



**Mereside Primary Academy**  
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**Headteacher:** Ms S. Upton

3rd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back!

We have had a brilliant first few days back in school and we have all quickly settled back into school life so well. All the children have come back into school with a smile on their face, chatting happily about their summer. They really are little superstars!

**A big welcome:**

I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to our new reception children and their families. You are at the start of an exciting new journey and we can't wait to share it with you as your child develops. Similarly, we welcome many other new children and families throughout school. Welcome to **#TeamMereside**. We hope you settle in well and enjoy your time here and I'm looking forward to meeting you all personally.

On the staffing front, we extend a warm welcome to Ms White, who will be working in our LKS2 department and Miss Naylor who will be based in our Early Years team. We also welcome Mr Mooney who joins our nurture/behaviour unit. We all hope you have a fantastic time working in our wonderful school.

**After School Clubs:**

We are delighted that with the changes in Covid restrictions we are now able to offer our after-school activities again for children in Years 1-6. Children in reception will be able to attend clubs later in the academic year once they have fully settled in and know all the adults around school.

To sign up for a club you can reply via the form on parent app which was sent out yesterday or paper copies of our clubs can be found in at the office if you would prefer to fill this in and hand it in at the office. Please note that all clubs will start this Monday (the 6<sup>th</sup>), apart from Commando Joes which will start on Monday 13<sup>th</sup>.

With our Schools Alive Club, it is important to remember a couple of things. Firstly, this club is for our school contribution to a show at the Grand Theatre. Parents must be committed for their child to perform in the show which is one evening in February. Secondly, sadly, not all children will be able to perform, therefore parts will be awarded during the first two to three weeks of this club. After that, the Schools Alive club will be by invitation only for those who have been offered a part.

**PE days for this term are...**

Look out here from next week to see our weekly attendance figure.

Remember 96% is the target!

P.E days are as follows for each class. Please remember that all children should come into school in their school PE KIT on the following days. Their coloured t-shirt and shorts should be worn underneath their hoodie and tracksuit bottoms. This is in case the weather changes and we need to warm up or cool down.

Reception – Further details will be sent out next week by Mrs Thomas once all the children are in school.

Years 1 and 2 – Tuesday and Thursday

Years 3 and 4 – Monday and Thursday

Years 5 and 6 – Tuesday (swimming) and Thursday

### **New Homework Policy:**

I've attached a copy of our new homework policy for this academic year. At Mereside we provide homework to enable our children to practice and rehearse core skills, we are not a school at which homework dominates home life. We believe that homework should be manageable for all concerned and if it becomes a burden it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. From this term, a homework club will be running after school on a Thursday for any child who is struggling to complete homework at home.

If you would like any additional workbooks, as is outlined in our policy, please contact your child's class teacher or leave a request at reception and we will sort these out for you.

### **Attendance:**

As you all know, nationally the magic number for attendance during the academic year is 96%. It is so important that your child is in school for at least 96% of their lessons. The whole school attendance will appear on the top of the newsletter weekly. Your child's attendance for the last academic year was on their end of year report. However, it isn't always easy as a parent to keep a check on this throughout the year. Therefore, at the end of each half term we will now send you an update of your child's attendance. Please remember that if your child's attendance drops below 96% this is automatically monitored by the pupil welfare officers at Blackpool Council.

Similarly, I will be unable to authorise any holiday requests if your child's attendance drops below 96%. For those who do attend regularly there are many end of year treats planned and the class with the highest attendance will have an all paid for trip at the end of the year, so let the competition begin!

### **Festival of Learning 6th - 17th September 2021**

Do you fancy learning new skills? The Blackpool Team have asked us to pass on the following information...

*The Blackpool Adult, Community and Family Learning Team would like to invite you to our Festival of Learning 6th – 17th September across Blackpool.*

*So many of us have missed being able to get out and about. Now is your chance to learn something new. This may take you down a new career path or enable you to take a qualification. Come and learn new skills at one of our free taster sessions:*

- *Computers*
- *Health and Well-Being*
- *Family Learning*

- *British Sign Language*
- *Maths*
- *English*
- *Health and Safety*
- *Customer Service*
- *Food Safety*
- *Job Skills*
- *Budgeting*

*Booking is essential, contact us to book your place:*

*Telephone: 01253 478131 or 07796 994783*

*Email: [adult.learning@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:adult.learning@blackpool.gov.uk)*

*Click the link to download a list of all the free Festival of Learning courses: <https://bit.ly/FOLCourses>*

*You can also take a look at our Facebook page where we post all of our upcoming courses*

*– <https://www.facebook.com/BPLACFL>*

*We look forward to meeting you*

*The Adult, Community and Family Learning Team*

### **Upcoming dates for your diary:**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September – Roald Dahl Day & Jeans for Genes Day  
(Dress up as a Roald Dahl Character – Prizes will be awarded! **OR** come to school in your Jeans with a £1 donation for charity)

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October – Harvest Festival – All welcome

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October – Open Day 10am for new families/Reception starters 2022

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October - Open Day 1.30pm for new families/Reception starters 2022

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October - Open Day 4pm for new families/Reception starters 2022

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October – Individual/family and sibling photographs

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October – Parents Evening

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October – School closes for half term

Stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

Ms S Upton  
Headteacher

### Coming up next week...

Date	Event	Time
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Drawing Club - Years 5 & 6	3.15pm – 4.15pm
	Sports Club – Years 1 & 2	3.15pm – 4.15pm
	Science Club – Years 5 and 6	3.15pm – 4.15pm
	Commando Joes – Year 3 and 4 – Please note that this club will start next week.	
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Art Club – Years 1 and 2	3.15pm – 4.15pm
	Dance Club – Years 5 and 6	3.15pm – 4.15pm
	Football – Years 5 and 6	3.15pm – 4.15pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Sports Club – Years 3 and 4	3.15pm – 4.15pm
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Athletics Club – Years 4 and 6	3.15pm – 4.15pm
	Paint and Craft Club – Years 3 and 4	3.15pm – 4.15pm
	School’s Alive – Years 1/2/3/4/5/6 (Please see information about the commitment to this above)	3.15pm – 4.15pm
	Homework Club – For any child who struggles to access at home (See homework policy)	3.15pm – 4.15pm
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Coding Club – Years 5 and 6	3.15pm – 4.15pm