

February 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,

Thank you for continuing to support us during this term as we have faced the challenge of both snow and remote learning! We are hopeful that shortly after half term the government may announce the full re opening of schools but we are yet to have any confirmation of this. We will of course keep you updated.

We appreciate that home learning can be a challenge over such a sustained period of time and we are delighted to see so many children making good progress at home. We cannot stress enough how grateful we are for your continued efforts in ensuring children continue to learn. We also appreciate your positive comments and constructive feedback and this was acknowledged during an excellent review of our offer by the Trust last week.

Recently we have been forced to close our Year 4,5 and 6 bubbles due to isolated cases of COVID-19. Thank you for your patience and understanding where we have had to limit our offer. We are confident that these bubbles will be able to re-open for the children of key workers and vulnerable children safely after half-term. We hope that those who are isolating stay safe and well and urge you to contact us if any children develop symptoms or return a positive test.

I am delighted to announce that we recently held interviews and appointed Mrs Rebecca Elsome as our new Deputy Head Teacher when Ms Lee retires this summer. I know you will be as pleased as I am that we have someone so capable, hardworking and forward thinking in the role for the next academic year.

On page two of this newsletter, we've chosen a reading focus and suggested a series of challenges to help foster a love of reading and motivate your child to read more over half-term. The following page is for children to read and I hope they enjoy the challenges we have set. Please share this page with your children and encourage them to send any photos of their work via the class email.

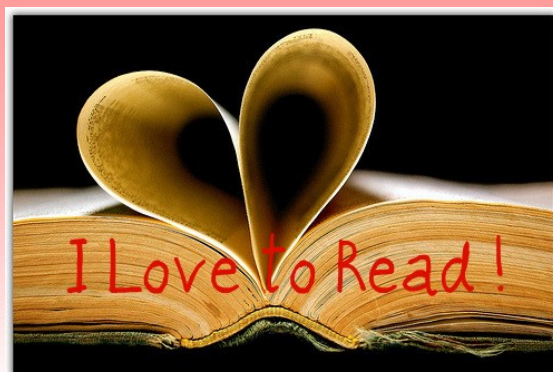
Finally, I'd like to end with the really good news that Mrs Edwards and Miss Yorke have both had their babies! Mrs Edwards has had a baby boy called Rafferty and Miss Yorke a baby girl called Ivy. I am sure you will join me in congratulating them and wishing them all the best!

I hope you are able to stay safe and enjoy half term and we look forward to seeing you after the break.

Mr Lee

February Reading Challenge - For the love of reading

Could you find a new book or text type to love this February? How about a story, an information text, a newspaper article, magazine or even a new audio book.



We would like to help you motivate yourself to read more outside of your comfort zone “for the love of reading”.

You could for example, read one of the following books:

- A book set in London
- A book set in another country
- A book you meant to read last year
- A book published in 2020 or 2021
- A book that was nominated for or won an award last year
- A book outside your genre comfort zone
- A book featuring or specifically about one of your other hobbies besides reading such as cooking, sports, knitting, art, music, etc
- An autobiography, biography or memoir
- A book with a character or by an author with the same first, or last name as you
- A book with a subject related to or on current events

Why not ask someone to take a picture of you enjoying reading your book and write a short review of your book (s) that you have read. You might even make our Love 2 Read Gallery!

Over half term you could visit your local library and refresh your collection. Did you know the library will sort out a lucky dip book collection for you? To find out more about their click and collect service or their digital book offer contact them directly.

For the Children :) - Half Term Challenges!

Who can make the longest paper chain using only one A4 piece of paper?! Send in a picture and the length!

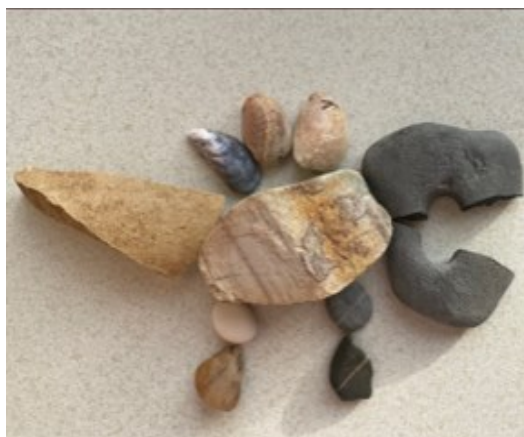


What can you create using a cereal box?! Show us your exciting creations for our gallery :)



Look who appeared on our field ...have you had fun in the snow?

Send us pictures of your snowman for our snowman gallery and snowman awards!!!



Spare parts challenge. Can you create a person or creature using spare parts that you have lying around your homes?

Here we have a Little Pig and a Dinosaur!

Send your entries to the class email addresses

Remote Learning Top Tips

We have put together a few tips based on the feedback you have given us that may be useful when we return to school after half term.

A Structured Day

1. Set a structured day that suits you and stick to it– maybe make a timetable based on the work set for the day, make it achievable and plan in mini breaks.
2. Try to set up a un cluttered work space that is away from distractions such as the T.V.
3. Establish some ground rules, for example, work early and play later or set up a reward system based upon effort
4. Balance online learning with practical learning– use resources you have at home , get outside, cook a meal, learn to tie your shoe laces... (there are more life skills tips on our website)
5. Make the most of 1-1 time, you are your child’s greatest teacher, listen to them but stop when you sense your child has worked hard enough at a task– don’t let work become a battle .
6. Get out doors– this boosts mood and helps with concentration
7. We expect 3 hours (KS1) 4 hours (KS2) and will endeavour to support you in achieving this for your child. However, Prioritise, talk to us —do what you can, you can always pick up the learning again tomorrow
8. Praise your child for effort and share this with their class teacher especially when you feel your child needs a little more encouragement!

Making the most of Satchel One and Teams live!

Attend your two daily **Teams meetings**, these will outline the day for your child and help you to structure their work. These sessions will also model the key skills your child will need for the day. They are also an opportunity to ask questions and share feedback. Just as important is that they are also our favourite parts of the day as we get to connect as a class and share our learning, news and smiles! **Access Satchel one** daily– this is your platform where there is easy access to your child's daily learning and all the resources you need to support them. Your child's teacher will feedback to you daily via Satchel one.

Remember to supervise your child and ensure that they stay safe on line.