



**MELTHAM MOOR
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

NEWSLETTER

Friday 15th September 2023

Welcome BACK^{TO} SCHOOL

Hello and Welcome Back

I hope you and your families have had a lovely summer break. A special welcome to our new parents and carers of reception and nursery children. The children have settled beautifully and we have been very impressed with them. We have had a super start across school. Everybody has settled well and there is a buzz of enthusiasm around school. We have lots of fabulous learning planned and I am confident that we are going to have another very successful year.

Welcome to our new Year 6 teacher, Claire Gibson and new nursery staff, Lana Walker.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or anything you would like to discuss (including the positives!), please speak to a member of the staff team and we will always be glad to help. I will be working in my new role across the primary schools in the Trust on Mondays and Tuesdays. Mrs Marshall is headteacher on these days in my absence. Mrs Marshall or I will be in the playground most mornings if you would like a chat and we also operate an open-door policy, therefore will gladly speak to people if we are available. Appointments can also be made via our Dojo communication system or through the school office.

Open Afternoon

Parents, carers and grandparents are warmly invited to an Open Afternoon on Wednesday 27th September. This will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's new class teacher and join in with the children's learning. Younger siblings will be allowed in the classes; however, please can we ask that the children are closely supervised so they don't disrupt the teaching and learning, and that they don't run around the hall (for health and safety reasons). Parents and carers should arrive through the main entrance at 1.30 pm so that they can sign in and we can ensure registers have been completed. We ask that people leave the classrooms at 2.30 pm. Following the session in classes, refreshments will be available and there will be a brief talk about our reading strategy in school and how this can be supported at home. Year 6 will also have a brief meeting to discuss the Cliffe House residential trip. Children can then be collected from the playground as usual at 3.15. We look forward to seeing you all.

Communication

This is the first newsletter of the year. Newsletters are one of the most important ways we communicate with parents. As previously, they will be sent by email and posted on Class Dojo and the website every other Friday, the next one being Friday 29th September. Class Dojo is being used as our main platform of communication so please keep checking this. Important information will also be sent via email. We are also on Twitter where you can follow us and receive the latest school news and information - you will find us at @melthamoor. The texting facility is only used for very important information or emergency communication.





Attendance, Absence Routine and Unauthorised Absence Reminders

Regular attendance and punctuality are considered very important at Meltham Moor Primary School – not only does it help our pupils to build and strengthen firm relationships with their peers and members of staff, it is also a proven factor in better attainment. Good attendance (above 96%) is essential if children are to make good progress in their learning.

A reminder of our system for managing pupil absence: We ask parents to telephone or email before 9.00am to let us know when children are absent. When children are not in school and we have not had any message or contact from a parent, our policy is to telephone the contact numbers before 9.30am or as soon as possible. We will then send a text requesting contact to be made. If we have not received communication from parents by 10.00am a home visit will be made. If this is unsuccessful, we then may log a "Safe and Well" call to the Police, in line with Kirklees safeguarding procedures. We hope this will help to reassure parents about children's safe arrival and also aid our absence management. One important element is for parents/carers to ensure we have up-to-date contact numbers – please send these in if they have changed recently – they are also vital for emergency contact.

As you will be aware, in line with our Attendance Policy, holiday requests are not authorised unless parents have written evidence that they are prevented from taking holidays outside term-time and if the holiday will have minimal disruption to the pupil's education. As communicated throughout last year, all unauthorised absence of 5 consecutive days (10 half day sessions) or more will result in an automatic penalty notice and a fine. This is in line with Trust Attendance policy, which is available from the school office.

The penalty notice is for £60.00, for each parent of each child*, if paid within 21 days, and £120 if paid after this date but within 28 days. Failure to pay the penalty notice could result in the Local Authority starting legal proceedings against you for the offence of not ensuring your child's regular attendance at school. If you are found guilty of the offence you may be fined up to £1,000, and you will receive a criminal record.

PLEASE NOTE: Repeated instances of leave of absence may result in the matter being directly prosecuted through the Magistrates Court, as stated in our Attendance Policy.

Reception Reading Meeting

There will be a Stay and Play session taking place in our Reception class on Wednesday 20th September, followed by a Reading Meeting at 2.40 pm. We look forward to seeing you then!





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Full Days at Meltham Moor Nursery

We are off to a flying start with our full time sessions in nursery! Over half of our children are accessing full day places from 8.50am until 3pm. They have all settled in very quickly and are enjoying eating lunch in nursery with their friends. We do believe our nursery provides a fantastic start for our children at Meltham Moor. It supports them to settle quickly into school life and make important early friendships.

15 Hours: Free for all children the term after they turn 3.

30 Hours: Working parents can claim 30 hours of FREE childcare. Check your eligibility at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

Additional half days: £15

Lunch Club: Extend until 1pm for just £5 per day

You can apply for a nursery place online at <https://www.melthamoor.org/apply-nursery>



Asthma Care Plans

As it is the beginning of the school year, Asthma Healthcare Plans will be reviewed next week for any children who are on our system as having asthma. Please look out for a letter that your child will bring home next week. If your child has been newly diagnosed as having asthma, please ensure that the office staff are made aware of this and a Healthcare Plan will have to be completed.

Reading Friends

We currently have a small number of very dedicated reading volunteers who do a fabulous job of listening to the children read. Something class teachers have difficulty finding the time to do. Reading is the cornerstone to all other learning and can bring huge enjoyment to the children. It is vital that all children leave us as fluent, confident readers. If this is something that you feel you can help with, even if it's just a couple of hours a week, we would be very grateful. You will need a DBS, which is free and easy to complete. Please contact the school office if you are interested or would like more information. Many thanks

HELP!



Bikeability

Year 6 have completed the Bikeability course this week, learning how to be safe whilst riding on the roads. They all enjoyed the experience and I am told that many displayed a high level of skill. Once again the comments from the instructors were that the behaviour and attitudes of the children were very good and they had really enjoyed working at our school. Well done Year 6!



Contact Numbers

Please ensure that we have at least two up to date emergency contact numbers in school at all times. Please advise the office staff of any changes.

Diary Dates

Tues 19th Sept - PTA AGM - 3.30 pm
(all welcome)

Wed 20th Sept - School Photos (individual)

Wed 27th Sept - Open Afternoon

Thurs 26th Oct - Progress Evening/Parents' Evening

Wed 22nd Nov - Teachers' Open Door Meeting
(parents/carers can pop in to see the class teacher between 3.15 and 4.15 pm)

Thurs 23rd Nov - School Disco