

MERE GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Making a difference'

Deputy Headteacher Update

As we come to the end of another enriching half term, I am thrilled to share with you the incredible success we've had in celebrating Chinese New Year over the past week. From vibrant cultural activities to engaging educational experiences, our students have embraced the spirit of the festival with enthusiasm and creativity. It has been a joy to witness their excitement and curiosity as they learned about Chinese traditions, customs, and values. As we reflect on the past week's learning, we are filled with gratitude for the collaborative efforts of our staff, students, and parent community in making this celebration truly memorable.

The week concluded with our 'Dress to Express' day to commemorate Children's Mental Health Week. Thank you for your kind donations and contributions, the money raised will be used to purchase additional resources to enhance calm areas used at break and lunch times.

I hope you had the opportunity to admire our first 'Author of the Month' awards which were celebrated this week. Children showcased their work in the school corridor, have a special certificate and have even had their work published on class dojo. We are so proud of all the efforts children are making in their writing, particularly when it comes to the innovate and independent aspect of their writing journey.

I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your support throughout this half term. Your involvement, encouragement, and partnership have been instrumental in creating a positive and nurturing learning environment for our children. As we prepare to take a well-deserved break, I want to wish each and every one of you a restful and rejuvenating holiday. May this time be filled with moments of relaxation, joy, and cherished memories with your loved ones.

Lucia Thornton
Deputy Headteacher

A Harmonious Adventure: Year 5's Enchanting Visit to Birmingham Symphony Hall

On Tuesday, 6th February, the students of Year 5 embarked on a musical journey that would leave a lasting impression on their young minds. The destination was the illustrious Birmingham Symphony Hall, a venue synonymous with world-class performances. The anticipation among the children was palpable as they eagerly awaited an afternoon of captivating melodies.



The program for the day featured a diverse repertoire that promised to tickle the senses and transport the young audience into the enchanting realm of classical music. The compositions ranged from the evocative "Masquerade" by Anna Clyne to the timeless allure of Maurice Ravel's "Bolero." The magical soundscape continued with the iconic "Harry's Wondrous World" by John Williams, a piece that stirred emotions and ignited the imaginations of the young listeners.

However, it was the playful and energetic strains of "Angry Birds" by Ari Pulkkinen that truly captured the hearts of the children. The familiar tune, derived from the popular video game, brought smiles and animated whispers of recognition throughout the hall. The joyous atmosphere was contagious as the young audience reveled in the delightful fusion of classical and contemporary music.

Following the enchanting concert, the excitement reached new heights as the children were granted the opportunity to meet two of the talented musicians responsible for bringing the melodies to life. Matt, the French horn player, and Olivia, the violinist, generously shared their experiences and insights with the eager students. It was an invaluable chance for the children to connect with the artists, gaining a deeper appreciation for the dedication and passion that fuelled their musical pursuits.



The afternoon proved to be a brilliant fusion of education and entertainment, offering the students a unique window into the world of orchestral music. The Birmingham Symphony Hall provided the perfect backdrop for this immersive experience, enhancing the students' understanding of the power of live performances and the magic of music.





As the Year 5 students departed from the Symphony Hall, the echoes of the day's melodies resonated in their hearts and minds. The visit not only broadened their musical horizons but also left them with cherished memories of a day filled with laughter, awe, and the timeless beauty of orchestral compositions. The Birmingham Symphony Hall had indeed woven a tapestry of enchantment, fostering a love for music that will undoubtedly endure for years to come.

As part of our ongoing partnership with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, we are delighted to be able to share an offer for a limited number of **FREE tickets to the upcoming CBSO Family Concert on Sunday 25th February 2024.**

If you would like to apply for free tickets, please fill in the application form here by [midday 12pm Monday 19th February 2024](#): [CBSO FREE Family Concert Tickets – 25th February 2024 Application Form](#).

We hope to have the opportunity to welcome you to the CBSO soon!


 **Head Teacher**
Mrs Kristal Brookes

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West Midlands Fire Service Information

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year falls on Saturday 10 February, and continues for 15 days. It's the most important celebration in the Chinese calendar and is always a wonderful spectacle, and we want to make sure the mood remains celebratory. There are several ways you can enjoy it, as safely as possible, so the fire remains with the Year of the Dragon:

- keep candles out of reach of children and animals
- treat fireworks with caution
- sky/flying lanterns are popular and attractive but pose significant fire risks to livestock, agriculture, properties and hazardous material sites
- avoid overloading sockets. Use a fused adaptor if you need multiple plugs connected
- don't leave cooking unattended.

Pancake Day/Valentine's Day

Pancake and Valentine's Day are meant to be fun occasions – and we want to help you keep it that way. Cooking fires can easily be avoided by following some simple [kitchen safety tips](#):

- ensure pan handles don't stick out on the hob – you don't want pancakes, hot oil or butter being knocked, or the handle of your trusty pancake pan melting and causing a fire
- keep loose clothing, cloths and tea towels away from the cooker – make sure it's just the pancakes that cook
- ensure children are not left unattended in the kitchen – let them learn flipping pancakes (or any failed attempts) from you, the professionals
- turn off the hob or oven after cooking and make sure you don't drink alcohol before or during cooking
- candles on Valentine's Day can create a relaxing or special atmosphere but they should be always kept in sight and put out properly before leaving a room or going to bed. The safer alternative is to use LED candles to help set the mood – sadly, the reality of firefighters turning up on Valentine's Day isn't quite what Hollywood makes it out to be.

Whatever you're doing for Shrove Tuesday and Valentine's Day, stay safe.

West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership

Some great parent workshops available through West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership:

"Childline today" session is also aimed at frontline workers, parents/carers, grandparents etc. 28th February 2024, 1-2pm

Childline is the UK's free, 24-hour helpline for children and young people. Run by the NSPCC, Childline gives children and young people up to the age of 19 confidential support with whatever is worrying them. You will find out more about how Childline works, what makes their confidentiality policy so different and how they support and safeguard young people. You will also find out about the range of resources available through the Childline service and how this can help you to support the children around you.

To register please use link below:

[Childline Today Tickets, Wed 28 Feb 2024 at 13:00 | Eventbrite](#)

"Understanding County Lines for parents, grandparents and guardians" 29th February 2024, 10-11am.


This St Giles Trust gangs and county lines session consists of speakers with lived experience within the criminal justice system to unpack and explore the realities and consequences of county lines, gang involvement and serious youth violence.

Perspectives from previous perpetrators and runners/transporters, combined with relevant case studies, aid audiences in gaining an authentic and credible understanding of this complex and cross cutting issue.

The session will help parents and carers to identify the signs and triggers that a child or young person might be involved in county lines and gain an understanding of how to appropriately respond to such indicators.

To register please use link below:

[County Lines Session for Parents, Guardians and Carers Tickets, Thu 29 Feb 2024 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)


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Children's Mental Health Week

Children's mental health week 5th - 11th February

This week was Children's mental awareness week that empowers, equips and gives a voice to all children and young people in the UK.

The theme this year is "My Voice matters".

As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health.

Place2Be have some wonderful resources, please see link below for activities and tips :

[cmhw-24-top-tips-for-families.pdf](https://www.place2be.org.uk/cmhw-24-top-tips-for-families.pdf) ([childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk](https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk))

[What matters to you? Activity for 4-11 year olds](https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/what-matters-to-you-activity-for-4-11-year-olds) ([childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk](https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk))

[Place2Be: Parenting Smart: Articles](#)

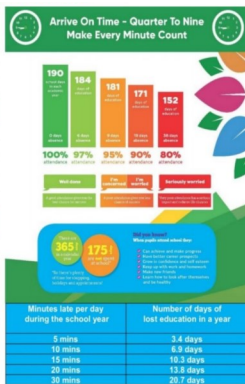
Hope Food Bank

Thank you to Mrs Quadri who has very kindly offered to take any donations that you may have to support Hope Food Bank and our local community. If you have items from the list below please bring them to the main office and put them into our collection.

- UHT MILK
- JARS OF PASTA AND CURRY SAUCE
- PASTA AND RICE
- MEALS IN A TIN (SUCH AS CHILLI CON CARNE, CURRY, MINCE AND ONIONS)
- TINS OF MEAT AND FISH
- BAKED BEANS
- SOUPS
- BISCUITS
- SQUASH
- TEA
- COFFEE
- SUGAR
- BABY FOOD
- NAPPIES
- WIPES
- TOILETRIES
- TOILET PAPER
- FEMININE PRODUCTS
- PET PRODUCTS

Class	Attendance 06/09/23- 09/02/24	This Week's Attendance
RBM	96%	92%
RD	94%	90%
1J	95%	96%
1M	98%	99%
2S	96%	95%
2W	95%	95%
3B	96%	97%
3D	94%	91%
4H	93%	95%
4S	96%	99%
5P	96%	97%
5S	95%	95%
6H	96%	98%
6HQ	95%	95%
6L	95%	94%

Whole School Attendance (YTD)	95.2%
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MAD Award


Congratulations to this week's MAD nominees




These children have been nominated by their class teacher for 'Making A Difference', this is either through demonstrating our school values or school rules.

Key Dates

HALF TERM	Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th February
School Begins Spring 2	Monday 19 th February
Year 4 Maths Workshop	Tuesday 20 th February
KS2 Gymnastics Event	Wednesday 21 st February
Year 4 DT Days	Wednesday 21 st and Friday 23 rd February
Year 5 Art Day	Friday 23 rd February


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