

31st January 2025

Mere Green Primary School

'Making a difference'



Acting Head Teacher Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a fantastic start to the spring term, with lots of exciting learning experiences and opportunities for our children. The weeks have certainly flown by and I'm sure you are looking forward to the better weather hopefully arriving in Spring.

Our Year 3 children took part in their very first residential trip to **Ingestre Hall**, and what an experience it was! Over the course of their stay, they immersed themselves in **art, music, dance, and drama**, working alongside experts to create some truly impressive pieces. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and teamwork were outstanding, and we are incredibly proud of how they embraced this adventure. **Thank you to Mr Pattinson and Mrs Kimbley** for giving up their time to make the trip a success.

Meanwhile, our **Year 6 children** took part in an important workshop delivered by our local **PCSO and the Violence Reduction Team**. The session focused on making positive choices, staying safe, and understanding the role we all play in building a strong and respectful community. It was a valuable opportunity for children to ask questions, engage in discussions, and develop the knowledge and skills needed to be responsible and informed citizens. We are grateful to our community partners for working with us to ensure our young people feel empowered and prepared for the future.

We have also filled this month with some **fantastic maths workshops**, ensuring parents understand how maths is taught at school and more importantly how they can support their child at home in a fun and engaging way. A huge **thank you to all the parents** who have attended—your support makes a real difference, and we hope you found the sessions valuable. Please take a look at the Spring Dates overview for other workshops that are upcoming in the next few weeks.

Our **Chinese New Year celebrations** have taken over this week, bringing a vibrant mix of activities to the school. The children have been learning about the traditions, stories, and customs of the festival. The celebrations will continue into next week, so there's still plenty more to enjoy!

Young Voices Concert – A Night to Remember!

This term, our **KS2 choir** had the incredible opportunity to perform at the **Young Voices Concert** at the **Resorts World Arena**. It was a truly unforgettable experience, with our children joining thousands of other young singers to deliver a spectacular performance. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work in rehearsals really paid off, and we couldn't be prouder of them. A huge well done to all involved!

Swimming for Year 5

We are pleased to confirm that our swimming provision is now back up and running at Wyndley Leisure Centre for our year 5 pupils. Swimming is an essential life skill, and these sessions will help children build confidence in the water while improving their technique. We encourage all children to make the most of this fantastic opportunity.

As we look ahead to the final two weeks, we know the children will continue to thrive and make a difference in all that they do.

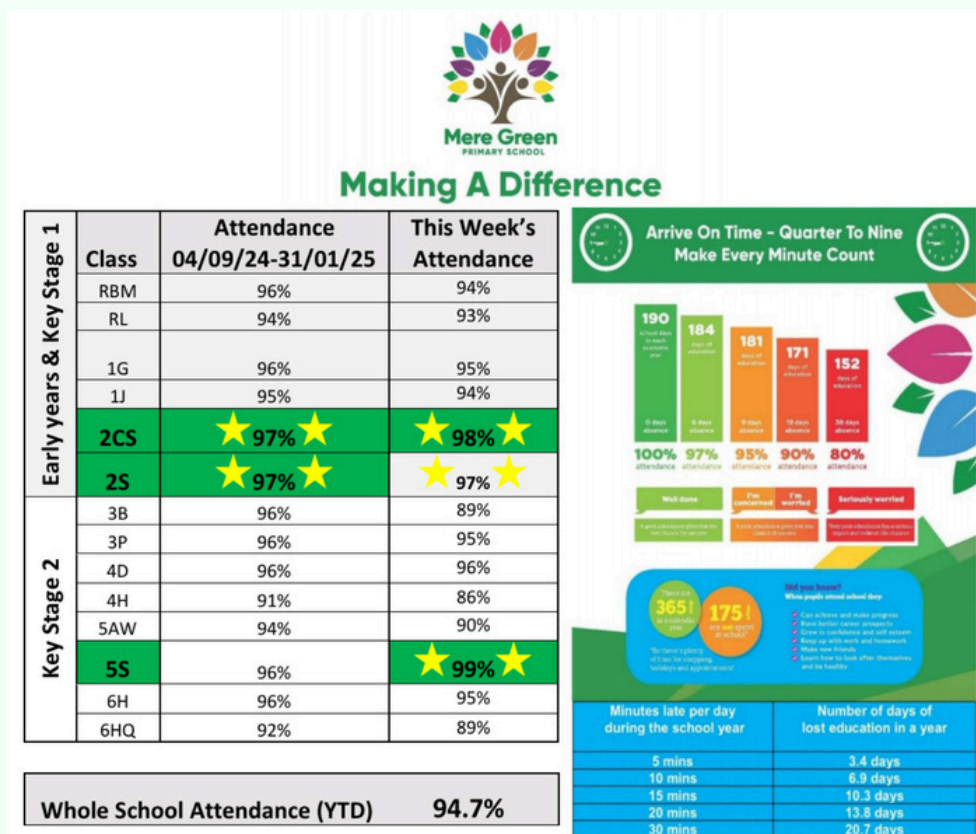
Lucia Wilder (formerly Lucia Thornton)
Acting Headteacher

Reminder: School Car Park

We kindly remind all parents and carers that parking is not permitted in the school car park. If you have an appointment or are dropping off/picking up for Badgers Wraparound Care, please refrain from parking on-site unless you have prior agreement with the school due to specific circumstances. Please do not request access to the car park otherwise. For your convenience, parking is available at Lidl, Sainsbury's, and other off-site locations nearby.

Attendance Update

Please find the attendance winners for this week, as well as up to this year so far!



Upper KS2 Girls' County Finals Football Tournament



What an incredible performance from the Mere Green Girls' Football Team at the Upper KS2 County Finals! On a freezing cold 22nd January 2025, we headed to Castle Vale Stadium to compete against the best teams in the county—all of whom were area champions from last season.

The girls started the tournament in brilliant form, battling through the group stage with determination, teamwork, and some fantastic goals. After a series of tough matches and winning all of our games, we finished top of our group, securing a well-earned spot in the semi-finals!

The semi-final was a thrilling, hard-fought match. We gave it everything, defending brilliantly, passing the ball with confidence, and creating some great chances. Despite our best efforts, we were narrowly beaten 2-1, bringing an end to our journey. Although it was a tough result to take, the girls should be incredibly proud—they finished third in the West Midlands County, which is an amazing achievement!

Every single player showed amazing skill, resilience, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. The level of competition was extremely high, but the team proved they could compete with the very best.

A huge thank you to all the parents who stood in the cold, cheering the girls on and supporting them every step of the way. Your encouragement made such a difference! A very special thank you to Mrs. Sproson for her ongoing dedication to training the team—her hard work and commitment have been instrumental in the team's success.

Well done, girls—you played your hearts out and made Mere Green Primary very proud!

Year 3 Rackets Festival – Nechells Wellbeing Centre



On Wednesday, 29th January 2025, a group of our Year 3 children had an unforgettable experience at the Rackets Festival held at Nechells Wellbeing Centre. This fantastic event introduced them to a range of racket sports—some they had never even heard of before!

Throughout the day, the children had the chance to learn and play Tennis, Badminton, Squash, and Pickleball, using different types of rackets, balls, and shuttlecocks. Each sport tested their hand-eye coordination, reaction speed, and movement skills in exciting new ways.

- Tennis: The children practiced control and accuracy, working on their forehand and backhand strokes using soft tennis balls and lightweight rackets. They also had fun rallying with partners and learning how to serve.
- Badminton: With shuttlecocks floating through the air, the children learned how to hold a badminton racket correctly and mastered simple serves and net shots. They were amazed at how different it felt compared to tennis!
- Squash: Playing against the wall added a whole new challenge! The children used smaller rackets and soft rubber balls to practice their aim and reactions, learning how to anticipate the bounce of the ball.
- Pickleball: A real favorite! This fast-paced game, played with a paddle and a perforated plastic ball, was a mix of tennis and badminton. The children quickly picked up the rules and loved the teamwork involved.

Their enthusiasm was fantastic to see—they threw themselves into every activity, showing great energy and determination to improve their skills. The equipment used throughout the day gave them a real insight into how different each sport is, from the size and weight of the rackets to the way the balls and shuttlecocks move through the air.

A huge thank you to Miss Williams, who not only chaperoned the trip but also acted as our photographer, capturing some brilliant moments. This experience wouldn't have been possible without her support!

Most importantly, the children represented Mere Green wonderfully. Their behavior was excellent, their enthusiasm was infectious, and they all thoroughly enjoyed the day. Well done to everyone who took part—you should be very proud of yourselves!

Mere Green Primary Netball Team

The Mere Green Primary Netball Team recently played an exciting match against Coppice School at Bishop Walsh Sports Hall. Despite the final score being 12-4 in favour of Coppice School, the Mere Green girls demonstrated outstanding teamwork, impressive skills, and an incredibly positive attitude throughout the game.

It was a brilliant first game for the team, and their resilience and commitment to learning and growing as a team were clear. The girls are very excited to play again in the Primary School Netball Team.



Person of the Month

Malala Yousafzai, a courageous advocate for education and equality.

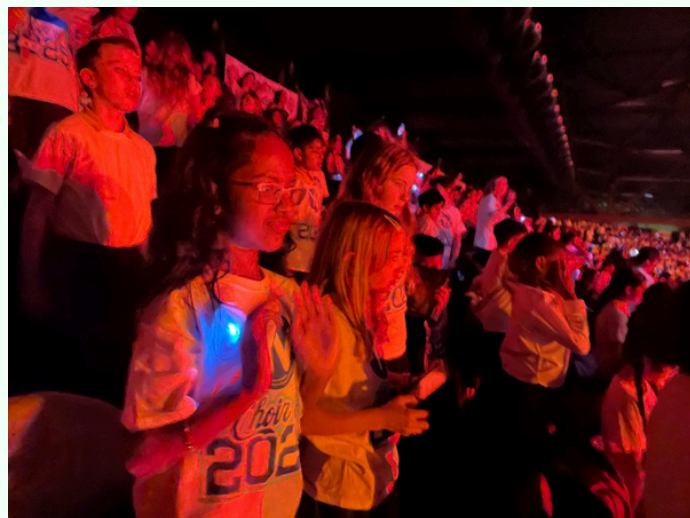
The children were captivated by her story and how she stood up for the right to education, even in the face of incredible challenges. We discussed the importance of resilience, bravery, and standing up for what is right, which sparked some thoughtful and meaningful conversations. It was wonderful to see the children reflecting on how they, too, can make a positive difference in the world.

Young Voices

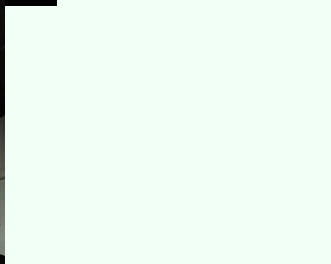
This year's Young Voices concert took place on 16th January, it is a truly spectacular event, uniting thousands of children in song and creating an unforgettable experience filled with harmony, joy, and energy. Mere Green Primary School is immensely proud of our talented Young Voices choir, whose dedication and hard work have led to this incredible moment. Months of rehearsals, perfecting lyrics, mastering choreography, and embracing the magic of music have all come together for this special performance.

This event is more than just a concert—it's a celebration! Our children shone brightly on stage. At its heart, Young Voices inspires children to believe in themselves, to experience the thrill of performing, and to create memories that will last a lifetime. Congratulations to all the children who took part in this event—a night to remember!

Special shout out to Mrs Williams, Mrs Cox and Mr Gordon who supported the event.



Showcase with Apple



This month, six students from Mere Green were invited to London to give multiple presentations in a prestigious Showcase with Apple. Alongside schools from Poland and the UAE, our students presented to an invite-only audience of international delegates from across the world - from the Netherlands to Hong Kong.

Our students demonstrated exceptional skills, eloquently communicating the impact of technology in the classroom and providing live demonstrations that truly embodied the essence of a learning showcase. Throughout the presentations, they rolled up their sleeves and took on the role of teachers, supporting members of the audience in a hands-on experience of using green screens, digital music creation, and transitional keynote presentations.

The confidence and professionalism displayed by our students was remarkable. The entire team at Apple, the supporting school staff, and the delegates in attendance were thoroughly impressed by their confidence and enthusiasm. We are immensely proud of their achievements and the way they represented our school on such a prestigious platform.

Congratulations to our students for their remarkable accomplishments and for making us all proud. We look forward to sharing more updates on their journey and other exciting news from Mere Green.

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



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