



JANUARY 2018

Note from the Principal

Welcome back, attendance has been excellent with only 4 children away from school yesterday. I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and feels rested after the holiday. On Monday during assembly we talked about 'New year Resolutions'. The children all agreed that getting on together and challenging ourselves to try things we find difficult, would be our shared targets. We also reflected on the importance of reading every day at home (even for 5 minutes) and the impact this can have on everything. We know children at Merlin Top are improving in their reading skills and staff take a long time to listen to individual readers. When this is supported at home the difference can be significant. We regularly encourage the children to read and have been successful in securing an additional £5,000 for new books. Watch out for information this term about the library and a new scheme we will be introducing called 'Accelerated Reader'.

As always I am available at the start and end of most days either on the terrace or via the main office. I'm looking forward to the term ahead (even with the prospect of wild and windy weather on the horizon).

News and reminders

School meals have increased to £1.70 per day for years 3 to 6 and £1.50 per day for nursery. If anyone would like support with parent pay or needs advice on free school meals, please see Mr Davis in the office.

School uniform- A big thank you for sending your children into school looking smart and wearing the correct uniform. We have tried hard to make sure that our uniform is flexible and affordable. When children are not in uniform they stand out and it can often make them feel uncomfortable within the classroom. We do offer vouchers to support parents and often have lots of lost property, which we are happy to re-distribute where needed. Please be aware that the following IS NOT part of uniform and children will be reminded on a regular basis.

NOT uniform- Jeans, grey tracksuits, tracksuits with logos, high heeled shoes or boots, long earrings or necklaces, coloured or patterned tights.

We are on the lookout for a new parent governor. Governance has changed at Merlin Top and I am now inviting applications from any parent who feels they would like to contribute to further improvements at Merlin Top. If you are interested in becoming a governor, please see Mrs Rhodes who will be able provide to additional information and arrange a time to speak to myself.

Year 6 Booster Classes

As in previous years we will be offering additional booster sessions for Y6 in the run up to SATs tests in May. **Booster sessions will start in the week commencing Monday 22nd January.** These sessions are an important time for children to receive additional teaching in smaller groups. The sessions are run before school, after school and during lunchtimes. For all children who have 100% attendance at these sessions, special rewards and treats are agreed in advance. **We are also offering an information session for all parents on Tuesday 16th January 2:30pm.**

For pupils in Year 2 who have similar tests throughout May, we have deployed additional staff to support learning during class time. This will mainly be focussed on reading and comprehension skills. **We are offering an information session for parents on Monday 19th February 2:30pm,** where you will be able to look at past papers and we can offer practical advice about how to help at home without causing additional stress.

I do hope parents are able to attend. If anyone would like to discuss SATs with either myself or any member of the Y2 and Y6 teaching team, please don't hesitate in coming into school.



Dates for your Diary

Thursday 18th January

Free school meal for all children on this day to trial new menu.

Friday 19th January

Key stage 2 skipping extravaganza!

Thursday 25th January

Y6 performance of Billionaire Boy at kala Sangham (details to follow).

Monday 29th January

Year 2 Visit to Lego Land Discovery Centre and additional performance of Billionaire Boy for parents and families (2.00pm).

Friday 9th February

School closes for half term and re-opens on **Monday 19th February.**

School Contact Details

Tel: 01535 210028

Web: www.merlintopacademy.org

Email: office@merlintopacademy.org

Twitter: @Merlin_Top

Kitchen: 01535 610552