

# Mere Green Primary



## Parent Information Booklet 2023-2024

# Our School Values and Ethos



## Our Motto

Our school motto is '**Making A Difference**', this lies at the heart of what we do at Mere Green. We want to 'Make a difference' to each and every child who walks through our doors and ensure, in turn, that our children will 'Make a difference' in the future. You may hear your child talking about being recognised for being 'MAD' (for making a difference) and this is celebrated through positive praise, Dojo points and our weekly celebration assembly where children who have made a difference are invited to our 'MAD' tea party.

## Mere Green Values

Our school motto is underpinned by the Mere Green values. We want all of our children to understand and demonstrate the values of Thrive, Mental Strength and Contribute. Further details of our school values can be found [here](#).

At Mere Green we strive for **excellence**, we encourage all children to take pride in what they do and be the best they can be. A phrase that we often refer to is 'We do excellence, we don't do mediocre!'

## Our School Rules

At Mere Green Primary school, relationships are at the heart of all we do, and we aim to create a happy, safe, caring and inclusive environment for all. We expect each individual to respect others, their families, culture and beliefs as part of our high standards for behaviour. We encourage self-discipline and follow three school rules of **Ready, Respectful and Safe**.

**Ready:** Be ready to listen, ready to learn and ready to contribute.

**Respectful:** Show respect to others, be kind, take care of our school environment and show empathy.

**Safe:** Consider how your behaviour can affect others, don't hurt others physically or with words. Follow directions from adults who are there to keep everyone safe. Recognise when things are unsafe and share this with an adult.

Behaviour which is not tolerated includes but is not limited to: violence, bullying, racism, discrimination, defiance and vandalism.

Further details regarding our behaviour policy can be found [here](#).

# School Uniform

We believe that school uniform plays a valuable role in creating a sense of identity and belonging, as well as contributing to the ethos of our school and promoting positive standards of appearance. This allows children to take pride in their appearance. A uniform also removes distractions, promotes equality and supports families and carers who experience financial hardship. Parents/Carers are expected to ensure that pupils wear the correct uniform when in attendance. Should you have any concerns about your ability to ensure this, then please share this with a member of staff who will be happy to support.

## School Uniform

Please ensure that all uniform is labelled with your child's name and class.

<b>Top</b>	Yellow polo shirt or plain yellow button up school shirt (school logo optional) Green cardigan, jumper or sweatshirt (school logo optional)
<b>Bottom</b>	Plain black or grey, regular fit school trousers Plain black or grey tailored school shorts Plain black or grey school skirt *Please note that leggings and tracksuit bottoms are not permitted as part of the uniform policy
<b>Dresses</b>	Plain grey pinafore Green summer dress
<b>Footwear</b>	Plain black shoes *Please note trainers are not permitted as part of the uniform policy
<b>Other</b>	Single plain stud earrings are permitted (taped or removed for PE) Plain headbands reflecting the school uniform colours A watch (smart watches are not permitted) No other jewellery is permitted

## PE Kit

Children should attend school wearing PE kit on their designated PE days. All items must be labelled with child's name and class.

<b>Top</b>	Green, short sleeved t-shirt branded with the school logo Plain black zip up hoodie (school logo optional) advised for colder months
<b>Bottom</b>	Plain black jogging bottoms / tracksuit bottoms Plain black shorts Plain black leggings
<b>Dresses</b>	Plain grey pinafore Green summer dress
<b>Footwear</b>	Trainers or plain black pumps
<b>Other</b>	Long hair must be tied back Stud earrings to be taped or removed Watches to be removed

## Forest School

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive a weekly Forest School session. If possible, please leave a pair of clearly labelled wellies at school for the duration of the year.

## Stockists

Our school uniform colours are available from most major high street stores and supermarkets. Our branded uniform, with the Mere Green Logo is supplied by: SK School Uniforms, Marks and Spencers and Clive Marks.

## Pre-Loved Uniform

We have a range of preloved uniform available and our Eco Council run regular sales across the year to promote this.

# What does my child need for school?

## **School Bags**

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will need a Mere Green book bag only. Please do not send your child into school with an additional bag as storage is limited. Book bags can be purchased from our school uniform suppliers.

Children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3,4,5 and 6) will need a school bag. School bags should be a rucksack or satchel type, no larger than 25cm x 25cm and suitable for carrying an iPad, book and snack. Each child in Key Stage 2 is provided with a personal locker to store their belongings, however space within the locker is limited, therefore please ensure that school bags meet the dimensions of 25cm x25cm. We do not have available storage for bags that exceed the locker dimensions.

## **Lunch and Snacks**

If your child has a packed lunch, please ensure that this is stored in a lunchbox or lunch bag. This is stored in a separate lunch storage and not in the school locker. Please ensure that the lunchbox is clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

We actively encourage children to stay hydrated and to drink water throughout the school day, therefore we would like you to provide your child with a labelled water bottle which can be brought into school each day.

At Mere Green we promote healthy lifestyles and from September 2023 we will be launching our Healthy Schools initiative. Therefore only healthy snacks will be permitted in school, as a rule chocolate, sweets and crisps will not be permitted as a snack. Please provide your child with a healthy snack each day, which can be eaten at breaktime

## **iPad**

As part of our Learning Futures digital strategy, all children in Key Stage 1 and 2 are provided with a fully funded iPad. The iPad is permitted to be taken home to support with homework and further learning. The iPad is an essential part of each day's learning, although we still have books for many subjects, children need to use the iPad to access activities and learning each day. It is therefore essential that iPads are brought into school each day, fully charged to ensure that children can access their learning. Further details of the Learning Futures strategy can be found in this booklet.

## **Personal Items**

Personal items are not permitted in school. Please refrain from allowing your children to bring personal items such as toys, cuddly toys, games etc into school. Pokémon cards, football cards and other similar cards are not permitted in school.

Children are not permitted to bring mobile phones into school or to take them on school trips and residential. However we appreciate that some children may need their mobile phone for walking home from school etc; therefore if your child does need to bring a mobile phone to school, this will need to be handed in at the main school office. All mobile phones are brought into school at your own risk and we do not take any responsibility to loss or damage to the phone.

As a school we are well stocked with stationery and have all the necessary equipment for each child to complete their learning. Therefore children will not need to bring stationery into school and pencil cases are not permitted.

## **Medication**

If your child requires medication, this must be handed in at the main office and parents must complete a medication form. Medication such as Inhalers and Auto Injectors must be in school each day, it is ideal if this could be left in school permanently.

If your child requires medication during the school day, this must be prescribed by a doctor and must be for at least 4 doses per day. If your child requires medication which is not prescribed or which requires less than 4 doses per day, you are welcome to come into school to administer this. Please speak with a member of staff in the main office to arrange this.

# Attendance

## **Attendance**

At Mere Green Primary School we are committed to raising the standards of education for all our pupils and recognise that regular school attendance is fundamental in supporting all pupils to achieve.

We understand that at times your child may be unwell and unable to attend school, therefore our attendance target is **96%**. Research shows that excellent attendance and punctuality are important factors in achieving school success, therefore our aim is to work with parents to ensure the highest possible attendance for each pupil.

Our Attendance Policy can be found [here](#).

## **Absence**

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to inform the school before 8.45 am, on the first day of their child's absence and any subsequent days of absence.

Please report your child's absence by sending a message to 'absence' on Class Dojo. Please provide the following details: Child's name, Child's class and reason for absence.

## **Leave In Term Time**

Requests for Leave in Term Time must be submitted to the headteacher in advance of the leave. Request forms can be collected from the main office or are available on our website. Holidays in term time will not be authorised and may result in a fixed penalty notice.

## **School Day Timings**

The school day begins at **8.45am** and finishes at 3.15pm, ensuring that all children receive a school week of 32.5 hours.

All gates open at 8.30am and we encourage you to be on the school playground, ready for the doors to open at 8.40am. Doors will close at 8.45am to allow registration and learning to begin promptly; therefore late arrivals will need to be signed in (by a parent/carer) at the main office. All gates will close at 8.55am to allow the school day to begin.

At the end of the school day, gates will open at approximately 3.05pm, once all children are back in class and the playgrounds are clear. Children will be dismissed at 3.15pm and gates will close by 3.30pm to allow our wrap around care to be

## **Drop off and collection arrangement**

Children must be dropped off to the relevant door by an adult, children are not permitted to be on site unsupervised. Every child must be collected by an adult over the age of 16. This includes the school day and wrap around care.

If your child is in Year 6 and you would like them to walk home independently, please obtain a consent form from the main office.

## **Wrap Around Care – Badgers**

We operate a wrap around service from 7.30am until 6pm. Further details of the Badgers provision can be found [here](#).

# Term Dates 2023-2024

## **Autumn Term 2023**

**Term Starts:** Monday 4th September 2023

**Half Term:** Monday 30th October 2023 to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

**Term Ends :** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

## **Spring Term 2024**

**Term Starts:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Half Term:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Term Ends :** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

## **Summer Term 2024**

**Term Starts:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Half Term:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

**Term Ends :** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

## **Training Days 2023 – 2024**

- Monday 4th September 2023
- Tuesday 5th September 2023
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

# Learning Futures



At the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership, children lie at the heart of everything we do. We want to make sure every pupil receives the same opportunities, and we want to address inequality inside and outside of the classroom.

That's why we launched Learning Futures. The ATLP's equitable 1-2-1 device programme; providing over 11,000 iPads to children and staff to enhance opportunities and outcomes for all.

Learning Futures forms the third and final part of a wider strategy; the other two elements being the development of an innovative ATLP Curriculum and investment in our pedagogy. Education Technology will be immersed into learning and teaching to enhance current practice and provide children with the skills, values, and knowledge to succeed at life in the future.

In addition, we know that learning does not only take place in the classroom, but also at home, and that our young people's families play an important role in supporting their children with their education. Learning Futures will bring the resources of the classroom into our pupils' homes, providing a tool for parents to be able to see what happens at school, so that they can greater support at home.

Finally, Learning Futures prepares our young people for their next steps. Our students will be prepared for the rapidly evolving technological landscape. Technology, used as part of students' everyday learning, will equip our children with the tools required for life in the future. Our alumni will not only be keeping up with a technologically dynamic society, they will be the ones setting the pace.

Frequently Asked Questions can be found [here](#).

## **Apple Distinguished School**

Mere Green is proud to be designated as an Apple Distinguished School.

Apple Distinguished Schools are centres of innovation, leadership and educational excellence. They use Apple technology to inspire creativity, collaboration and critical thinking in learning environment, and have documented results of academic accomplishment.

Our ADS story can be found [here](#).