

# January 2021 Newsletter



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

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**Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the Community,**

I hope you are managing to stay safe and well during this period. I would like to acknowledge how hard the challenging situation we find ourselves in is and how well the school community has done in quickly adapting and coping. I would also like to praise the attitudes and efforts of the children who continually show huge resilience in the face of adversity and whether they are in school or on their Teams call, they continue to smile and make the best of these difficult times.

Engaging with Home Learning and all it encompasses is both challenging but essential and it is important we acknowledge both these points. The overwhelming message is that we want to work with you to ensure that you can access all aspects of our offer whilst understanding the pressures of everybody's unique situation and how it might be hindering engagement. Yes we need to make sure pupils are learning and are accessing our offer on a daily basis but we are here to support parents and carers in getting to a point where this is possible. Please keep talking to us to see how we can help and support you.

Finally, we would like to make the announcement that Sharon Lee our Deputy Headteacher has decided to take early retirement at the end of the academic year. I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for the future and I know this decision hasn't been an easy one due to her love for the pupils, staff, parents and the school. She has given so many years to The Merton, helping shape it into the great place it is and I'm sure she will be hugely missed but certainly not forgotten - thank you Sharon for all you have done! That said though, she's not leaving yet! I'm sure we'll all enjoy these last two terms with her before she opens an exciting new chapter in the next phase of her life. **Mr Lee**

## **A Message From Ms Lee**

Like many people, the events of the past year have made us reflect on our own circumstances, so it is with this in mind that I have decided to take early retirement from the end of the academic year 2021.

I have not taken this decision lightly. The Merton has been a part of my life for 24 years, and it has been an honour and a privilege to work with such an amazing community of staff, children and families.

I will, of course, write a longer message nearer the time, but at this moment I would just like to wish you and your families a safe, happy and healthy new year, and look forward to -hopefully- seeing lots of you over the next two terms.

Take care

**Ms Lee**

## Let's Keep Reading

Thank you to those who have already chosen a reading book via the Oxford Owl Reading Platform. This is the way you can ensure your child's love of reading is nurtured and daily reading is pitched at the correct level. Your child's teacher will support you in directing you to the best choices.

Using this platform can support:

- Book choices to foster a love of reading
- Decoding at the appropriate phase
- Shared reading
- Pointers for comprehension and inference
- Vocabulary development
- Establishing interests in new authors
- Discussion around content

## Christmas Trees

Take a look at our Christmas trees—haven't they grown! You can decide for yourself which group have nurtured their tree most effectively so far! From left to right we have our four trees: Staff, Year 5/6, Year 3/4 and Year R/1/2. Before we broke up for Christmas we enjoyed decorating our trees with messages of hope and love and now we have re-potted them so that they can grow bigger and taller ready for next year. They'll still need plenty of care and nurture in order to get there though!



## Home Learning Reminders

- You are required to attend the morning check in, if for any reason you can't please contact us to register your 'attendance' by 11am at the absolute latest. This is a daily requirement
- If you haven't accessed the above 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
- We are expected to provide 3 hours a day on average for Key Stage 1 across the cohort, (with slightly less for younger children) and 4 hours a day for Key Stage 2. Our full offer details will be on our website from Monday
- We can support you with all ICT needs and issues to get you up and running. It is essential that we support you to get to this point as paper copies will only be issued on a temporary basis in certain circumstances
- Please report any safeguarding issues to the school or by following the guidance on our website if out of hours
- If you need paper, books or pencils etc. please contact the office
- Inform us of any ICT hardware issues that would prevent you from accessing the platform or our live Teams Check-Ins and Feedback sessions
- Please ensure children are paying attention on Teams calls as they would in class not eating, lying down or engaged in other activities. We also ask that there are no toys and teddies on the call!
- Where possible follow a structured daily routine with your child, ensuring that work is completed and submitted on time and in line with the expectations set by your teacher
- As children may be Online more often during this period, it is crucial that their activity is carefully supervised and monitored. Videos, resources and activities linked to on-line safety can be found by clicking on this link:
- [Online safety home activity worksheets \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/online-safety/home-activity-worksheets/)



# The Merton Primary School

*To be the best we can be.*

This term we have revisited our vision and thought really carefully about what it actually means to be the best we can be as we come to the end of 2020! We would like to represent the vision in our hall in five pictures that stand for; making a difference, an inspirational curriculum, character, physical and mental health and the power of positive relationships. Please can you help us to think of some artwork or images that would represent the 5 statements below. **We are inviting submissions starting from next week up until half-term via email.** I will be joining certain Teams Check-ins next week to explain further!

## To Be the Best We Can Be by...

- Encouraging children to **make a difference** to their own lives and the lives of others, close by and in the wider world
- Supporting personal achievement through an **inspiring curriculum** that enables success for all and high expectations, driven by purposeful, relevant, practical lessons that children can fully invest in
- Maximising the potential of each individual's **character**, supporting growth through real-world examples both within and beyond the school to ensure children can succeed and flourish in a changing world
- Prioritising **physical and mental health**, creating a culture of nurture and happiness where children have the capacity to thrive emotionally, socially and academically
- Embracing the power of collaboration, working together and building **positive relationships** where children have a voice but listen, care and value each other as individuals



# 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 9 am and 10:30am and a live feedback session between 2pm and 3:15pm—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 8am and 8pm
- 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.