



NOVEMBER 2017

Note from the Principal

Winter has arrived! The new luminous coats do look funny, they are however very warm and we have been grateful of their protection over the past few days. Please make sure you send your child to school in something warm; it can get really cold during the lunch break. Equally, suitable footwear, scarfs, gloves and hats can be essential when dealing with the weather at Merlin Top!

Thank you for the on-going support that you provide through the small but really important things you do for your children every day. Returning book bags, having the correct P.E kit, remembering glasses, swimming kits and coming to school every day in uniform is really helping to ensure that the children are progressing well. Year 6 in particular are a real credit both to themselves and parents. We have been very proud of their commitment, resilience and hard work this term. Please take the time to read the newsletter; there are lots of things happening in school this half term.

Attendance

Our average for last term was **96%**.

This is a huge improvement and puts Merlin Top inline with national averages.

On behalf of the attendance team a big 'thank you' to all parents who now let school know why there are children absent.

Please continue to notify school if your child is absent.

As a reminder ALL unauthorised holidays will result in a fine being issued.

If anyone is thinking of taking a holiday during term time they must see either myself or Miss Whitcombe and complete a holiday request form.

Parking

Please be reminded that Merlin Top parents cannot access our car park.

Please do not stop or park on the Yellow Hazard lines outside the school gates—they are in place for the safety of our children. Parking is allowed on the street but only in the designated areas.

PCSO's are on patrol in the area and will issue parking fines where required.

Children's Year of Safety

This term we are thinking about sleep and when it is appropriate for children to be indoors. We know that it starts to get dark around 5pm; children are safe when we know where they are and when they can be seen.

The message this term is be in before dark and make sure you have at least 8 hours sleep.

As part of teaching this message, we will be having a special themed week from Monday, with lots of activities linked to story telling and going to bed on time. Watch out for our new rest area in the main entrance and for a special gift.

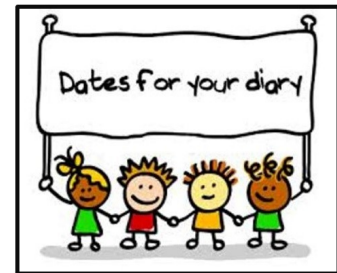
In return we have a favour to ask- do you have any 'old' pyjamas that can be donated? Sian (our artist) will be working with groups of children throughout this term to create a quilt.

Donations should be left with your child's class teacher.

Flu Vaccinations

Reception to Year 4 pupils will shortly be receiving consent forms for flu vaccinations, which will happen in school.

Please return these completed forms asap so your child is fully vaccinated.



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 5th December

All pupils from Reception to Year 4 will be offered the flu vaccination. Letters will follow shortly from Bradford NHS.

Friday 8th December

Phoenix Christmas Fair; as in previous years, children can be collected at 1pm and visit the fair at Phoenix. Children who are not collected will be taught as normal.

Monday 11th to Friday 15th December.

Christmas Tree Festival—please come along and support your favourite charity.

Wednesday 13th December

3:30pm Carols by Candlelight—more details to follow.

Wednesday 20th December

Nativity, 2 performances at 10am and 1:30pm.

Friday 22nd December

9:15am Attendance Assembly.
School closes 1pm and re-opens on **Monday 8th January.**

Junk Modelling

Reception and Nursery would appreciate any empty boxes, plastic cartons and similar items for their junk modelling.

School Contact Details

Tel: 01535 210028

Web: www.merlintopacademy.org

Email: office@merlintopacademy.org

Kitchen: 01535 610552