

October 2020 Newsletter



The Merton Primary School
To be the best we can be.

Email: admin@merton.leics.sch.uk

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Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the Community,

As we approach half-term, I once again would like to thank you all for supporting school during these challenging times. You have done this through regular attendance, following our safety rules, regularly reading with your child and sharing your views to help us develop better systems to make things better for the children.

I hope your child is enjoying being back at school, we have certainly been impressed by the level of enthusiasm and positivity children have shown in school and we are really beginning to see our children 'recover' both academically and socially. As you will see on the next page of this newsletter, we have exciting plans to support this further through our school development plans and the use of government COVID Recovery Funding. You can continue to support us through the ideas on the next page.

We are currently running our Parents Evening phone calls which I hope you are finding useful. These are an excellent opportunity to find out how your child has settled in and also to share any views and thoughts of your own with the class teacher. We've also had our first Merton Parent Teacher Association meeting, thank you to the group for organising Rainbow Day on the last day before half term—this will be our second fundraising event (we've already completed Christmas cards!). We hope the children enjoy dressing up! This newsletter, update letters, our website, texts and emails will continue to keep you up-to-date with what's happening in school. Thank you once again for your support and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any feedback or questions. **Mr Lee**

Year 5 English. Conducting interviews outside to build up our knowledge organisers.



Year 2 have conducted an experiment this afternoon investigating the absorbency of different materials.



School Development

We want to share with you some of the main areas of development happening at The Merton Primary School this year. Well-being and safety will remain our main priority but we are looking forward to developing:

- New exciting, carefully levelled reading books across the school.
- New online resources for reading
- Extra time in school committed to fostering a love of reading and developing reading skills
- Opportunities for virtual Parent sessions on supporting your child with reading
- Developing greater purpose and passion in writing along with independence, stamina and flair
- Developing a new curriculum that inspires children and makes a difference to the local and global community
- A new Health and Relationships curriculum developed in consultation with parents
- The development of Physical and Mental well-being for all pupils
- A range of cultural experiences for our pupils despite the restrictions due to COVID
- Exciting STEM projects to inspire children and excite them about their future
- Ensure that children have positive exciting lunchtimes through a range of activities and supportive adults to encourage positive play
- Development of 'Character Muscles' to ensure children are prepared for the future whatever it may hold!
- Improvements to the school website and a new Learning Platform to support remote learning
- Careful use of funding to support the recovery of children across the school
- The development of our outdoor areas, including Bells Wood, our pond and hen enclosure.
- New ICT equipment to support learning

Please Continue to Help Us By:

- Wearing a face covering unless exempt
- Sending a change of footwear to keep in school to allow children to play outside on the field
- Making sure your child has a coat each day
- Encouraging positive play without physical contact alongside respectful, calm communication with other children
- Not entering the zones where children line up or crossing them to exit
- Using our one-way system around the school unless you are the final drop off/collection
- Dropping your children off and leaving without waiting for the line to leave
- Arriving no earlier than 10 minutes before your drop off or collection time
- Not allowing your children to climb trees, use any benches or equipment whilst waiting outside

Recruitment including EYFS Update

As we announced last week, two of our EYFS staff will be going on maternity leave at Christmas. Interviews will be taking place next week and we will be able to provide you with an update before we break up for half-term on our plans to make sure EYFS continues to offer the highest standards of provision.

There will also be several other roles offered this year as a result of government funding to support the COVID recovery. These extra positions will support our children academically, socially and emotionally as we look to support them on their journey back at school. Our most recent addition to our staffing involves our TAs working an additional 30 mins at lunch to support positive play and help resolve any conflict in the moment.

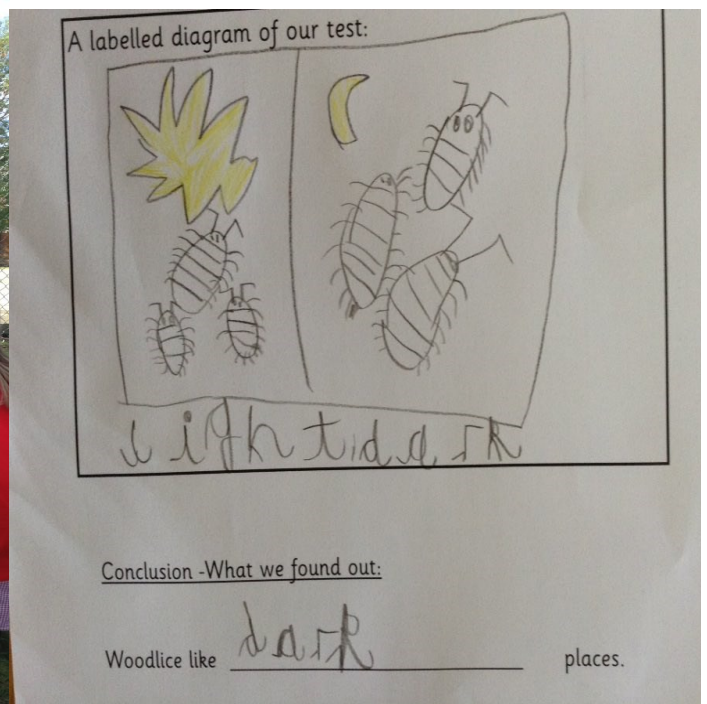
Clubs

We are excited to announce the return of many of our clubs from after half-term! Please read the letters carefully and help us to enable these clubs to stay open by staying safe and understanding the restrictions we are operating under. It's great to see them back!

Work in School!.....



Year 6 Charcoal art inspired from the Highwayman poem.



Year 1 carrying out a scientific test to discover if woodlice prefer dark to light spaces

Finding out about air resistance and how helicopters work. Which helicopter will fall the fastest ? What are the variables?

