

MERE GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Making a difference'

Head Teacher Update

This week marks two years since the UK was put into lockdown following the outbreak of Covid 19. Two years on, we are still suffering the effects of Covid 19 whilst trying to return to 'normal' life. Although we are no longer required to isolate, attendance is affected by staff and children testing positive. We are trying our very best to keep the school running as normal, however over the last few weeks we have seen a high level of staff absence and we appreciate your support and understanding. On a more positive note, it has been wonderful to see the return of so many face to face events in school, this half term we have hosted a number of live Phonics workshops, a Forest School workshop, face to face Parents' Evening and we are so excited to welcome families into school on Friday for our first Mothers' Day Assembly since 2020.

We are looking forward to many more events this year and really want to work with you to make a difference to the education your child receives.

Kristal Brookes
Headteacher

Eduspot App

If you use the Eduspot App, all communication from Teachers2Parents will go into the App and not to your phone or email address. It is worthwhile checking your App on a regular basis to see what communication has been sent to you via text and email. If you are still not receiving any messages via the App, our advice would be to delete the App and receive communication directly to your phone and email address.

If after deleting the App, you still do not receive any messages and if you have changed your email address/phone number and let us know, please contact your phone provider.

All letters will be sent out electronically on a Tuesday. Class Dojo is used for celebration of children's achievements, this is not a communication platform.



eduspot

Food Allergies

We have some children in school who have severe allergies to anything that contains nuts. Therefore, we politely remind you and request that children do not bring food items into school that contain nuts (including any 'Nutella' based products).



Covid Update

Please continue to inform school if your child is symptomatic or receives a positive test result. Attendance to school is mandatory and children should attend school daily, unless they themselves are symptomatic/positive. We thank you for your ongoing cooperation.

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Whole School Update

E-Safety

We have recently experienced worries surrounding text messages being sent out of school hours. Whilst we cannot control what happens outside of school, we would like to share some simple guidelines that may be useful to share with you children.



Simple Rules for Text Messaging and Etiquette

Texting doesn't replace talking. Texting shouldn't take the place of all one-on-one interactions with their friends. If you want your child to bond with their friends, encourage that they spend time together.

Keep it short and sweet. Text messages should be short and to-the-point. If a "conversation" goes on for more than a few minutes, encourage your child to pick up the phone and continue the conversation that way.

Don't text in front of others. It's important to understand the meaning of "phubbing," which is texting with another person while spending time with a friend. It can be seen as rude at any age and can hurt feelings. Text messaging and phone etiquette requires your child to think about how their actions make other people feel.

Think before you text. Teach your child to refrain from texting a friend if they're in a fight or are angry with one another. Ask your child to wait until they've calmed down, and then encourage them to work things out in person or over the phone.

It's all about context. Children should know that sometimes text messages are misunderstood because of a lack of context. The text message recipient can't see the sender's facial expressions or hear their tone of voice. Jokes and sarcastic comments may cause hard feelings if they're passed along in a text message and misunderstood.

Keep content in mind. Teach your child that they should refrain from delivering bad news in a text message, i.e. "I hear that our teacher is leaving!"

Be kind. Children should understand that they are responsible for what they text to other people. Teach your child to refrain from gossiping about others, and being unkind in general.

Text at the right time. Your child should be mindful of the right time to text and should refrain from texting after a set time to prevent any sleep disturbances. The same applies if your family is going out for a nice meal or enjoying an activity together. This is also important when waiting for a reply from a previous message to prevent the recipient feeling overwhelmed.

Texting is a privilege, not a right. Texting should be regarded as a privilege, and your child should know that bad behaviour will result in the loss of that privilege. Remind your child that part of the responsibility of using a phone is following phone etiquette rules. That's the responsibility of growing up.

Energy Saving Tip from the Eco Team

Save energy by avoiding using standby on your electronics. Always switch off appliances at the wall and turn energy saving mode on when using your devices.

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Forest School Workshop

Our 2J parents enjoyed a fantastic afternoon at our Forest School Parent Workshop last week. They planted some bulbs, went on a nature hunt and made some Andy Goldsworthy style natural art. The atmosphere in the forest was so focused and calm and it was a great afternoon for everyone involved. 2S's Forest School workshop is scheduled for **Monday 13th June at 1:30pm** and we look forward to welcoming you then. Mrs Hayes and Mrs Cox.



Easter Holiday Sports & Activity Club

The Kick Start Academy Group are providing a Sports and Activity Holiday club at Little Sutton School. This is a fantastic opportunity for parents who require childcare during the holidays, safe in the knowledge your child is in the familiar school setting with the KSA team.

Week 1 - Monday 11th to Thursday 14th April 2022

Week 2 – Tuesday 19th to Friday 22nd April 2022

Times: 8:00am – 6:00pm

Location: Little Sutton Primary School

Ages: 4-12 years

Cost: £20 per day

Activities: Multi-Sports, Football, Easter Themed Arts & Crafts, Inflatables plus much more..

Your child will need: a packed lunch, refillable water bottle, snacks for both AM and PM breaks (NO NUTS)

FREE HOLIDAY CAMP PROVISION

Mon 11th - Thurs 14th April ONLY

Limited to 30 places!

The Kick Start Academy Group are proud partners of Bring It On Brum! This is for children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

Your child is entitled to 4 days, 4 hours a day under the HAF Programme. Your child will receive a nutritious packed lunch per day including a piece of fruit and yogurt.

We will shortly be distributing codes to each eligible child by email. You will be asked to confirm this code when you book.

For more info & how can I book?

Email: info@theksagroup.co.uk

Call: 01217487977 (option 1)

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Mother's Day Assembly

On Friday 25th March, we are having our Mothers' Day celebrations that are taking place in school for EYFS and KS1 families. Nursery will be holding a stay and play workshop where 1 adult can attend from 8.30-9.30. This will take place in the Nursery classroom. Years Reception, 1 and 2 are holding an assembly for 1 member of their family. To ensure all families can have 1 person attend, we are holding two viewings. The first will take place at 9.15am and the second at 2.30pm. Spaces are limited so please use the link below to book your place if you haven't already.

<https://forms.office.com/r/pks5jKh8HK>

Smile Stone Competition

Congratulations to Molly (4T) and Sanay (1BW) who are the winners of the Smile Stone Competition.



British Science Week

For British Science week we will be learning about famous scientists during our guided reading lessons. Could you find out about a scientist at home?

Soon your children will come home with a science task to complete. The theme will be 'Growth' and the information will also be on your children's Tapestry or Showbie account. They have to investigate something at home about growth with you and record their findings.

This is for the first ever Mere Green Science Fair! All projects will be showcased in the school hall and we will judge the winners from each phase across school. The winners will then show their work to other children in Sutton Coldfield and earn some fantastic prizes!

Wellbeing Week

Last week saw our second 'Wellbeing Week', when we focused on 2 of the 5 NHS recommendations for positive mental wellbeing - being active and being mindful.

Each day, we took part in a morning wake up, shake up and after lunch we had 5 minutes of mindfulness to get us in the best place for our afternoon's learning. We also practised 'busting a move' in preparation for our whole school flash mob on Thursday. We had an amazing time. Thank you for all the positive feedback from parents and children!



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Lending Library

At Mere Green we value that reading is such an important tool to develop children's language skills and love of reading books. Reading stories is such a very special bonding time for parents and children. Therefore, we have set up an Early Years' lending library to allow you as parents access to many different storybooks for your son or daughter.

Please feel free to borrow any of the books from our library. All we ask is that you sign out the book on the sheet provided on the Shed Door and sign this back in once returned. The shed is located on the back of the early years' playground.

If you have any books you would like to donate to the library, please drop them off to any of the early years' team. We would really appreciate any donations.

Collection for Ukraine

Thank you so much to our Mere Green Community for donating money to The British Red Cross 'Ukraine Crisis Appeal'. We were so proud of our children's confidence and enthusiasm whilst collecting donations last week and are pleased to say we have raised £290. Thank you once again.

Comic Relief and Big Issues

The children all had a wonderful day celebrating Comic Relief and came into school looking amazing in their array of colour. They particularly enjoyed their sessions learning about jokes and how to write a good one. With the help of Pupil Voice, we reviewed each classes' winning entries and selected our final two winners. Well done to Madison in 2J and Reception class. Your jokes were hilarious and got so many children laughing.

Lots of our children also delved deeper and learnt about how charities work and how money donated enables these charities to exist. Children in Year 5 and 6 also started researching a range of charities before creating persuasive posters to encourage more people to support their chosen charity.

Thank you also for your donations to Comic Relief. We have raised £248 so far; all of which goes to a very worthwhile cause. If you haven't donated yet but would like to, you can still donate via Shop on Schoolmoney. Many Thanks

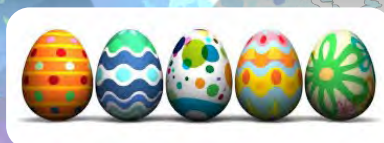
Easter Bonnet Parade

On Thursday 7th April, Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 will take part in an Easter Bonnet Parade. Please ensure your child has a bonnet in school on this day if you wish for them to take part. The parade will take place at 2.15pm on the KS1 playground and parents are invited to attend the event. Please note that seating will be limited so feel free to stand or alternatively, bring a camp chair. We look forward to seeing you at this egg-cellent event!

Easter Egg Decorating Competition

In our normal tradition, we are inviting all children in Key Stage 2 to enter our Easter Egg Decorating Competition. Using a boiled egg, we are encouraging your child to think as imaginatively as they can to create a stunning design.

Entries need to be handed in to class teachers by **9am on Thursday 7th April**. All entries will then be displayed for all children to view and judge during the day. The top three winning entries will be announced and celebrated by the end of the day.



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Phase 1 (Nursery, Reception and Year 1)

Nursery have had a spa-tacular wellbeing week! They were treated to natural yoghurt face masks and cucumber to fully unwind and chill out. Bookings to open soon!

They were also privileged to enjoy a performance from their older peers who play the ukulele. Not only did they get to watch a wonderful performance but they were able to have a go playing the instruments themselves with the help of a friend. Thank you to Miss G for organising this special event.



Reception have been preparing for the arrival of their chicks by learning about the story Henny Penny. They have created some lovely independent writing and illustrations based around the story and are super excited to meet and look after their very own!

Meanwhile in maths, they have been exploring the composition of the number eight. They have partitioned the number in various ways and have used practical objects as well as their own recordings to demonstrate their understanding.



Thank you to our wonderful Year 1 families who attended the phonics workshop two weeks ago. Where has that time gone to? It was so heart warming to have you in the building with your children learning. It was certainly a moment that many of us have been dreaming of since last September. We hope that you found the session useful and that you enjoyed coming into school.



Since then, the children have been learning about numbers to 50, counting forwards and backwards and representing these numbers. They have started to learn about coding and they have identified a range of different items that they can program using a code. They showed a good understanding that a computer code is a set of rules and instructions which is made up of words and numbers. In science, they have been poo detectives and identified animals which are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.



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Phase 2 (Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4)

Year 2 have had the wonderful opportunity to develop their cricket skills with specialist coaching coming from Rob at Warwickshire County Cricket Club. They have developed their throwing and catching skills, using force to hit the wickets. In addition, they've also started honing their batting technique and working together when fielding. The children are loving the game and have shown so much enthusiasm to learn even on blustery days.



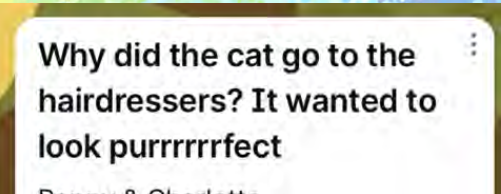
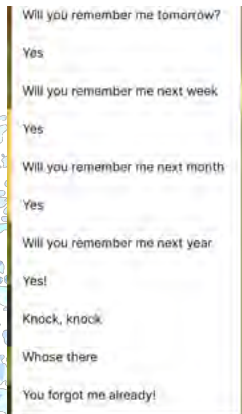
In English, the children have been exploring the text 'Little Red Riding Hood'. To show their understanding of the narrative, they used role play to act out sections of the story, while other children narrated the story, using vocabulary from our model write. Can you guess which character our children are playing.



In Year 3, the children had a wonderful time learning about the Egyptians during a themed Egyptian Day. With an expert coming into school, they learnt more about the mummification process, hieroglyphics, the ancient Egyptian culture, what the Egyptian's believed in, ancient Egyptian language and so much more. We even learned a couple of ancient Egyptian games.



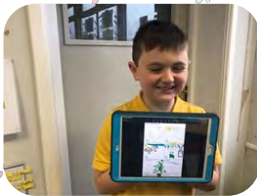
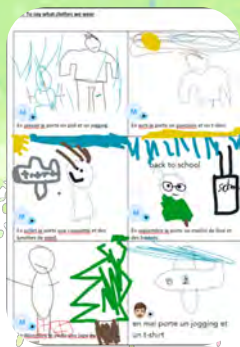
Year 3 also had a brilliant Comic Relief. We learned how to tell jokes and even created our own. In addition to this, we learned so much about different charities and their purposes.



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Year 4 continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of French and last week learnt about clothes in French. They read sentences and drew pictures to represent what was worn at different times of the year. They then voice recorded their own sentences to practise their pronunciation. Bravo Year 4!



We are now half way through our swimming programme, with 4A having completed their block. They have had the best time these last two weeks; they have all grown in confidence whilst developing their water safety skills and practising and perfecting all three strokes. Everyone has made significant progress and we are all at Mere Green extremely proud.



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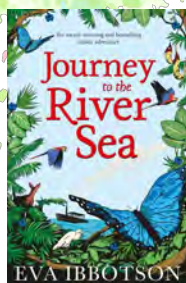
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Phase Three (Year 5 and Year 6)

Year 5 continue to wow us with their homework projects based on their Geography topic, 'Rivers'. From miniature clay models, to giant labelled cardboard constructions, the staff have been blown away with their enthusiasm and application of knowledge.



We are really getting stuck into our new class novel, 'Journey to the River Sea', by Eva Ibbotson. It's based in the wilderness of Brazil and follows an orphan, Maia. We read it each day and explicitly learn and explore new vocabulary from it. Why not ask your child about what has happened in the story so far?



Finally, year 5 have received post this week from their French pen pals! They were thrilled to read handwritten letters and have now written responses back. We have posted them this week so hopefully our fellow students in France will receive them soon!



Well-Being Week has been welcomed by year 6s to give them a much-needed break from their SATs revision. Many of our year 6s joined in with 'Wake and Shake' in the morning and they simply couldn't get enough of the dance practise for our flash mob! We definitely need more dance breaks during the school day!



French in year 6 included them writing about their 'Special Circle of People'. They've worked hard to apply new learnt vocabulary into grammatically correct sentences. This will come home with them next week - so watch this space!



Year 6's class novel is 'Hitler's Canary' by Sandi Toksvig, which supplements their History topic. It's a beautifully written account of how ordinary people in Denmark in WW2 did some extraordinarily brave things. The main character, Bamse, is only 11 when the Nazis take over Denmark. Our 6's are delving deep into pertinent themes and debating topics maturely.



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Quick Links

A great website to help overcome transport issues getting to and from school, or any route in general as it tells you what public transport is available near you <https://moovitapp.com>

You need to select the 'West Midlands' region on the drop down, then you enter your postcode in the 'Start' field, then enter the school postcode (B75 5BL) in the 'End' field and it gives you the details on how long it takes to walk from your house to the bus stop, the bus numbers that are available for the route, the time it takes to travel on the bus, and then the walking distance from the bus stop to the school. You also have options to set the desired arrival time and date. This information is great as it can help you to prepare your journey ahead of time. You can also select rail options too.

Parking

Please can we politely request that you consider our neighbours when parking near school. There is ample parking available at Sainsbury's and Lidl, and the additional pedestrian crossings that have been recently installed makes it even safer to park and cross the Mere Green Road. Please be considerate of our neighbours with smaller car parks and leave their car park spaces for their staff and customers.

The school car park is strictly for staff, visitors, and authorised users. We are aware that some parents are entering the car park, via the open exit car gate, to park on site at school. Please consider the safety of other drivers and refrain from driving onto school site via the one way exit gate. Let's work together to keep everyone safe.

Reporting Absence

Parents are required to inform the school office by 8.45am if their child is absent by voicemail or email to:

absence@meregrn.bham.sch.uk


Dates for your Diary




Mothers Day Celebrations	Friday 25th March 2022
Vaisakhi Sikh Celebration	Tuesday 5th April 2022
Easter Celebrations	Thursday 7th April 2022
Training Day	Friday 8th April 2022

Thank you for your contributions and support over the last few weeks in our efforts to raise awareness of our Big Issue 'Charities'. One of our school values is 'Contribute' and your generosity and support has helped us collectively contribute to the Red Cross in support of the Ukraine crisis and Red Nose Day.

Mrs Kristal Brookes and Team Mere Green


 Head Teacher
Mrs Kristal Brookes

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Mere Green
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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