poppies (or other items) into school in a named, sealed envelope.

Terrific for Twos

Our new "Terrific for Twos" centre will be opening shortly in the bungalow on the school site. If you would like to find out more information or to check whether your two-year-old is eligible for a 15 hour funded place, please enquire at the school office.

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. You can update your details by contacting the main school office.

INSET Day:

Please note that Monday 5th January will be an INSET day – school will be closed to pupils. Children return to school on Tuesday 6th January 2015.

Term Dates

Friday 7th November: Last day for shoebox donations.

Thursday 13th November: Year 5 ThinkTank Showcase in school for Y5 parents and carers (1.15-3pm)

Friday 14th November: Children in Need – pay £1 to dress as a superhero.

WB 17th October: Anti-bullying/E-safety week

Monday 24th November - Thursday

27th November: Book fair in school

Thursday 4th December: Nursery Kingswood trip

Friday 5th December: Reception Kingswood trip

WB 8th and 15th December: Christmas celebration week/s

Tuesday 9th December 2pm: Reception & KS1 Christmas play performance for parents

Wednesday 10th December 2pm: Reception & KS1 Christmas play performance for parents

Friday 12th December: School Christmas Dinner

WB 15th December: No after school clubs this week

Tuesday 16th December: Year 1-6 visit to the Panto

Thursday 18th December: Christingle service at St Chad and St Mark's Church (10am)

Thursday 18th December: Christmas Disco

Friday 19th December: Children break up for Christmas holidays (3.15pm)

Monday 5th January: INSET day: School closed to pupils.

Tuesday 6th January: School open to pupils.