

MERE GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Making a difference'

Head Teacher Update

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term, I hope that you had a great half term and feel re-energised for the half term ahead. The sun shone towards the end of the half term and it is amazing what sunshine can do for the soul, it certainly seems to put a spring in your step.

As the Covid restrictions have started to ease, and we begin the next phase of the pandemic : 'Living with Covid19' , it has been great to get things back on the school calendar, assemblies have returned, face to face workshops are now taking place and school trips are in the pipeline.

At the start of the academic year, we launched our new school values: Contribute, Mental Strength and Thrive. During this half term, we will be focusing on a value each fortnight. This fortnight we will focus on the value 'Contribute', we will be talking to children about how they can contribute in many areas of life to be a global citizen. 'Contribute' links directly to the work we are doing around charities, including Red Nose Day and the Red Cross.

Read on to find out about what has been going on at Mere Green and to keep updated about planned events for this half term.

Kristal Brookes
Headteacher

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).



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

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.

MERE GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Making a difference'

Whole School Update

Eco Team

Well done to our Eco Team for raising over £150 for bat and bird boxes for Forest School! As soon as we purchase these we will show you some pictures. Thank you once again for all your support with this event, it really was a huge success.



Comic Relief

This year's Red Nose Day will take place on Friday 18th March. The theme this year is- **'Funny is power and we have the power to change lives'**. Children can come into school wearing anything bright and colourful- the brighter the better! Pupil Voice have thought of lots of fun ideas to implement throughout the day and they can't wait to make the whole school laugh, with a joke competition at the end of the day.

This year we are asking for a donation of a £1 per child to be made through ParentPay, we thank you in advance. Please pay through Shop items.

Big Issue Day

Some of you may have noticed that we have moved our next scheduled Big Issue Day which should have been launched this week. We have decided to link up our next Big Issue Day, which is exploring the role and work of charities, to Red Nose Day which falls on Friday 18th March. On this day, whilst celebrating and supporting Comic Relief, we will also be exploring what charities children know of, how their organisations are run, how they raise money and how those proceeds get used effectively.

Wellbeing Week

Next week (week commencing the 14th March) is our second wellbeing week, when we will continue to focus on the NHS 'Five ways to maintain positive well-being'.

During the week, we will be taking part in daily mindfulness sessions after lunch to calm our thoughts and prepare us for a positive afternoon's learning. We will also be learning a new dance, to explore the positive impact of exercise on our wellbeing, which will culminate in a whole school flash mob on Thursday 17th March.

We hope your children will enjoy this opportunity to connect as a whole school and that they may even be able to teach you the dance steps at home.

Please note, we hope to record this video and share it with parents. Children without GDPR consent will be removed from the video that is shared. If you would like your child included for this occasion, please let your child's class teacher know.

Collecting for Ukraine

Last week, many classes had open discussions with the children about the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. Many children were already aware of the issues and had questions that they wanted to raise. This was dealt with sensitively and discussed at an age-appropriate level following DfE guidance. Following these discussions, the children felt that they wanted to help support the people of Ukraine in some way.

Whilst there were many mature and thoughtful ideas raised by the children, we have followed guidance from The British Red Cross' 'Ukraine Crisis Appeal' and are raising money this week to support the people of Ukraine.

We will be outside at both the start and end of school collecting money from Wednesday morning until Friday afternoon and will donate all proceeds to The British Red Cross.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Mere Green
PRIMARY SCHOOL

World Book Day

Reading is so important. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of success in later life! Please encourage your child to read daily at home; if this is a struggle, then at least 3 times a week. Speak to a teacher if you would like any ideas of how you can support your child to read more at home.

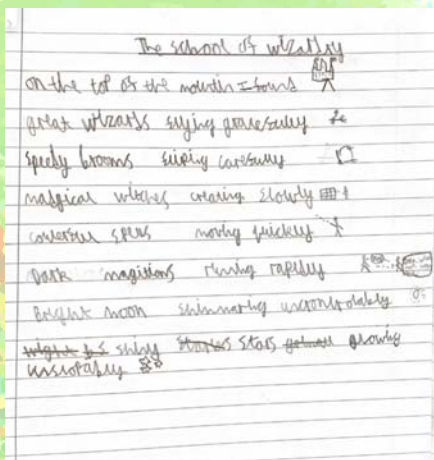


World Maths Day

On Wednesday 23rd March, we will be celebrating 'World Maths Day'. There is a lot more to maths than addition, subtraction, division and multiplication. Maths is all around us! Therefore, this year's 'World Maths Day' will involve taking part in competitive maths games and exciting projects centred around how we use maths in our everyday life.

Creative Writing Club

Thank you to the KS2 children who have signed up to the 'Creative Writing Club' on Showbie! The Club will post a new writing stimulus every two weeks for the children to freely write their own piece. This could be a narrative, a newspaper report, a diary entry, a poem.. whatever they like. Lots of members have independently written their first piece based on given stimulus 'The Castle'. We were blown away with everyone's work, in particular Rijjah Y, year 4 and Harrison L, year 4 (below). Next week, pieces will be called "Solitary Existence." Join the club and look at the prompts to get your creative juices flowing! Speak to Miss Burnnell or your class teacher if you would like to join on Showbie.



It was the coldest of nights.

Everything was the *stirr silent* it has ever been, although you could hear the *sear* sound of a little bat. The wind was howling all around this one mysterious, spine tickling house hidden in the darkness. There was nobody to go near it because rumours explained the house was HAUNTED! Everyone slowly figured why, it was because there was an old ghost there called Old Marcus he was always scaring people. He was a very old man, he had a very long white beard, and was a very confused man when he was alive he never knew why he had done something and what he had done. Everyone normally came around halloween because then they can try and trick Old Marcus into thinking there monsters, but they never came out alive. It was very dangerous there it had a lot of evil spirits and it was very dangerous to go in there. If you were lucky you could get a glimpse of him, but no one has ever lived to say what he looks like.

He loved it when it was cold because no one can get out or they will freeze so he will have his favourite thing, peace and quiet. In his yard there was animals like gremlins and goblins, bats and wolves. It sounds horrible right? Well if you think it can't get worse then think again he would dump you in the wolf pen and then throw the other scary animals in. You would think his parents would have at least loved him but they normally would forget about him. Once when he was younger his parents forgot him in the supermarket while they were going home! Can you believe it? That's were he got his cold heart from. He was lonely too. His death was a mystery and nobody ever figured out who killed him. You might be wondering where is this story going but your in luck your about to find out

In a city across the woods there once lived two children called Andy and Ava they were always saying they are not afraid of anything. But they were wrong! One day there friend competitively said "If you two aren't afraid of anything I dare you to go to the haunted house behind the woods!" In know it doesn't sound friendly! But all the duo said in unison "What haunted house?" Everyone gasped in horror because who didn't know of the haunted house.

Two weeks later The duo finally started to travel into the woods. At first they thought this is not creepy but as they went further into the woods they started to get creeped out and hungry but luckily they knew the journey would be long so they brought snacks. The two stopped for the night at around 9.00 PM. Little did they know the horror that was waiting for them in the next day. Andy exclaimed to Ava they were still in the woods and needed to win that dare. They carried on walking but they did not know there was an owl chasing them quietly behind them. They were both scared and didn't know what to do. They were both scared and didn't know what to do together but Ava wanted to go home. There journey continued. They soon had to split up to find some berries but had no luck. They both grew sad and hungry but when they were further in they found tons of berry bushes and they were able to eat them. They both found loads more good things. When things were finally going up Ava noticed cameras in the trees and told Andy.

Andy was astonished and thought "what evil masterplan was behind this?" He told Ava "Lets leave while we still can!" All Ava said is "NO SIREE!" So they carried on with there journey the berriots were not enough to feed full up. Nobody was there and they finally arrived at the haunted house. They entered and hugged each other in relief. The old man came out and said "I am glad you are here." The old man said "You are safe now." The thunder bolt boy were there they wrong. They saw Old Marcus. They started to run but the door somehow locked. Old Marcus started chasing them. The kids shout "AAAAHHH" And kicked the door down and ran home to their mom crying hollidly telling her all about there journey. After they calmed down they noticed they kicked the door down. They went back to see what happened. They found the door open. They saw the old man carry on going. Our heroes had to first go to the city again to see if anyone or anything was hurt. Luckily nothing was going wrongly and everyone was great and happy to see them! There they saw a ghost and said

Everyone ran to their house but saw the two were not leaving the school grounds and said "Come back!" The two ignored it and said "You wanted us now take us!" The ghost said "I want nothing to do with you, all I want is to have some tools for the door reparing!"

The end

MERE GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Making a difference'

Welcome to the Team

Hi, Mere Green Primary

Firstly, I wanted to say a big thank you to the parents and children for making me feel so welcome. I am extremely proud to be a part of the team at Mere Green and I am looking forward to supporting your children.

I have been working in primary schools since 2004 in various roles. I have been class teacher, classroom support and more recently taken a focus on mentoring children.

Away from school, I have two children myself so spend a lot of time at football, swimming and dance clubs but when time allows, I can usually be found playing golf (very badly), playing football and watching Aston Villa.

I am looking forward to meeting you all and being a member of the Mere Green community.

Thank you
Mr R Wilkes



Dear Parents

I have recently had the privilege of being appointed as the Office Manager at Mere Green Primary School. My background is predominantly administrative with a HR focus. My aim is to work with the amazing office team and provide the best service we can for you and your children.

As a mother myself, I appreciate the importance of the school office and the service that it offers. When your child/children come into school it is vital that you have a strong team there to support you.

It is only my second week but I already appreciate the warmth of the staff and enthusiasm of the whole Mere Green team. We are all striving together to give you the best experience we can. These formative years in a child's life are so important and being part of this journey is an honour.

If you have any feedback or suggestions for us as a team, I'd love to hear from you.

I look forward to assisting you on your child's journey with us.

Thank you
Caroline Dempsey



Dear Parents and Carers

I feel extremely honored to have been appointed as Assistant Head teacher leading Inclusion at Mere Green Primary. My time spent in Mere Green Primary leading up to this appointment left me feeling warm, welcomed and excited. The children are wonderful!

I have been in education for eighteen years and have specialised in Special Educational Needs for much of that time. Being a mother of four wonderful children, I am very aware of the responsibilities myself and the team have in ensuring the highest standard of inclusive education is achieved.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you in person and getting started fulltime. You can rest assured, I will strive to create the best inclusive education for all pupils.

Kindest Regards
Mrs Zoe Franks



MERE GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Making a difference'

Phase 1 (Nursery, Reception and Year 1)

Nursery have sprung into action this half term and have kick started by learning about The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Their fine motor skills are really developing and they showed increased concentrations and determination when threading the string through the leaves.

They thoroughly enjoyed their World Book Day celebrations on Thursday and took part in their first ever assembly with EYFS and KS1. The other year groups were so impressed with the children's confidence when showcasing their wonderful outfits and pyjamas on the catwalk! They then spent some time enjoying their bed time stories, thank you for all your support in making this a success.



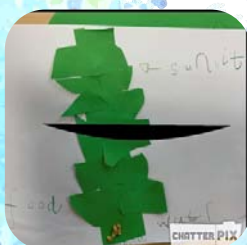
Thank you to all of those who attended our first face to face phonics workshop last week. It was an absolute delight to be able to welcome you into the building and spend quality learning time with your little ones. We hope that you found this useful and if you require any further support with phonics, please let your child's class teacher know who would be more than happy to help.



Since returning from half term, the children have been excitedly exploring their new role play area which includes authentic clothing and open ended resources. This has led to some wonderful role play experiences and the children have been exploring and using new words.



This half term the children are learning about Spring. This started by reading Jack and the Beanstalk and conducting learning based on plants and what they need to survive and grow. The children demonstrated a series of skills by creating their own drawing and Chatterpix Videos on the iPads to inform others of how to look after plants. Their final videos are amazing and have been uploaded to Tapestry for you to watch!



This learning will continue throughout the half term with the addition of an incubator which arrived in the classroom last week. The children (and staff!) are very excited and curious about what might be hatching soon! Stay tuned for more updates!

MERE GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Making a difference'

We are also making some changes to homework in Reception to ensure that it is in line and consistent with the rest of the school. Homework will be set on Friday via Tapestry and due in on a Wednesday. Reading Enrichment will continue but will be published on a new layout for Reception and you will now receive the story at the end of the week to enable the teaching to happen in school first. This will mean that the children can showcase their knowledge to you at home after they have learnt about it. In addition to the story, you will be able to practise the vocabulary that has already been taught and remind children of their meanings and be able to use them in context. Each week, children will be required to learn how to spell one red word, please encourage and practise this as much as possible. Maths will be practical and won't require any recordings meaning it's fun and easy to complete. If you have any questions regarding the changes, please contact your child's class teacher or Phase Leader who will be more than happy to help.

Year one have had a fantastic first week back! They have been creating story boards to support them with their debugging and programming on Scratch Jr. They have been counting from 0-50 and counting on from any given number. In English, they have been writing their own stories based on the story 'Where the Wild Things Are' and the children are becoming increasingly confident with their independent writing and writing at length now.



On World Book Day, they also had the pleasure of taking part in a cricket session with Warwickshire Cricket Board. They practised their hand/eye coordination by throwing and catching the ball before taking part in a cricket game.



MERE GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Making a difference'

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

Over the last two weeks, phase two have had a rich array of learning opportunities and demonstrated a range of learning attributes including the ability to contribute with their peers and to persevere when presented with challenging work.

Year 2 loved dressing in their pyjamas or as their favourite characters for World Book Day and enjoyed reading their favourite books at the start of school. They also really impressed their teachers by summarising their stories with friends and explaining why they liked their chosen book.



The children also started their new unit of PE last week and impressed their teachers with a range of throwing skills, including under arm, over arm, chest and bounce pass. The children demonstrated great control and focus ensuring their balls were thrown with the right force and often, straight into the catchers' hands.



In Maths, children have been learning about division. They were using practical objects to help them divide a number into groups, then working out word problems both collaboratively and independently. They then used STEM sentences to show their understanding and reason what they were representing. Great work Year 2.



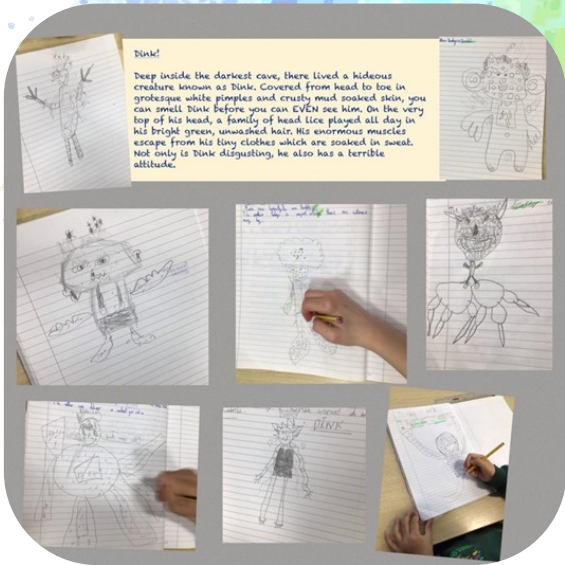
In Year 3, the children again had a wonderful World Book Day; they started the day with a bang, shimmying down the Key Stage 2 catwalk whilst showing off their amazing costumes. Later on, they tuned into a specific World Book Day tutorial to focus on how they could develop and use their imagination more before taking part in some class 'book themed' quizzes. A great day celebrating reading for all.



MERE GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Making a difference'

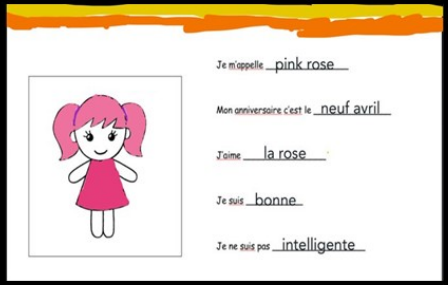
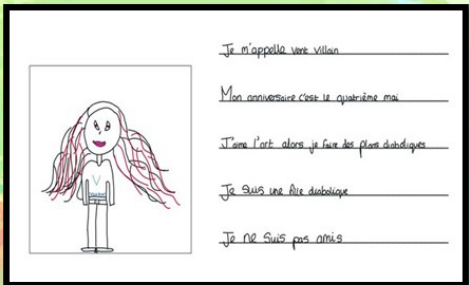
In English, Year 3 have been exploring character descriptions using the talk for writing approach. They have been developing their listening skills to pick out effective descriptive language to create their own 'Dink'. Have a look at the description and the illustrations children created responding to it.



Last week, children in Year 4 worked together in Computing to create a script for their podcast entitled 'Life at Mere Green School'. They showed such high levels of enthusiasm and motivation whilst creating their scripts. Their recordings this week are set to be amazing.



Our children have also created some exceptional French work in the last few weeks. Our French specialist, Mrs Metcalfe, was delighted with the learning that took place to create these superhero or villain character descriptions.



MERE GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Making a difference'

Phase Three (Year 5 and Year 6)

Year 5 have had a wonderful start to the new term. In History, Year 5 have been researching information about King Henry VIII for a non-chronological report. They've pair-shared to explore details about Henry's wives, his reign, legacy and how he reformed the church, and have made relevant notes.



In PE, it's been all about invasion games this half term; currently it's rugby. They have been practising and maintaining possession to score a try! Everyone, including the teachers, were tired out!



On World Book Day, they combined their love of books with technology, using the app 'GarageBand' to create an audiobook based on the story 'A River'. They used their own voices to engage the reader and added appropriate backing tracks and sound effects. This also linked with their current Geography topic 'Rivers' deepening their understanding of the journey a river makes.



Year 6 have also returned to school full of energy and positivity! The children are continuing to develop real maturity in everything they do.

In Maths, children have been deepening learning on fractions: adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators and comparing fractions. They have also been revising knowledge on shape, including facts on triangles and quadrilaterals. Why not quiz your child at home?

In PE, they have been working collaboratively, balancing and counter-balancing with their partners in gymnastics. Balance requires strength alongside concentration and focus, a skill year 6 are developing well this year.



Last week, Year 6 also had a visit from our local PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers). They delivered excellent workshops to our children on internet safety, primarily about the messages we send online and the potential negative consequences of them. Year 6 showed maturity and confidence in discussing these relevant topics.



MERE GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Making a difference'

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.

Thank you

Sutton Charities Uniform Grant

We now have the Sutton CUG in the school office. If you would like to apply please collect the application from the school office and return with proof no later than Monday 14th March.




Dates for your Diary



Parent Consultations	Thursday 10th March
Wellbeing Week	Monday 14th—18th March
Year 2 Forest School Workshop	Monday 14th March
Comic Relief	Friday 18th March
World Maths Day	Wednesday 23rd March

What a busy two weeks we've had. Thank you for all of your support in 'Making a Difference' to the education of our pupils.


Mrs Kristal Brookes and Team Mere Green

 **Head Teacher**
Mrs Kristal Brookes

 0121 308 1384

 admin@meregrn.bham.sch.uk



 Mere Green Primary School
Mere Green Road
Four Oaks
B75 5BL