

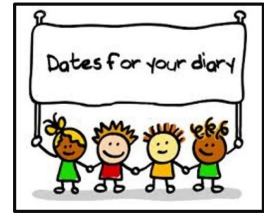


## Note from the Principal

Despite the cold weather and snow we will be giving out approximately 123 100% T-shirts next Wednesday. I know this has been a difficult term and the weather certainly makes everything much harder. Nevertheless, when school is open ALL children are expected to attend unless they are ill. Miss Whitcombe and Miss Lansbury-Palmer have reviewed all of our attendance data for this half term and a number of parents will be receiving letters (around 40 in total) regarding '**Persistent Absence**'. This is a definition applied to ALL children whose attendance falls below 90%. If you receive one of these letters, PLEASE make sure you take the time to attend as non-attendance and continued low attendance may result in fines being issued. This is in addition and different to the fines that are issued for holidays during term time. Generally speaking, this is not an option that schools want to take however the overall PA (Persistent absence) figure for Merlin Top is high at 11.5% when compared to the national average of 10.5%.

If your child is ill, please contact school as soon as possible to let us know, also please could you make sure we have correct contact details for your child.

If anyone would like to discuss attendance concerns with me, I am happy to see



## Dates for your Diary

### Saturday 24th March

Children from the school choir will be representing Merlin Top at the Ten Pieces festival in Saltaire—Mr Anderson, Mrs Grove & Mrs Heathcote will be escorting the children (watch out for tweets).

### Tuesday 27th March

Dr Bike Day—get your bike repaired for free for more details please see Mr Walters or Mr Collins.

### Wednesday 28th March

9:15am Attendance Assembly.

### Wednesday 28th March

School Closes for Easter and re-opens on **Monday 9th April**.

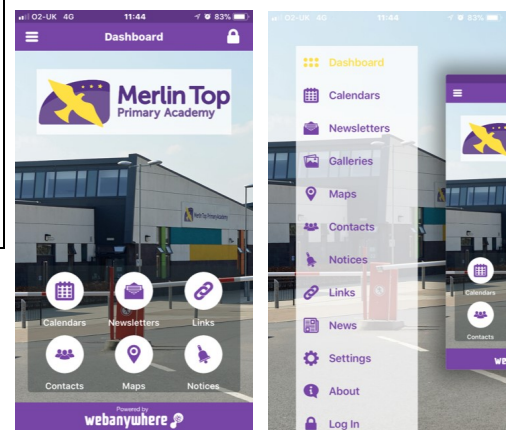
### Friday 13th April

KS2 skipping day.

## Merlin Top App

We have been working on developing our very own App. We are happy to report that it will be available to all parents immediately after the Easter holidays. The App will be available via the App store for both Apple and Android phones. The App is free. We are having an information session for parents on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm. During this session we will demonstrate how the App can be used and the type of information you will find. In order to make full use of the App parents will need a user name and password details, these will be provided during the meeting. For anyone who is unable to make the session user details can be obtained from Mr Davis in the main office.

The App will be a great way to find out what is happening at school, keep up to date with events and it can also be used to message school regarding illness and medicals. Messages will be free when users are connected to a Wi-Fi network. If anyone has any questions regarding the App, please don't hesitate in speaking to either myself or Mr Davis.



Screenshots of the new app

## Easter Activities

Attached to this newsletter is our annual Easter activity booklets. Please encourage your children to complete and return to school by Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. All children who complete and return the booklet will receive a small Easter egg and prizes are available for each class for the colouring section of the booklet.

## School Contact Details

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