



Aiming High, Achieving Together

Merton Infant School
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'Newsletter 9 – 14th June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Local Authority Moderation Visit

Well done to our Y2 team who were visited last week by the Local Authority (LA) Assessment Team to verify our teacher assessments in Reading, Writing and Maths. The moderators reported that all teachers showed a clear understanding of the DfE standards for Key Stage 1 in all areas. All judgements were agreed across the board and there was strong evidence in books. We look forward to sharing the children's outcomes in their end of year annual reports. The children have worked incredibly hard this year and should be proud of themselves.



Safeguarding Theme Day

We have planned activities on Monday 19th June to reinforce our message about the NSPCC PANTS Rule and on-line Safety. Please check the school website for relevant advice you can follow at home. The lunchtime supervisors report that a few children are re-enacting games about Fortnite. This is rated T for Teen by the Entertainment Software Rating Board due to the violent content. It is recommended for ages 13 and older. Please ensure you use parental controls on any digital devices at home.

Class Photos

Children will have their class photo taken on Friday 23rd June so please ensure that they look clean and tidy.



Transition Day

We are starting to prepare the children for their next year group. All current year groups will be split up for the next academic year and, on occasions, staff will be trialling new classes throughout this half term to check we have the right balance i.e. gender, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), English as an Additional Language (EAL), Ethnic Minority (EM) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. Y2 have also joined the junior playtime from this week. The official day when the children will meet their teacher and LSA will be **Thursday 29th June**. Parents and children will receive a Social Story of the child's new staff on that day.

Mrs Relf, who will be returning from Maternity Leave, is not available on this day so she will meet her Y2 class on Friday 7th July.

Attendance

Attendance is currently 93.2%, which is a slight improvement on last term, although this is still below the Government's current expectation of 95%. This term we are finding that there are an increasing number of parents taking their children out of school for holidays. **Any holidays taken during term time will not be**

Headteacher: Mrs Larissa James BA (QTS) NPQH



authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances, although the length of time authorised is likely to be limited. This means that if you take your child on holiday without authorisation for 5 or more days it will invoke a penalty notice, which entails a fine of £60 per parent per child. This can double to £120 if it is not paid within 21 days. We have already had to issue 6 families with penalty notices this academic year. Besides invoking penalty notices for parents, holidays are also disruptive to your child's learning and development. Please try to refrain from taking your child out of school during term time.

If your child is absent for any reason you should call the school office before 9.30am to explain the reason. You can leave a message on the school's answer machine. If your child is unwell we need to have a clear explanation of what the illness is, so that it can be logged on their attendance record. If your child has a lot of time off for illness we may ask to see medical proof for the absences, such as a prescription, medication label or hospital letter advising that your child is unfit to attend school. We are finding that some parents do not contact the school to explain their child's absence. If we are unable to ascertain a reason for your child's absence we may have to do a home visit, as part of the school's safeguarding obligations.

Warmer Weather

It looks like the sun is finally here! Please ensure your child wears a sunhat, has a water bottle and has sun cream applied before coming to school every day. Manufacturers now make sunscreen that will last all day.

Summer Fayre

We are planning a fayre with the junior school on Saturday 15th July at 11.00 – 1.00pm. Further details will follow.



Sports Event

We are planning to hold our Sports Day on Monday 17th July from 9.15 – 10.30am, weather permitting. This will consist of a round robin carousel of activities on the top field followed by a selection of competitive races on the running track on the bottom field opposite the junior school. If we have to cancel due to the weather, we have planned a reserve date for 18th July at the same time.



Inset Days

We have confirmed next year's INSET days, when school will be closed for staff training. We have planned some of the days to be at the beginning or the end of holidays to make it easier for parents to book long weekends away or holidays. Please see below:

Friday 1st September - Mental Health / Mindfulness

Monday 27th November - First Aid

Monday 19th February - Dance

Monday 24th June - Data Analysis

Monday 15th July - Curriculum Planning

Volunteers

We are looking for any volunteers who would be able to support the school for reading and on school trips. A DBS check would need to be completed. Please see the school office for further information.



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Key Dates:

16th June - Y2 trip to Windsor Castle
23rd June - Class Photos
26th June - Sponsored Workout
28th June - Governor Monitoring Day
29th June - Transition Day
3rd July - Movie Night – details to follow
6th July - 9.00 – 10.25am Special Relative Visit
7th July - YR Beach Day (in school)
10th July - INSET Day: Curriculum Planning
14th July - Annual Reports to Parents
2.30 - Y1 Art Gallery to Parents
15th July - 11.00 - 2.00pm Summer Fayre
17th July - Let's Get Active Theme Week
9.15 - 10.30am Sports Day
18th July - Second Reserve 9.15 - 10.30am Sports Day
20th July - 9.30 - 10.30am Y2 Leavers' Assembly
21st July - Break Up

Thank you for your continuing support.

Larissa James
Headteacher

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