

January 2025

Mere Green Primary School

'Making a difference'



Acting Head Teacher Update

Welcome Back!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year. I hope you had a restful and enjoyable break, and are as excited as we are to begin a brand-new year! The start of a new term brings fresh opportunities for growth, learning, and connection, and we're looking forward to another fantastic year ahead.

This term, we have some wonderful events lined up, including our Maths Workshops. These workshops are designed to help children develop their skills in a fun and interactive way, while also providing parents with useful tools to support their child's learning at home.

We are committed to making this year a positive and enriching experience for every child, and we look forward to working closely with you to ensure their success.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Lucia Wilder (formerly Lucia Thornton)
Acting Headteacher

Attendance Policy

As we enter the colder months, we understand that children may catch coughs, colds, and other illnesses. To help ensure a smooth process during this time, we would like to remind all parents and guardians of our attendance protocols. If your child is absent, please follow the procedures outline in our policy (see attachment), and remember that if your child is absent for three consecutive days, a "Safe and Well" check will be required.

This check helps us ensure the well-being of all our children, especially when illness is more common. Please refer to the attached attendance procedures for further details. Your cooperation helps us maintain a healthy and safe environment for everyone!

You can find out more about [our attendance policy here](#):

<https://meregrn.bham.sch.uk/files/2025/01/ATLP-Attendance-Policy-24-25.pdf>

Appendix 1 - Procedures for Managing Absences

Day 1	Parents must contact the school via class dojo by 8:45am to inform and explain any absence. Children who arrive after the register is closed (8:55am) are marked absent. Office staff will follow up any unexplained absence by contacting parents by phone to understand why a pupil is absent and when they are likely to return to school.	<i>If on any of these days, we are concerned about a child's wellbeing, we may conduct an unannounced home visit to ensure the child is safe and well.</i>
Day 2	Parents must contact the school via class dojo by 8:45am to inform and explain any absence. Where no contact has been made with parents, our office staff will persist, and telephone all listed contacts. If contact is not made, a home visit will take place.	
Day 3	Parents must contact the school via class dojo by 8:45am to inform and explain any absence. A member of Mere Green will contact the parent to arrange a wellbeing check with the child via zoom/telephone. In the event of a child's whereabouts are still unknown, contact will be made with our PCSO and children's services (this applies to all children).	

Late Arrivals/ Early Pick Ups/Appointments

To help us maintain accurate attendance records and ensure the safety of all our students, we kindly ask that you sign your child in at the school office if they arrive late, are going or returning from an appointment, or are being picked up early for any reason.

Building works

We would like to inform you that Phase 1 of the upcoming building works will take place over the next few weeks. This phase will involve two days during school hours, followed by two weekends to minimise disruption to the school day. Further updates will be provided once this phase is complete.

Personal Items Reminder

To ensure a safe and focused learning environment, students are not permitted to bring personal sports equipment, such as footballs or basketballs, or other personal belongings to school. All necessary equipment for activities will be provided by the school. This policy helps prevent loss, damage, or distractions during the school day. We appreciate your cooperation in reinforcing this guideline with your child.

Nursery Admissions 2025

If you have a child or know of someone who has a child that is looking for a nursery place for September 2025, please request an application by emailing admissions@meregrn.bham.sch.uk Your child would need to be 3 years old by the 31st of August 2025 to be eligible for our Nursery.

Bike Shelter Installation Update

We regret to inform you that there has been an unexpected delay in the installation of our new bike shelter. As soon as the weather improves, our site team will proceed with the installation, aiming for completion before spring officially begins. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.

Tip of the Week: Building Positive Communication at Home and School

Positive communication is crucial because it fosters understanding, trust, and collaboration between people. Whether at home, in school, or in any community, speaking respectfully and listening actively helps prevent misunderstandings, reduces conflict, and creates a supportive environment. It allows individuals to express their concerns or emotions without escalating tension, promoting healthier relationships. In challenging situations, positive communication helps to focus on solutions rather than blame, encouraging teamwork and empathy. By communicating constructively, we can build stronger connections and address issues more effectively, creating a more positive atmosphere for everyone involved.

At Mere Green Primary School, we truly believe that strong collaboration between school and home is vital to our children's wellbeing. We also know that children learn in many different ways, and the importance of modelling behaviour we would like our children to adopt is so important. In order to support our in-school work with children about positive communication and conflict resolution, we are introducing a 'tip' section in our newsletters, to give practical examples of what positive communication looks like that you can discuss with your children at home. Hopefully you will recognise yourself in these examples, or learn some new skills to support your relationships within our school community

1: Set a Calm and Respectful Tone

Theme: How we say things is as important as what we say.

- **Parent with Teacher:** When discussing concerns with your child's teacher, start calmly and respectfully, even if you're upset. For example, instead of saying, "You're failing my child," try "I'm concerned about [child's name]'s progress. Can we discuss how we can help them together?"
- **Children with Children:** Teach your child to resolve conflicts with friends calmly. Instead of yelling, encourage them to say, "I feel upset when you don't share. Can we take turns?"
- **Parent with Child:** If your child misbehaves, take a deep breath before reacting. Instead of shouting, try saying, "I'm upset because you didn't listen. Let's talk about what happened."

School Fund Donation

We are excited to announce a new way to support our school and enhance the educational experience for your children. To help raise additional funds, we've added options to donate in the School Shop tab on MCAS.

Your generous contributions will go directly toward important initiatives and equipment that will benefit our students and ensure they have the best possible learning environment.

Donation options include £5, £10, £25, £50, or an amount of your choosing. Every donation, no matter the size, makes a difference and is deeply appreciated.

Thank you for your kindness and ongoing support for our school community!



Important Dates



Friday 17th January: Year 2 Maths Workshop

Friday 24th January: Year 3 Maths Workshop

Friday 28th January: Year 4 Maths Workshop

Wednesday 29th January: Chinese New Year

Friday 31st January: Year 5 Maths Workshop

Monday 3rd – Friday 7th February: National Storytelling Week

Tuesday 4th February: Reception Phonics Workshop: How you can help at home

Thursday 6th February: Year 1 Phonics workshop: Phonics Screening Check

Friday 14th February: Last day of term

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February: Half Term

Monday 24th February: School Begins Spring 2