



Newsletter – 9th January 2026



CELEBRATING GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Overall whole school attendance this week: 94.18%

Well done to class Reception 1 for achieving the highest attendance this week.



I hope you all had a lovely Christmas, the children certainly sound like they did! All after school clubs started this week but there are a few spaces left so please do check on Parentpay for school run clubs and contact EPC if you would like to use their Wraparound and clubs provision – the range of activities can be viewed on our website, under After School Clubs Spring 1, along with contact details for you to book.

This week, Year One have launched their toys topic, Year Four have thoroughly enjoyed their Hogwarts dress-up day and are getting very excited about their upcoming trip to Harry Potter World and Year Three have had the most fantastic time being fully immersed in the Stone Age. Reception pupils have made an excellent start back, working hard on their phonics with the Nursery children being very kind and caring in welcoming many new friends to their class. Year Six are already well in to their new text 'Wonder', as are Year Two with their class text Vlad and getting enthused about their topic on The Great Fire of London.

Year Five have already explored a range of 'Cinderella plots' from around the world and are looking forward to writing their own stories over the course of the next half term. The choir are also really looking forward to their upcoming O2 performance. With so much happening, please do remember to keep an eye on the calendar!

Theme Lunch

On Thursday 15th January we will be having a special theme lunch so there will be a change to the current menu. This has been emailed out to you and can be booked through the classroom or in advance on Parentpay. The cost will be the same as usual but if your child has either Universal Infant Free School meals or has a Free School Meal entitlement there will not be a charge.

Working Together – Reading, times tables and homework

Please can you ensure you are listening to your child read at least four times per week, ideally every day!

Talking about the meanings of new words, the characters thoughts and feelings and predicting what is going to happen, are all good ways to develop your child's comprehension skills. Older children need to consider the author's intent and be able to explain how the author's choice of words effect the reader. You will be really helping your child to thrive.

Encouraging your child to spend 5-10 minutes each day learning his/her target tables (Yrs 2 – 6) will help them with their recall and application of facts in maths tasks.

Please remember homework is set on a Tuesday and due in on the Monday of the following week.

I have set the children a challenge to see if we can get everyone to have handed their homework in on time this half term – fingers crossed!

If you have any problems with your child completing homework, please do not worry and certainly do not allow it to become a huge big deal – just let us know as we are here to help.



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School uniform

Thank you for sending your child in with a warm coat. There has certainly been a change in temperature this week and it is so nice to see the children well equipped with hats, gloves and scarves, able to enjoy play and lunchtime without feeling cold.

Please can you check your child also has an outdoor PE kit in school. The uniform list is available on the website if you need to refer to it.



Recognition Boards

You may have heard your child tell you they got a Recognition Card this week. This is a really good thing as it means their efforts, either in their work or with their behaviour have been noticed and celebrated within their classroom. All class teachers are actively recognising and celebrating children who are doing the right thing as we feel it is important for the children to be recognised and for them to know how much their efforts are appreciated and valued. A big well done to all the children who have received recognition cards this week. Keep up the great work.



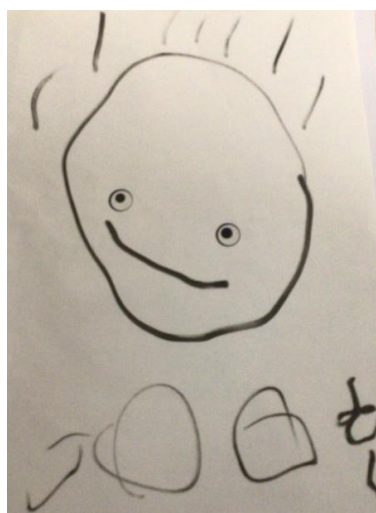
We all know the challenges which come with the technological world we live in, particularly when it comes to keeping our children safe online.

If you need any assistance with parental controls on devices to keep your child safe online, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Are your contact details up to date?

Please can you ensure the school office has been informed of any changes to your contact details or any medical information which has changed about your child.

Joe M's (R1) super work



It has been lovely to see and hear lots of you enjoying the music dropping off and collecting your children.

Thank you for the lovely comments and feedback.



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Stars of the Week

Nursery	Our first superstar of the year in Nursery is Martha! Martha is always an enthusiastic learner, eager to embrace new activities and challenges with resilience, energy and an infectious smile AND she does all this whilst bringing others along with her! Such a shining star Martha.
Rec 1	R1 would like to celebrate Joe M. He has come back to school and settled straight back into all our routines really well. He followed instructions to draw a face really well and then independently wrote his name. Well done Joe great listening and understanding.
Rec 2	R2 are celebrating Olivia B for her excellent listening skills this week. She has been keen to share her ideas and has followed adult instructions beautifully. She has been a great role model. Well done Olivia :O)
1M	Flynn G for his kindness towards his friends and helping adults around the school. Flynn is a great role model and always shows he cares. Well done Flynn!
1E	Riley D has had a fantastic first week of 2026 and come back to school with a great learning attitude and lots of lovely effort in his work. He wrote some super sentences in English, noticed lots of signs of winter in our science lesson and was really sensible in our maths games when we were learning about minutes and seconds. Well done Riley, keep it up!
2E	Eleanor B for her excellent attitude to learning this week. Several adults have commented on her super behaviour and effort and she has come into school every day with a huge smile on her face. Keep it up Eleanor.
2B	2B star of the week is Aysa-Blu for settling into our class so well. Aysa has had such a positive attitude to learning and making new friends and should be really proud of herself. It has been lovely to have a new kind, friendly face in our classroom.
3D	We would like to celebrate Ava B for returning to school with a fantastic attitude towards her learning. She is so positive and if she finds something tricky she perseveres until she has completed it. Ava demonstrated great enthusiasm towards our Stone Age day and immersed herself in the whole tent experience.
3T	Herbie P for excellent recall of Stone Age facts and for getting fully immersed in our Stone Age day.
4W	Jacob D for his consistently good focus in lessons, showing he is really paying attention to his learning. This was especially true in our first ukulele lesson. Well done, Jacob!
4R	Pupil of the week for 4R this week is Indy. She has shown such enthusiasm in her work and it has been lovely to watch her celebrating her successes. She has a keen attitude and has been engaged and enthusiastic.
5E	5E would love to celebrate Jess H for being incredibly resilient in Maths this week to complete challenges linked to our learning on fractions. Well done Jess, a great effort!
5/6W	Mrs Wyatt would like to celebrate Vivienne T for her fantastic learning attitude, completing extra homework, and consistently going above and beyond in everything she does. Well done, Vivienne — we are incredibly proud of you!
6H	Mr Hall would like to celebrate Sealey S for his fantastic attitude in our gymnastics lesson. He was incredibly enthusiastic throughout, demonstrating good technique and helping others when needed. Brilliant work, Sealey!
6Y	We are celebrating Lily F for a fantastic start to the new term. She has been super helpful in class and has given great support and explanations to classmates that she has worked with. Well done Lily - keep it up!

Swimming certificates have been given out to all those children who achieved 25m or the safe Self Rescue standard. There are too many to name but a huge well done to them all!



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Year Three Stone Age Immersive Experience

On Thursday, Year 3 went onto the field for a Stone Age visit and we met Memma and Twig. Twig gave us some Stone Age jobs to do like sawing a bone, shaping a rock, preparing animal skins (making them soft) and how to make fire. Also, Memma showed us some artefacts such as her leather boots, clothing for a baby and jewellery. Memma had made some special mittens out of foxes and they were really warm! We cooked some fish over a campfire and they showed us how they didn't waste a single part of the animal. They even ate the heart (it tasted like prawns!) and they said they could use the guts to help catch more fish. We felt different types of animal furs and they taught us lots of facts about the Stone Age as we went along the timeline. We got to explore some musical instruments that they would have had in the Stone Age including drums, flutes, shakers and horns. We had a great day identifying artefacts and exploring the Stone Age period of History.

By Talulah and Evie





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Science Challenge

This afternoon we had a really exciting assembly, led by Mrs Elson, testing all of the entries brought in.



Well done to all the families who spent time to engage in this challenge. The results are to follow!

Calendar Overview for Spring 1

The calendar overview, which includes all the key dates for the first half of the spring term, is attached.

Market Gardening Club

Market Gardening Club will be starting on a Kitchen Garden Project from next week. If anyone has any spare seeds, seed trays or compost that we could make use of we would be very grateful. Even out of date seed packets would be appreciated.

Can we help you?

The current economic climate is presenting challenges and is affecting everyone in different ways. If your financial situation has changed you may now be entitled to additional support including free school meals, contributions towards trips and some school uniform provision. The process to find out does not require you to fill in a lot of paperwork or any online forms, we are able to check for you, very quickly. Families from Reception to Year 6 may qualify for additional help. If you would like any additional information or would like us to check for you, please contact Mrs Lee by emailing office@merseaschool.org.

Have a lovely weekend.