



Merton Abbey Primary School Newsletter January 2025



"WORKING HARD AND CARING FOR EACH OTHER"

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are keeping well in this cold winter month. It's the time of year when coughs and colds are spreading around!

However, even now it is important to remember the importance of good attendance in school. I was delighted to award certificates in assembly to the children from Year 1 to Year 6 who have 100% attendance so far this academic year. During the assembly I reminded the children that pupils with good attendance:

- Get on better with their learning in class
- Generally get on better with their classmates and have fewer friendship problems
- Are better prepared for exams and secondary school

So please help your child to achieve everything they are capable of in school by ensuring they attend school as often as possible. If you need any help or support with your child's attendance in school, please talk to your child's class teacher or a member of the leadership team.

Michael Bradley, Headteacher

Phonics

Congratulations Merton Class!

We are so proud of Merton Class. Throughout the Autumn term the children have been learning phonics and how to blend sounds together to make words.

Today they all got to take their new reading books home for the first time after taking part in guided reading sessions.

I think they were very proud too and they are very eager to read their books to their families to show what they have learnt.

Please return the children's reading book bags and reading books on **FRIDAY**.

Great job Merton Class!

Miss Morrell, Mrs Mardachav and Miss Gabby



Y1 and Y5 visit to the Polka Theatre

On Wednesday 15th January Year 1 and Year 5 had a brilliant opportunity to visit the Polka Theatre to see *The Nutcracker*. They all enjoyed singing along to the songs, joining in with the characters and even dancing. It was terrific to see the children and adults fully immersed in the whole experience. The children are still excitedly chatting about their trip!

Mrs Whitehead



Year 4 Book Club Project

Year 4 has some exciting news to share from our Book Club project! In partnership with King's College and Harris Academy, our school has been diving into the pages of *Grimwood*, the fantastic book that has been keeping everyone hooked on Friday afternoons.

On Friday, 24th January 2025, all of the Book Club members will have the incredible opportunity to meet Nadia Shireen, the author of *Grimwood*, in person at King's College! She'll be chatting with the students about her inspiration behind the book, sharing some insider stories about writing it and answering the children's burning questions.

We're sure this will be a memorable day for everyone!

Mrs Laker



Year 6 Swimming Lessons

In Year 6 we have recently finished our first two-week block of swimming at Wimbledon Leisure Centre. Throughout their lessons, the children have demonstrated incredible determination and enthusiasm, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements. Not only they have improved their technique in a variety of strokes, but they also gained confidence in the water. As we move into the next block of lessons in February, we are excited to see even more growth and improvement. Well done year 6!

Miss Dougan and Mrs Eversden



Inclusive Boccia Competition

On Tuesday 21st January, eleven of our children (Penny, Savia, Inaaya, Anabel and Imtiyaz (Year 6); Pragatheesh, Ibrahim, Enes, Mark and Harry D. (Year 5)) competed against

several local schools in the Merton Borough Inclusive Boccia Competition. Out of 27 teams competing, our three teams achieved 5th, 7th and 9th place overall. Everyone at Merton Abbey are super proud of all eleven children for their excellent sportsmanship, determination and resilience in all the matches they played.

Mr Lawlor and Mrs Kugan



Nursery Superheroes

Since nursery returned to school for the Spring Term, we have been busy learning how to be superheroes. Our roleplay area is now a Superhero Headquarters where we can dress up to look like a superhero using different coloured capes and masks.



One of the books we have read as part of our topic is "Captain Cuddles" a superhero who changes baddies / villains through the power of hugs. Should we meet anyone with an evil plot, we will ask them if they want a cuddle first!

Miss Cowan



Year 3 Visit to Colliers Wood Library

As part of the History curriculum, Year 3 children are exploring the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt. They will visit Colliers Wood Library for a storytelling session featuring tales of gods, pharaohs, and mythical creatures.

This trip aims to deepen their understanding of history, and inspire a love for reading.

Mrs Brown



National Storytelling Week

National Storytelling Week will take place from Saturday 1st February to Sunday 9th February. It is a lovely opportunity to celebrate creative writing and the power of stories. The theme this year is "Reimagine your world," encouraging children to discover extraordinary stories in everyday places. At the end of the week, children from KS1 and KS2 can submit their writing to the National Literacy Trust for the opportunity to be published in the National Storytelling Week Anthology and to receive individual feedback on their work from Amazon. We are looking forward to see our pupils unleash their imagination and love for writing!

Mrs Hartman



New Merton Abbey Choir

The new Merton Abbey choir has started rehearsals this Spring term. The choir consists of Year 4, 5 and 6 children who happily practise during their Tuesday lunch times. After the Easter break, they will be doing their first performance for SingFest on 19th March at St Mark's Church. The songs they will be performing are to celebrate the 65th anniversary of *Oliver* at Wimbledon Theatre. The songs are Food, Glorious Food; Be Back Soon; and Consider Yourself. They will also sing 'You're the Voice' by John Farnham.

Mr Oglesby

Parent governor elections

The governing board has two vacancies for parent governors. Parent governors play an important role. As well as taking part in the normal work of the governing board (e.g. attending meetings, contributing to decision making and policy development), parent governors bring a unique perspective because their children already attend the school.

Being a governor is a serious commitment and entails some serious work. However, the work is hugely rewarding and makes a significant impact on how effectively the school is run. If you are interested in putting yourself forward as a parent governor, please watch out for the parent governor information and nomination form which will be sent out to all parents and carers in the next few days.

Michael Bradley

SENDCO Drop-In Sessions

SENDCo drop-in sessions will be available on Monday 10th February from 1.30-4.30pm. These are for any parent who would like to discuss their child's special educational needs. Please contact Ashleen Browne directly, by email, to arrange at: awhite@mertonabbey.merton.sch.uk

Mrs Browne

Term dates

Spring Term 2025

INSET day: Monday 6 January 2025
 First day: Tuesday 7 January 2025
 Half term: Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2025
 Last day: Friday 4 April 2025

Summer Term 2025

INSET day: Tuesday 22 April 2025
 First day: Wednesday 23 April 2025
 Half term: Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025
 INSET day: Monday 2 June 2025
 Last day: Tuesday 22 July 2025

Autumn Term 2025

First day: Monday 1 September 2025
 Last day: Friday 19 December 2025
 Half term: Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October 2025
 INSET days:
 Monday 1 September 2025
 Friday 24 October 2025

Spring Term 2026

First day: Monday 5 January 2026
 Last day: Friday 27 March 2026
 Half term: Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February 2026
 INSET day:
 Monday 5 January 2026

Summer Term 2026

First day: Monday 13 April 2026
 Last day: Monday 20 July 2026
 Half term: Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2026
 INSET days:
 Monday 13 April 2026
 Monday 20 July 2026