

October 2023

Newsletter



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Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers at parents evenings during the last week of half term. I know your child's teacher enjoyed meeting you and sharing the successes and next steps for your child with you. As the term progresses please feel free to contact myself, Mrs Elsome or your child's class teacher should you have any concerns or questions.

Miss Cook, our new fully qualified SENDCO, really enjoyed meeting many of you during parent's evenings and has worked hard this half term getting to know children and families, she can be contacted via the school office but please be mindful her working days are Wednesday to Friday. Any concerns or questions can always be directed to myself or Mrs Elsome should you need support regarding SEN on a Monday or Tuesday.

Our Let's Connect Coffee Mornings were popular last year and provide a nice opportunity to drop in for a chat and a hot drink after dropping your child at school. Our next coffee morning is planned for Friday November 10th. We plan to share with you aspects of our PSHE/Computing curriculum, specifically keeping your child safe online. We would encourage as many of you to attend as possible and from previous feedback feel this session is both informative and supportive for parents of children of all ages.

We are thankful to those working on our building project for giving us our outside path back a month early—this has made it a lot easier to move around school and of course relieved congestion at the start and end of the day. The remainder of the works remains on course to be completed at the end of November, increasing capacity for both SEN and important interventions.

We have an exciting but lengthy half term building up to Christmas! This includes many exciting extra curricular activities: Year 6 are at Willersley Castle for their week long residential; Year 5 are planning a visit from 'Animals In Hands' to inspire their writing about endangered animals; Year 4 will take part in a history theme day, learning all about life in ancient Greece and year 3 will complete their swimming sessions. As the term progresses, EYFS will begin practicing for their Christmas singing concert, Year 1 will enjoy a craft afternoon and a trip to the theatre and Year 2 will practice and perform this years nativity. We are looking forward to welcoming parents, members of the Trust and also the Local Advisory Board to some of these events.

Thank you for all your logo ideas to support us with our school vision. As always we welcome your feedback on all areas, to let us know what you are enjoying, what is going well, alongside any ideas or comments that you may have to help us improve things across the school.

Mr. Lee

Reading should not be presented to children as a chore, it should be offered as a gift...



Learning to read and understanding what has been read is the backbone of learning for all children. Phonics is the first approach to teaching children to understand the alphabetic code that enables them to read words. As they become proficient in this they develop fluency and learn to understand and explore a wealth of texts. At The Merton we work hard to ensure the specific skills of becoming a reader are taught alongside fostering in children a love for reading. This term we have rolled out book clubs across school where children have the opportunity to share and celebrate their favourite books. Wriggle and Read has proved hugely successful, thank you to those who were able to join us.

Thank you also to our EYFS and Year 1 teachers and to all the parents who attended meetings to learn more about how phonics is taught, we hope this helps you to support your child at home.



Year 5 had a fantastic opportunity to explore the Peak District, develop resilience and independence, learn new skills and learn to work collaboratively with their peers in a location very different from home. Thank you to all staff for facilitating such a fantastic experience for our pupils. Year 6 are, as we speak, experiencing a full week of adventure and new challenges!



Let's Connect Coffee Morning

Friday 10th November 2023
8.45 to 10 am in the school hall.

Come and join us for a hot drink, a biscuit and an opportunity to chat to other parents.

Teaching staff will be available to chat with and share some important internet safety messages and advice with you.

