

December 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 Christmas and the last three weeks of the Autumn Term, I would like to thank you for your continued support. As you may now be aware, our first two bubbles had to leave school on Friday for a period of self-isolation due to 'single positive results' of COVID-19. As this is the first time this has happened this year within our school community, it will understandably come as a shock to everyone but I would like to make it clear just how normal this is across schools in the current climate and how well the entire community has done so far in supporting our children in safely coming to school. Whilst this was probably always going to be unavoidable at some point, it is a reminder to us all to remain vigilant and support the rules in place round COVID-19 to try and minimise the impact.

Children in Year 2 and Year 4 will now access Home Learning and there is a section of reminders and information in this newsletter specifically to support them. For all parents, it is essential that you access the Satchel One Learning Platform, complete the test homework task and sign the agreement. For those in Year 2 and Year 4, you can email us with your confirmation that you have read and are in support of the agreement if you have yet to return the signed form.

Over the next three weeks, we will be trying to make sure that whilst the Christmas experience may be different, it isn't too 'diluted'! With this in mind, please see the 'Christmas at The Merton' section for some of the things that we'll be doing. Hopefully we'll be able to create some new events later in the year to replace the bigger things that can't happen right now! Thank you for your continued support and I hope you are able to stay safe, well and happy in the run up to Christmas. **Mr Lee**

Year 2 and Year 4 Key Reminders

- Remote learning will be available from Monday 30th November
- There will be a daily check in via Teams and your child's BEP email address which you will be expected to access
- The first of these check in sessions will be on Monday 30th Nov and then everyday at:
Year 2: 9am-9:30am & 2:30pm-3pm
Year 4: 9:30am-10am & 3pm-3:30pm
- If you haven't accessed these sessions, we'll need to contact you to find out why, as children are expected to engage in both these and the work set on, a daily basis
- Please report any safeguarding issues to the school or by following the guidance on our website if out of hours
- Further details around work expected etc. are on pages 2 and 4 of this newsletter

Christmas at The Merton

Trees — This year, we will be buying 4 rooted trees that will be decorated and looked after by different bubbles across the school. We will be hanging messages of peace, hope and love on our trees to raise the spirits of the community. The trees will then be planted in the school grounds where they will be nurtured, looked after and re-used year on year.

Dinner—The Children will be enjoying Christmas Dinner in the last week of term. They should have already signed up for this if they are wanting a hot school meal but they will be able to enjoy the occasion with their packed lunch if not. They'll be Christmas music and staff will come and eat with their year group/bubble.

Cinema - We will be sending out a date for your child to bring their own treat in which they can eat whilst watching a film on the big screen in their bubble.

Story - Mr Lee will be visiting each class (from distance) to deliver a Christmas story for the children.

Panto - Our PTFA have kindly offered to purchase a Christmas Panto for each bubble to enjoy. This may be virtual/recorded based on restrictions in the last week.

Cards—Children are allowed to bring these in from tomorrow (30th Nov) these will go into quarantine in the child's class for 72 hours before being sorted and handed out in a COVID safe way. If you do not want your child to receive and/or bring cards home despite the above precautions please let us know.

Crafts — Various items will be made in class over the last two weeks and we know the children will enjoy making them! Please be reassured that all items sent home will have been quarantined and handed out safely.

Santa — Although we may not be able to sit next to Santa this year, there will be a special 'Socially Distanced' appearance from him in the last week!

Parties — We will let you know when your child's party is this year so they can wear their own clothes. All parties will observe hygiene and social distancing guidance and will be limited to bubbles.

Remote Learning Reminders

- Ready yourself for a bubble closure or a situation where your child is self-isolating at home by looking at this checklist
- Make sure you can access the Satchel One Learning Platform by following the steps on the next page.
- Keep your log-in details safe and handy
- Inform us of any ICT hardware issues that would prevent you from accessing the platform or our live Teams Check-Ins and Feedback sessions
- Understand that there is a clear expectation for children to engage in live sessions and work set whilst off unless they are unwell
- You do not need to already have Microsoft Teams, you can access any live sessions through the email address sent out to you
- Any Safeguarding concerns should continue to be reported to school even if children are learning from home.

Oxford Owl Online Reading

Don't forget the exciting new platform we have invested in—Oxford Owl . You will be sent log-in details which will allow your child/children to access a range of exciting books.

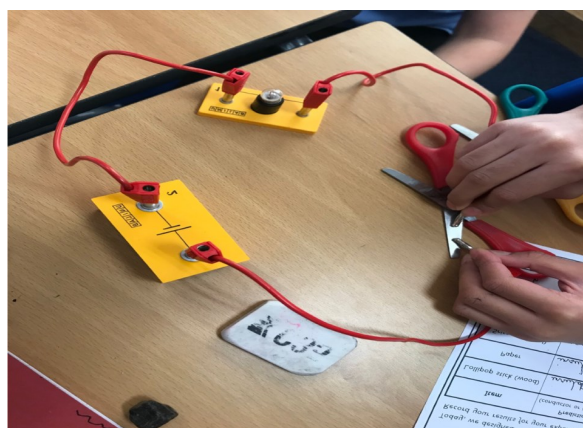
Year 2,4 and all of KS2 will now begin to use this platform as directed by their teachers. We hope you find it an excellent resource to support your child's reading and for our older children an excellent place to individually explore different types of books they might grow to love!

Information for New Parents

Our information videos for new-starters are now available to view via the website, under the Admissions, Prospective Parents tab. Here you will find an overall welcome video introducing you to the school and it's aims.

A second video will give even further insight into the EYFS area and a chance to hear from the teachers who will work with your children. Please pass this information onto anyone who may be interested in applying to start at The Merton Primary School.

Around the School.....



Remote Learning

Remote Learning Agreement

Thank you for supporting your child in completing their test homework task on the Satchel One Learning Platform. In the unfortunate event that your child's bubble closes, your child has to isolate or there is a whole school closure, it is important that you have read and agreed with the following:

On-line Safety

- All teachers have been briefed on the safe delivery of on-line learning. We have a shared responsibility to keep children safe on-line whilst educating them. Please support us with this by:
- Making sure children are dressed appropriately in day-time clothing, are supervised and are not in bedrooms
- Teachers or parents can mute or end sessions at any time if a situation occurs or they feel uncomfortable
- Parents or children must not record, video or share any parts of these sessions
- High standards of behaviour are expected at all times

Expectations & Guidance

- Structure your child's day to support both success and mental well-being – we will support you with this by providing a daily time table
- Support your child with their work but don't do it for them!
- Set clear time periods for your child to 'do their best', the teacher will have given an indication of how long each task should take.
- Your teacher will provide 3-4 pieces of work a day, usually Maths, English and another, this work may be supported by videos and written instructions
- Daily Reading is expected – the school's Oxford Owl online reading library will support this, via a class login.
- The work will be ready by 9am each day
- Feedback will be provided for certain tasks, this may take the form of: Online answers, written feedback, verbal feedback on live sessions, celebration sessions where work is shared.

Remote Learning

- For whole class closures there will be a live daily check in time between 8:45am and 10:30am and a live feedback session between 2pm and 3:35pm—all exact times will be communicated to you as and when necessary
- Where the expectation is that work is submitted back to the teacher via the Satchel One platform, this will be made clear
- Where there is no submission, we will be required to contact you and offer support
- Written feedback and email communication will only be provided between 9am and 5pm
- We will require daily contact with pupils who aren't in school. If this is not possible through the check-ins described above, there will be phone calls home
- The class emails will remain open for general school and work related issues
- More general questions and concerns should be directed to the admin email address as usual
- Safeguarding issues must be reported to a DSL via telephone. If this is out of hours then you should follow the link on the school's website
- It is expected that you are contactable during the school day
- We ask that work set is completed to the best of your child's ability
- Please communicate with us if your child is struggling to complete any work
- Remember we are here to help and recognise that educating your child from home is not easy! We want to work in partnership to try and get it right for you.

Please get in touch with any questions or queries.