



Mereside Primary Academy
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Head of School: Ms S. Upton

25th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The weeks really seem to be flying by now - I can't believe we'll be in October next week! I am so proud of all the children, their resilience and attitude to all the changes which have taken place. This week I have met with all teachers to discuss every child in school, both academically and emotional, and they really are little superstars! Staff have spoken passionately about their classes and we can't wait to see them grow and flourish this academic year.

Important – SOCIAL DISTANCING:

As time has moved on it is easy to forget new routines and fall into old habits. This goes for staff and parents! As a staff we have been reminded of the need not to crowd at the classroom door at the start of the school day and the end. Only one adult is permitted to the door. Similarly, from Monday can I please remind all parents that they must remain at least two metres away from the door **AND** from other parents. If you need to speak to the class teacher then please phone the office or email teacher@mereside.fcat.org and the class teacher will be in touch with you. We do have parents and children who are highly vulnerable in our school community and it is safe practice to ensure staff and parents remain respectful at drop off and pick up times. Please don't be offended if you are asked to take a step back. The safety of our school community is everyone's responsibility.

Reading Books:

We are delighted that reading books will be able to go home again from today. Reading at home with you is so important to your child's progress. There will however be a few changes. Books will now be given out on a Friday only and must NOT come into school until the following Friday where they will be put into quarantine. A new set of books will then be given out every Friday. All books you receive will have been quarantined and disinfected. As one book bag returns to school on a Friday the same book bag will not be handed out again the following week. If anyone has any questions please contact either your class teacher or Mrs Richardson.

Year 5/6 Swimming:

Our swimmers in year 5/6 had a wonderful first week in the pool this week and we were delighted to receive the following email from Moor Park Pool...

I'd just like to say what an honour it was to welcome Mereside to the Pool. They were fantastic from the moment they got in the building to leaving. They arrived on time quietly, ready lined up to start to lesson. We had the most amount of swimmers I have ever seen on week 1 which was excellent to see. As swimming Teachers we were all extremely impressed with the effort of every child and their behaviour! We had a few anxious children at the beginning and to see them smiling during the lesson leaving without wearing any armbands was terrific. I wanted to make you aware of this so they can be praised for their positive work ethic, it was a pleasure and I hope this continues.

It is always lovely to receive such praise. To make things even easier though could we please just request that all long hair is plaited wherever possible. We had some fun and games trying to get the swimming caps on!!

Spanish Week:

We are very excited! Next week will be our Spanish themed week in school. We hope to immerse the children in Spanish language wherever we can and keep them singing songs all week! We will be learning about the culture of different Spanish speaking countries throughout the week, including some tapas tasting, yummy! (permission slips will be sent out on Monday)

Harvest and Parents in Class Day:

Next week should have been our parents in school day and Harvest Festival assembly. Unfortunately, this isn't going to be allowed under the Covid restrictions. I know our children love it when parents are able to be in class with them and we look forward to the day when this can happen again. Work around Harvest will now take place in class and we will try to unload as many examples of this as possible onto Facebook.

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

Nursery – Dena Rose for some super listening skills and always being ready to learn. What a superstar!

RT – Jade for her amazing enthusiasm and willingness to learn and **William** for trying really hard to 'be kind', 'be safe' and 'be ready to learn' in class.

R/1EP- Baila for being kind, caring and helpful and an all-round superstar and **Jayden** for trying so hard with his writing and phonics and coming out of his shell more.

1M – Kian for some amazing work in Maths this week and **Tilly** for always being kind and helping others when they needed.

2R – Charlie for giving 100% effort in every lesson and just being an all-round superstar and **Lucas** for some fantastic writing when making his own book in Literacy.

3/4P – Katie for trying so hard with her reading and **Max** for some excellent running, jumping and throwing in PE.

3/4SP – Tommy and Danielle - both for being superstars and settling in to the class and school so well.

3/4KR – Kaden for working really hard in all lessons and being a tidy up superstar and **Leila** for producing a WOW piece of writing in English and for always having a super attitude.

5/6C – Daniel for always wanting to help out where he can and showing a positive year 6 attitude and **Ava** for pushing herself to her limits in Maths and Literacy.

5/6M – Claiton for handling situations in a mature grown up way and trying really hard in class and in the playground and **Brooke** for having a positive attitude to school.

5/6B – Ellie-May for being so helpful around the classroom and being a great role model to others and **Robbie** for always being polite, kind and considerate in the classroom and around school.

A big well done to everyone!!

Upcoming dates for your diary:

Monday 28th September – Themed Spanish Week

Friday 2nd October – Harvest Celebration **(TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN THEIR BUBBLE)** – Parents in class for the afternoon if COVID regulations have changed by then – **CANCELLED**

Monday 5th October – Open Day for reception starters 2021 (Appointment only)

Tuesday 6th October – Open Day for reception starters 2021 (Appointment only)

Wednesday 7th October – Parents Evening (COVID permitting) or update sent home

Thursday 8th October – Open Day for reception starters 2021 (Appointment only)

Friday 16th October – School closes for half term

Thank you for your continued support.

Ms S Upton
Head of School