



Mereside Primary Academy
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Headteacher: Ms S. Upton

This week our attendance was...

93.6%

Oh no – Let's get to 96%

12th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! Everyone at Mereside Primary Academy would like to wish all our children and families a wonderful 2024.

Attendance Winning Week:

Next week we will be holding another attendance award winning week. All children who are in school every day and on time will be entered into a draw on Friday to win a supermarket voucher which I am sure will come in every handy, especially at this time of year. The winner will be announced on next week's newsletter. Making sure your child's attendance is at least at 96% is vital to their success so let's make sure everyone is in next week wherever possible.

Special Visitors:

This week we have had some very special visitors in reception. On Wednesday the fire brigade brought their fire engine into school and on Thursday we had a visit from the police. The children have had a wonderful week learning about those who help us.



Elmer's big parade:

We are delighted to announce that we are going to be involved in Elmer's Big Parade!

Elmer's Big Parade Blackpool is a free, family-friendly public art trail featuring a herd of 30 large decorated elephant sculptures and 30 young Elmers, positioned in open spaces and at key landmarks around Blackpool. There will be an app that the children can use to find the elephants that are placed around Blackpool. The elephants are sponsored by different schools and organisations to raise money for Brain house (a local charity). Our children are in the process of designing and decorating our elephant and we can't wait to show off our work in the parade!

After school activities:

Our after-school activities will be starting again next week. You should have received a form on parent app today to be able to sign your child up for the different clubs. If you have not received this then please contact the office who will be happy to help. Recent national research has highlighted the positive impact of attending after school activities, especially for social reasons and to develop a child's self esteem so please try and sign your child up for at least one club. Last term just over 50% of our children attended a club – let's aim for more this term!

Primary school admissions:

The deadline to apply for a place in our reception class is this Monday, the 15th January. If you know anyone with a child who is due to start school next September then please pass this information on. If you google 'apply for a primary school place Blackpool' then all the forms and relevant information is easy to find.

We are so proud...

A massive well done to Nikkita and Michaela who were absolute superstars over the Christmas holidays. They decided, off their own back, that they wanted to support others. They started painting rocks to sell and raised some money which they can be seen presenting to Mr Oldham at Highfurlong school, where Nikkita's brother attends. It was such a lovely idea and we are so proud of you both!



Calling all parents of 2-year olds:

Eligible working parents of 2-year olds can now apply to receive 15 hours childcare per week for the offer starting in April 2024.

You can find out more and apply for your code at <http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Road safety with scooters and bikes:

A few parents have recently raised concerns over some of our children coming to school on scooters and bikes but showing no road safety or awareness. On a few occasions, children have often nearly collided with our families. I know that this is not on school premises but we will be talking to children about road safety and I urge you to do the same at home, if your child comes to school on a bike or scooter. Just as a reminder that no scooters or bikes should be used on school paths or the playgrounds either. These should be dismantled at the school gates and walked with into school.

Family Hub updates:

Our SCHOOL NURSE will be dropping into school on Tuesday 16th January from 9am with help and advice on toileting, sleep, behaviour and your child's development and emotional health. Please see Ms Benyon to make an appointment or simply call in.

Our next family Hub Wednesday Coffee Morning will be on 17th January. PLEASE JUST COME TO OUR CHILDRENS CENTRE FROM 8.45AM. Babies & Toddlers are welcomed. There will be refreshments and also clothing / Shoes available with lots of FREE TOILETRIES for you to take home for your families. This will also include our MERESIDE MOVERS session from 9 - 9.30am so please join our Parents/Carers music and play group for babies and children aged 0 - 4 years.

Parents/Carers music+play group for babies & children 0 - 4 years

Kicks Community Football Sessions:

Just to let you know that Kicks Community Football sessions run by Blackpool FC Community Trust was relaunched on Monday the 8th January. The sessions are completely free of charge and is aimed at local children within the area from ages 8 to 18. This is run every Monday 6:30pm-7:30pm on the MUGA at our school.

And finally, this week's superstars are...

Nursery – Forest and Brooklyn for a fantastic first week and settling in so well and **Maddison** for being a superstar and settling in so well. Well done both of you!

RT – Amelia and **Mylah** for both trying so hard to blend words to read them and listen carefully for the sounds. Well done both of you!

RM – Reggie for being a fantastic role model to all of the children and **Muhammad** for working hard to remember all of the phonics sounds. Well done both of you, you are superstars!

1M – Elissa for some fantastic writing and **Kyren** for some fantastic work in phonics. Well done both of you!

1/2G – Megan for always giving 100% and **Kooper** for having a great attitude to learning and showing that he is ready to learn. Well done both of you!

2B – Lilly for some excellent questioning in science and **Enzo** for a fantastic start to the new year with great choices and a great attitude. We are so proud of you both – Well done!

3B – Carey for being an all-round superstar and **Lilly** for working so much more independently in literacy. Well done both of you!

3/4D – Layla, River-Rose and Baila all for fabulous work in literacy this week. Well done all of you!

4FB – Whyatt for excellent effort and resilience in learning his 3 and 6 times tables and **Jasmine** for being a superstar in everything she's done this week. Well done both of you!

5W – Oliver for putting in 100% into his learning, **Luke** for being our reader of the week and **Ruby-Blu** for having a green week and putting in 100% effort. Well done all of you!

6H – Amber for having a fantastic week in school. She has worked so hard in all subject areas and has welcomed me by being helpful and supportive. First impressions mean a lot! **Alexander** for showing me this week that he is a very thoughtful boy who strives to do his best. He thinks about his work, asks questions and regularly offers his thoughts during class discussions. Well done both of you!

6HP – Shanequa for creating excellent similes in literacy and **the whole of 6HP** for having an amazing first week back. Well done all of you!

A big well done to everyone!!

Upcoming dates for your diary:

(Please note this will be updated with new dates as the term progresses)

Monday 15th January – Parents Forum at 2.30pm – All welcome

Monday 5th February – Friday 9th February - Mental Health Week

Thursday 8th February – School closes for half term

Monday 19th February – School reopens

Wednesday 21st February – PSCO talk to Year 6

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day

Reception and Year 6 heights and weights – school nurse

Friday 8th March – Year 6 London Parliament Trip

Thursday 14th March – Parents Evening

Friday 15th March – Comic Relief

Tuesday 19th March – Year 3 and 4 production – 2pm

Wednesday 20th March – Year 3 and 4 production – 9.30am

Thursday 21st March – World Poetry Day

Friday 22nd March – Easter Class swap day

Wednesday 27th March – Easter Bonnet competition – EY and KS1

Easter Egg decoration competition – KS2

Family Easter Bingo – All welcome – 3.30pm

Thursday 28th March – Easter themed celebration assembly

School closes for the Easter holiday at **1.30pm**

Any questions or queries then please don't hesitate to ask; thank you for your continued support,

Ms S Upton
Headteacher

Coming up next week...

Date	Event	Time
Monday 15 th January P.E. – 3B 4FB 3/4D 6HP	Lego Club – Years 1 and 2 Drawing Club – Years 1 and 2 Recycled Robots – Years 3 and 4 Eco Club – Years 5 and 6 Football – Years 5 and 6 Parents Forum Meeting	3.15pm – 4.15pm 3.15pm – 4.15pm 3.15pm – 4.15pm 3.15pm – 4.15pm 3.15pm – 4.15pm 2.30pm
Tuesday 16 th January P.E. – 5W 6HP 6JP	Seasonal Crafts – Years 1 and 2 Cosmic Yoga – Years 3 and 4 Just Dance – Years 3 and 4 Tangling and Doodling (10 max) – Years 5 and 6	3.15pm – 4.15pm 3.15pm – 4.15pm 3.15pm – 4.15pm 3.15pm – 4.15pm
Wednesday 17 th January P.E. – 3B 3/4D 4FB 5W 6H	Mini Choir – Years 1 and 2 Rugby – Year 3 Year 5	3.15pm – 4.15pm 3.15pm – 4.15pm
Thursday 18 th January P.E. – Early Years 1M 1/2G 2B	Bingo – Years 1 and 2 Choir – Years 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 Piano (same children as last time)	3.15pm – 4.15pm 3.15pm – 4.15pm 3.15pm – 4.15pm
Friday 19 th January P.E. – 2B 1M 1/2G	Puppets, dancing, rhymes and songs - Reception Football – Years 3 and 4 (BFC)	3.15pm – 4.15pm 3.15pm – 4.15pm