



Aiming High, Achieving Together

Merton Infant School
Romsey Close
Popley Way
Basingstoke
Hants
RG24 9HB

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Newsletter 1 – 12th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to our existing parents and a very warm welcome to our new YR children and families. We hope that you all had a lovely summer holiday and enjoyed the beautiful sunshine.

The children look very smart in their school uniforms and have settled into their classes, following routines and expectations very well.

We have a very busy term ahead so please ensure you check and **empty** your child's book bag **daily** and view the school website for newsletters or other important information.

State Funeral

Following the sad death of Queen Elizabeth II, the state funeral has been confirmed to take place on Monday 19th September. School will be closed as this will be a bank holiday. God Save The King!

Belongings

Please ensure you label all school uniform including hats, gloves, coats, shoes, PE kits, lunch boxes and water bottles. We are always amazed at the amount of lost property we donate to charity shops so please check the lost property box in the office reception area regularly. Children often have the same items and become anxious when they lose something.

Year Group Welcome Meetings

We will upload the Y1 and Y2 Welcome presentations to the school website in the Parents folder for you to view by the end of next week. This is an opportunity to learn about the curriculum and year group expectations and will enable you to fully support your child's learning. **The Yr 2 Welcome Meeting is on Thursday 15th September at 2.30pm.**

Curriculum Newsletters

Each year group will send out information next week about this half term's topics including suggestions about how you can support your child's learning at home. Each child will bring home their pink Home-School Reading books as a means of communication and where all log-in details can be found for our on-line Learning Platforms e.g. Google Classroom, Rocket Phonics, Spelling Shed. Children will also bring home a library book each week for you to read to your child. Parents will be charged for the replacement of any lost/damaged library books.

Attendance

There was a bit of a bumpy start to the term with regards to attendance, with a high number of absences over the first couple of days. A lot of this was due to families returning late from holidays or visiting family abroad. Our attendance is currently at 94%. The Government's expectation is that **attendance should be 96% or above** so that children stand the best chance of achieving their potential.

Please support your child's learning and development by refraining from taking them out of school during term time and by keeping any appointments during school hours to a minimum, wherever possible. If your child has an appointment in the middle of the morning please send them into school first thing so that they can get their attendance mark and keep any disruption to their learning to a minimum. We expect children to return to school following any appointments, unless the appointment finishes close to the end of the school day. Likewise, if your child has an appointment in the afternoon, we expect them to be in school for the morning session.

Headteacher: Mrs Larissa James BA (QTS) NPQH



We would also ask that you try to ensure that your child arrives at school on time. We have had some children arriving late for school because the parent was late finishing their night shift at work. If you know that you are going to be late home from work please try to make alternative arrangements for bringing your child to school. Children often become upset and find it difficult to settle in class when they are late for school. We hope that parents will support the school in our efforts to improve attendance this year.

Parking

Please avoid driving up Romsey Close **at all times**. If it becomes congested with cars parking and turning it makes it very difficult for emergency vehicles to access the school and therefore putting your child or staff at risk. Please park at Abbey Road shops or Tintern Close and walk the short pathway to school. Police Community Patrol Officers will monitor parking on Romsey Close. The **school car park is for staff only** and must not be used as a drop-off or pick-up point.

Money

All money must be put in your child's zipped wallet and handed to your child's class teacher with a note indicating the amount and reason for the money. The office staff are unable to take money across the front desk. Any change will be returned at the end of the day, but wherever possible, please try to send in the exact amount. However, we would prefer that Breakfast club, After School Club and school trips are paid online.

Theme Week

To enrich our school curriculum, we plan specific theme weeks throughout the year with a particular subject focus. During the last week of this half term we are planning our Art Attack Theme Week. We will focus on key artists per year group and link to our celebration of the Hindu Diwali festival as part of our RE Curriculum and British Values of 'Tolerance of those with Different Faiths and Beliefs'.

Curriculum Manager Role

Each teacher is given a responsibility of curriculum areas. They will have non-contact days where they will monitor their subject e.g. conducting lesson observations in each class, talking to children, reviewing planning per year group, planning and conducting training for staff, analysing data etc. Mrs Silk will cover the classes on these occasions.

Key Dates

15th September - Y2 Welcome Meeting at 2.30pm
19th September - Bank holiday for state funeral
23rd September - Y2 School Council elections
28th September - Individual Photos
3rd October - Movie Night @ 3.30 - 5.00pm (details to follow)
5th October - Flu vaccine for all children
11th October - Parents' Evening @ 3.30 - 6.00pm
17th October - Parents' Evening @ 4.00 - 6.30pm
17th - 20th October - Art Attack Theme Week
20th October - Special Relative Visit @ 9.30 - 10.30am (details to follow)
20th October - School closes for half term holiday
21st October - INSET: school closed
31st October - School re-opens at 8.45am

Yours Sincerely,



Larissa James
Headteacher



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