

December 2021 Newsletter



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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Telephone: (0116) 2608150

This is our last newsletter of 2021 and what a busy and productive first term it has been. The ups and downs and effects of the pandemic have not been without challenge and I would like to express my gratitude for the professionalism and kindness in which staff have supported one another to ensure our children have had the very best education and access to wider curricular activities. I extend my thanks to you all for your support and flexibility with the ever changing landscape. It was wonderful to accompany our year 2 children to the Curve Theatre last week and to hear how much our very youngest children enjoyed the experience the following day. It was commented upon how well our children behaved and was wonderful to be able to make this happen once more. Nativity shows are in full flow this week, the decision not to invite parents to attend in person was not taken lightly. It was the view of The Trust that it wasn't considered safe so close to Christmas to invite parents in, especially in view of the new variant emerging. We felt it was still important for the children to experience performing in a live show and are this week performing to pupil audiences. Each performance is being filmed and will be made available on our website, we very much hope you enjoy viewing the recorded performances. A link and password will be sent very soon!

This week we have enjoyed Christmas dinner and it was great to see children in party wear and Christmas jumpers, head gear or just some festive sparkle! Following the dinner, children enjoyed festive games, films and fun in their classrooms.

We have had some lovely news recently as Miss Cook is expecting a baby this summer! Mrs Adams will also be heading off on maternity in February to have her baby—how exciting! Many of you may already be aware that Miss Yorke got married last month and is now known as Mrs Watson. I am sure you will join me in wishing her, Miss Cook and Mrs Adams many congratulations.

In other news, we have enjoyed successes at both the football county finals and in a dodgeball competition, where our children won! It is wonderful to see these extra curricular activities up and running once more and staff are working hard to plan additional clubs in the new year... watch this space.

We hope you took the chance to look at the Knowledge Organisers that teachers have worked hard to produce for the Autumn Term. Currently staff are working on a new set to enable you to share what your children will be learning across the curriculum next term. There is some really exciting learning being developed in line with the schools vision. This will be available on our website.

Wishing you and your families a safe and very Happy Christmas and thanks once again for all your support. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year on Thursday 6th January.

Mr Lee

Reading for Pleasure

We love to read and experience new books here at The Merton. This wonderful display of recommendations sits in our KS2 corridor for children to refer to.



One of the loveliest things to do at Christmas is to get together and enjoy a good picture book together – and these classic stories have really stood the test of time. We took these recommendations from The Book Trust—if you would like to browse through for festive books or the latest recommendations for your child to enjoy in the new year you can view this at: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk>

The Snowman

Author: Michael Morpurgo
Illustrator: Robin Shaw
Interest level: 6-11
Reading age: 7+



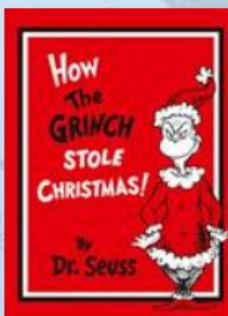
Mog's Christmas

Author: Judith Kerr
Interest level: 4+
Reading age: 5+



How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Author: Dr Seuss
Interest level: 4+
Reading age: 6+



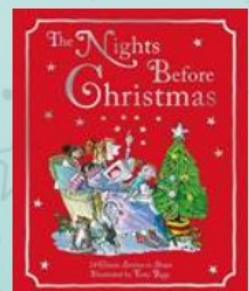
The Jolly Christmas Postman

Author: Allan Ahlberg
Illustrator: Janet Ahlberg
Interest level: 5+
Reading age: 6+



The Nights Before Christmas

Author: Various
Illustrator: Tony Ross
Interest level: 9-11
Reading age: 9+



Around School this Month...

Year 5 have been making Victorian Zoetropes!



We have brought our Christmas Trees inside, they have grown lots since last year.

Our Friday Assemblies continue to inspire. Both children and staff enjoy learning all about our inspiring curriculum delivered by a different year group every Friday.



Our youngest children are getting into the festive spirit in Foundation Stage—look they have already hung up their stockings!