



Mereside Primary Academy
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Head of School: Ms S. Upton

19th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Only one week to go before we break up for the Easter Holidays, this certainly feels like the shortest (although very tiring!) half term. Can I please remind everybody that school closes between **1.20pm and 1.30pm** next Friday (26th March). Each class will leave school by their usual exit at the time below.

Reception	1.30pm – Classroom door
R/1P	1.30pm – Classroom door
1M	1.20pm – Classroom door
2R	1.25pm – Classroom door
3/4 P	1.25pm – Classroom door
3/4 SP	1.30pm – Classroom door
3/4 KR	1.20pm – Classroom door
5/6 C	1.20pm – KS2 Playground
5/6 B	1.25pm – KS2 Playground
5/6 M	1.30pm – KS2 Playground

Face Coverings:

Can I please remind everyone that face coverings must be worn in the playground at all times. There were many adults on the school site this morning not wearing a face covering. Many schools have now closed the gates completely and children are sent one at a time to the gate to be collected. I really don't want to have to do this but I am sure that you understand that the health and safety of all staff, children and families is paramount.

Mereside Book Day:

This year we celebrated World Book Day during lockdown which meant that we couldn't celebrate in our usual Mereside style. As a school we have decided to have our own Mereside Book Day which will be taking place on Friday 26th March. We are therefore inviting all children to come to school, dressed as their favourite book character. If your child doesn't want to dress up then they are welcome to come in non-uniform with it also being the last day of term. There will be a prize for the best dressed character! During the day, there will be lots of competitions, activities and even a Masked Reader Kahoot, hosted by all of the staff.

Testing – A message from Blackpool Council:

Home Testing Kits

If you have a child who goes to a nursery or school in your household or bubble, you can now get peace of mind by taking a rapid Covid test twice weekly by using a simple home test kit which gives you a result in 30 minutes.

You can collect your test kits from:

Yeadon Way Covid testing site 1pm – 8pm, Monday to Sunday

Also, from Monday 22 March, you can also collect tests from any of the symptom-free testing hub sessions listed on the council website → www.blackpool.gov.uk/GettingTested. No appointment needed - just give your name and contact details on arrival.

If you are unable to get to a testing site, you can order tests online → <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Wear a Hat Day:

This year we are supporting the national 'Wear a Hat Day' in school on Wednesday 24th March. All we ask is that children bring a hat to wear in school. This is to raise awareness of local cancer research projects. For any Early Years and KS1 children who are entering our Easter Hat competition on that day they could always use that as their hat!

Fiddle Toys:

At the moment we have many children, especially in Years 5 and 6, who are bringing toys in to act as a fiddle toy in class. Can I please remind everyone that if your child has a need for one of these school will provide them with one for when they are in class. Ones from home should not be brought into school, especially around current covid measures

Easter Competitions:

This year's Easter Competitions will take place on Wednesday 24th March. As usual, our Early Years and KS1 children will be invited to bring in their Easter Hats for judging and our KS2 children can start thinking about how they can decorate their eggs. Judging will take place within their own bubble this year as unfortunately we are unable to share our creations across bubbles.

Easter on Facebook:

All classes have been busily preparing for our annual Easter Service and can't wait to show off what they have been practicing. As we are unable to invite parents into school again at this time, we will make sure that each classes contribution is posted on our Facebook page so look out for them on Thursday 25th.

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

Nursery – Lilly for showing really good listening skills and showing her understanding of, 'We are all different but we are all friends'.

RT – Ese for always being kind and helpful to others and **Hunter** for being a superstar reader.

R/1EP- Layla for trying hard in PE, with the animal and superhero moves, and persevering when things got tricky and **Wyatt Junior** for good listening and always having a positive attitude!

1M – Theo R and Meka have both won the award this week for having an amazing attitude and always giving everything 100% effort.

2R – Luke M for always working hard and doing some amazing descriptive writing in Literacy and **Alicia** for giving 100% effort in everything she does as well as having some super handwriting every day.

3/4P – Harrison for mastering multiplication so well and **Amber** for trying so hard this week, especially with her reading.

3/4SP – Mollie for writing a great set of instructions in Literacy and always setting an excellent example to the rest of the class and **Alice** for consistently persevering in maths this week. You've had a great attitude!

3/4KR – Kasey for showing excellent mathematical understanding of our division work this week and **Riley** for been a star in our reading groups and always fully participating.

5/6C – Carlos for being a computer wizz and helping run our computer lesson and **Kai** for the most amazing blackout poetry.

5/6M – Amy for taking so much pride in her work, **Ranee** for showing ambition and a drive to work independently and **Alex** for exceptional effort both in school and at home working towards his pen license.

5/6B – Leyla for having such a positive week and engaging so well with all activities in class and **Daniel** for trying exceptionally hard all week and producing some fantastic work on symmetry.

A big well done to everyone!!

Upcoming dates for your diary:

Wednesday 24th March – It's Easter Competition time! Easter hats (Nursery, reception, year 1 and Year 2) and egg decorating (Years 3-6)

Thursday 25th March – Easter Celebrations in school. We'll make sure it all goes on Facebook so you don't miss out!

Friday 26th March – Mereside Book Day

Friday 26th March - School closes between 1.20pm and 1.30pm for the Easter Holidays.

Stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

Ms S Upton
Headteacher