



**MELTHAM MOOR
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

NEWSLETTER

Friday 29th September 2023



Open Afternoon

On Wednesday we held our first Open Afternoon of the school year. Thanks to all those parents, carers, grandparents, brothers and sisters who came to school and joined in with the learning in classes. From art, to engineering, to PE, to maths - there was lots to get involved in. We planned for this to be a great opportunity to meet your child's new teacher .



We hope you also enjoyed a cuppa and a biscuit (or two!) whilst finding out about the teaching of reading at Meltham Moor and how this can be supported at home.

We truly do feel very lucky to have such a wonderful partnership with our families. Thank you for coming - we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

Enriching the Curriculum

We aim to provide frequent, varied and exciting enrichment opportunities for all children in all year groups. These opportunities are designed to engage children's learning and to give them enjoyable experiences and knowledge of the world. Enrichment gives children opportunities to try new and varied activities that may not strictly fit into the curriculum, but that develop our school values (and values for life) such as aspiration, compassion, confidence, resilience and love of learning.

In KS1 and KS2 each class will have a significant trip out at some point over the year. In addition, each class will engage in several other enrichment activities, such as workshops or visitors into school, local walks, visits to places of worship, visits in the community, 'lambing live' etc.

Children in Early Years will have a separately planned programme of enrichment that will be communicated to you by the year group teachers.

We are just finalising plans and bookings for this year and will then communicate these plans to parents/carers (hopefully by half term). This means you will have plenty of notice as to what is coming up. Paid for trips will then be added to Parent Pay giving parents/carers a longer period of time to pay and give consent. We always aim to keep the cost down to as low as is possible. It is often transport costs that are the most costly!

Watch out for our finalised enrichment plans coming soon.





MELTHAM MOOR
PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 29th September 2023



Supporting Your Child With Reading At Home

Parents hear all the time that it's important to read to kids. But why exactly is that? The benefits of reading together go far beyond learning to read.

Reading to young children is an important way to help them build language skills. It exposes them to new words and ways of using language. It also helps them learn general information about the world, which makes it easier for them to learn about new subjects once they get to school.

Books also help children build empathy and learn how to handle challenging feelings. Parents can use reading time as a chance to talk about emotions and how to cope with them. For example, you might say: "Have you ever felt as angry as the girl in this book? What would you do if you did?"

Even a few minutes of reading together gives you and your child a chance to slow down and connect with each other. The experience of sitting with you and hearing your voice also engages their brain in a way that makes learning easier.

There's no one right way to read to your child. You can read to them in any language, or multiple languages. You can do it at the same time every day or change up the routine. Whatever works for you. The important thing is for your child to hear words and language and to have books be part of their daily life. Any steps you're able to take can make a big difference.

Here at Meltham Moor, every child in school is given a reading scheme book at a level that is assessed as appropriate to them. Please can you support your child to read this book.

There is nothing wrong with reading a book more than once- in fact we actively encourage it.

- First time to decode the words (sound them out using phonetic knowledge).
- Second time for fluency (accuracy).
- Third time for understanding (to discuss and ask questions about what happens)

The children will also choose a reading for pleasure book. This may be a book they need to share with an adult, read together or even have read to them-these books are entirely the children's choice and are chosen for pleasure rather than to match their ability level.

Ideally, we'd love every child to read every day but we know how busy family life can get. Please aim for 3 or 4 times a week at least. Each class has their own days for changing reading books, which will have been communicated to you. The older children can change their own book whenever they return them but the books will be checked once a week.

Ways to help your early readers at home:

- Work on listening skills.
- Practise segmenting (robot talk) and blending.
- Look for familiar sounds and words in the world around you.
- Watch the phonics videos on Class Dojo and learn the patters with your child.
- Practise new sounds and graphemes.
- When your child begins to come home with books try to read with your child every day.





Lost Property

There are a number of items in our Lost Property which are not labelled so cannot be returned to their owners. Please pop into the office if your child has lost something since the start of term.

Please also ensure that all items of uniform are clearly labelled so if they are found around school, they can be returned to their owner.



PTA Help

The PTA AGM took place last week and a few new parents attended, but the PTA are always looking for new members or just extra help with fundraising events etc.

If you would like to get involved or just find out more, please e-mail the PTA directly on pta@melthammoor.

Any help is much appreciated!

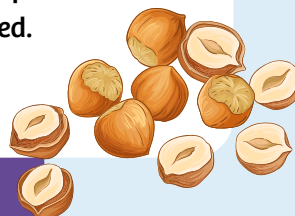
HELP!

School Council

We are delighted to say that we will once again be organising a School Council so that the children are able to have their say in making school an even better place to learn. Each class in Years 1-6 will have two pupil representatives who will attend fortnightly meetings with Mrs Woodfield, to discuss matters important to them and their class, in order to make improvements to our school. The children are being asked to prepare a poster or make a speech to present to their class – this might be something nice to do over the half-term break. Presentations and elections will take place week commencing 16th October and the results will be announced week commencing Monday 23rd October. The children will be informed about the process in an assembly next week. I am looking forward to working with the School Council once again, as their support has proved invaluable in the past.

Allergies

Just a reminder that packed lunches and any other food items brought into school should not include any whole nuts/seeds or nut based products. Items which 'may contain traces of nuts' or produced in a factory that handles nuts, are allowed.



Diary Dates

Thurs 5th Oct - French Themed Lunch

Wed 18th to 20th Oct - Cliffe House Residential
- Year 6

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