



Mereside Primary Academy
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Head of School: Ms S. Upton

4th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back!

We have had a brilliant first few days back in school and we have all quickly settled into our school routine after such a long break away for so many. Life has certainly been unprecedented since March but I have been so proud of the way our children have coped. They have come back into school with a smile on their face and chatted happily about their experiences. 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. I'm looking forward to meeting you all personally once current restrictions are lifted.

We also welcome Mrs Payne who will be teaching alongside Mrs Eades in R/1EP and Mrs Miller who joins our nurture/behaviour team. The new face in the office is Mrs Benyon who has joined us to cover Miss Hegerty's maternity leave.

Uniform:

We are so sorry with the delays in some of our school uniform deliveries and can assure you we are doing everything in our power to get the new uniform to you as quickly as we can. As soon as we receive the new stock we will be in touch. Around school it has been lovely to see the children looking so smart this week ready for the new academic year. It is so important that all children take pride in their uniform and begin to have the independence to look after their own things. However, from time to time clothing, especially jumpers, can go missing so can we please urge all parents to make sure that all school uniform is named so we can find the rightful owner. **Please also remember that all children need to wear either black school shoes or black pumps with their school uniform.** The only time trainers are allowed in school are on PE days. If you are struggling with school shoes or pumps please let us know as we have a range of new pumps in school which we can lend children once they arrive in the morning.

Similarly, please ensure that on a PE day (see below) children wear their new coloured school PE top under their tracksuit top and that this is again named.

PE days for this term are...

RT – Monday (x2 sessions)

R/1E – Tuesday (x2 sessions)

1M – Monday / Thursday

2R – Wednesday / Thursday

3/4KR – Wednesday / Thursday

3/4P – Thursday / Friday

3/4SP – Tuesday / Thursday

5/6C – Tuesday (x2 sessions)

5/6M – Tuesday (x2 sessions)

5/6B – Tuesday (x2 sessions)

Celebration assembly/Extra curricular after school clubs:

Unfortunately, as assemblies and mixed bubble gatherings aren't allowed at the moment, there will be no extra-curricular after school clubs this half term, neither will there be a celebration assembly for parents on a Friday. However, our usual certificates will be awarded in each class so look out for certificates coming home and I will announce the winners on the newsletter. We really hope we will be able to start running clubs and assemblies again soon!

So our first superstars of the year are...

RT – (We will announce our winners next week once our new reception children have completed their first full week!)

R/1EP- Frankie for being a super helper and **Ifeoma** for helping the new reception children feel so welcome.

1M – AJ for always being kind and ready to learn and **Charley** for some fantastic work in Maths.

2R – Conner for some super answers to big questions and **Lydia** for being a fantastic role model for others.

3/4P – Mylee for overcoming her initial nerves and **Shanequa** for settling into her new school so well.

3/4SP – The whole class for settling back into school life so well and being so welcoming to our three new children

3/4KR – Harrison for being really involved in his art lesson and asking and answering lots of questions and **Harlee** for having a great attitude and being a mature member of the class

5/6C – Sophie and **Sophia** for always being ready and doing the right thing

5/6M – Leonie for her courage when reading out her headgirl speech and **Ranee** for settling in so well and having such a positive attitude.

5/6B – Ruby-Leigh for being a great friend to our new starters and **Charlie** for making a fantastic start to year 5, being resilient and working hard.

A big well done to everyone!!

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. 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 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 term 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!

Parent Pay/Parent App:

Due to the on-going COVID situation, Parent Pay is now the only way we can receive money into school. Similarly, updates will be sent via Parent App. Please ensure that you have activated both of these so you can be kept up to date. Any questions or problems with either of these please contact the office who will do their best to help. After half term it is our intention that all newsletters will be sent home via Parent App rather than the current paper copy.

Social Distancing / Our Office:

As you are all aware many new procedures have had to be put in place due to the current covid situation. With this in mind could you please ensure that parents aren't gathering before school without social distancing. The risk from adult to adult is much higher compared to the children but we don't want children unable to come into school because a parent has contracted the virus if this can be avoided.

Similarly, can I reiterate that no parents are allowed in the school. A few people are trying to sneak into the office area but unfortunately our risk assessment, needed for us to reopen, does

not allow this. We do have a new intercom system so if you press the buzzer at the main entrance a member of office staff will talk to you and come out if necessary.

Upcoming dates for your diary:

Friday 11th September – Roald Dahl Day (Dress up as a Roald Dahl character or come in your uniform – your choice!! Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes)

Friday 18th September – Jeans for Genes Day – None uniform day with a £1 donation to charity.

Monday 28th September – Themed Spanish Week – further details to follow soon!

Friday 2nd October – Harvest Celebration – Parents in class for the afternoon if COVID regulations have changed by then

Monday 5th October – Open Day for reception starters 2021 (10am – appointment only)

Tuesday 6th October – Open Day for reception starters 2021 (1.30pm – appointment only)

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

Thursday 8th October – Open Day for reception starters 2021 (4.30pm – appointment only)

Friday 16th October – School closes for half term

Thank you for your continued support. If you didn't see the gazette last night, we've also attached a copy of the back to school article. We really are so proud of all our children!!

Ms S Upton
Head of School