



Meole Brace
C of E Primary School and Nursery



HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER

October 2024

CURRICULUM



Thank you to those parents/carers who attended the Reading and Phonics Workshops. We hope you found them helpful and that they provided some insight into how we teach phonics and reading as the children move up through the school, while providing some guidance on how you can support this. It was lovely to see you enjoying some books and activities with your children at the end as well.

Please don't worry if you were unable to attend – we appreciate how difficult it can be in a working day. The presentations from the three events are on our website, along with a wealth of resources and information about how you can help the children, in the 'Supporting Your Child at Home' section of the English curriculum pages. Don't forget to read our half-termly Reading Newsletters for updates and further guidance!



ONLINE SAFETY

Children across the school learn how to keep themselves safe online through our PSHE and Computing curriculum, but the responsibility to protect them remains with us, the adults. We can do this through careful supervision of their use of devices that can access the internet and by putting clear boundaries in place. It can be difficult to keep up with all of the latest technology and the potential risks it brings however, so please look out for our monthly Online Safety Newsletters for help and support. West Mercia Police is also offering some free parent/carer training:



Protect our children!

Parents and guardians: Our kids are now most commonly abused online, via their mobile phones and games consoles. Do you know how to keep your kids safe?

Learn more about the dangers of kids being online and how you can keep them safe. Join our free one hour online parent awareness session to give yourself a head start in an ever changing digital world.

Scan the QR code to find out more about our awareness training and to sign up to one of our free sessions or go to www.westmercia.police.uk/exploitworkshops



John Campbell
Police and Crime Commissioner
West Mercia

SPORTS TEAMS & FIXTURES



A number of children have already been out to represent the school this year, with football taking centre stage at the beginning of the year. The girls and boys teams have been busy with the fixtures coming thick and fast and I am delighted to share that our Under 11 Girls team came out as overall winners in their most recent competition.

Most importantly however, each of the children have let their lights shine and displayed our school values of community, respect and perseverance in each of the games they have played. Visit the [Sports Teams and Fixtures](#) page of the website to keep right up to date with all the events.



SAFEGUARDING



At the beginning of the term, the children participated in the NSPCC “Speak out. Stay safe.” programme. Through the interactive assemblies, they learned more about how to keep themselves safe and to speak up if they are worried about anything. The NSPCC website also offers a range of resources to support you as parents/carers with its [PANTS](#) and [Pantosaurus](#) materials to guide conversations that can help prevent abuse, along with advice on a variety of topics including [early parenting and managing family life](#).



ATTENDANCE



As a school, we have a duty of care and safeguarding responsibility to closely monitor every child's attendance. Attending school is extremely important and the government has a target that they expect all children of compulsory school age to attend school for at least 96%+ of the year. Good attendance is incredibly important for a child's academic success and social and emotional wellbeing.

While it may seem insignificant if a child often misses days in school or is regularly late, it can quickly add up meaning they miss out on learning, which can then be difficult to catch up on. Being late can also cause anxiety as they enter the classroom feeling unprepared and possibly embarrassed.

For example, 90% attendance might sound reasonable but in fact this equates to 20 school days off each year – the children learn and experience a huge amount in 20 days! The table above shows what different attendance percentages work out to be in terms of actual school days missed.

If you ever have difficulty in getting your child into school for any reason, please come and speak to us as we are here to help and support.



Be at the classroom on time and ready to learn!



ACTIVE TRAVEL - THE WOW CHALLENGE



After half term our school is going to be taking part in a challenge with other schools across Shrewsbury to get active and walk, cycle or scoot to school. The children will record their mode of transport each day and earn points and badges for active travel.

For those children who have to travel by car, they can still earn points if their parents/carers park away from school (for example in the Brooklands' car park) and walk or actively travel the rest of the way. It would be great to see as many people get involved as possible for everyone's health and to reduce the danger outside school.

ACTIVE TRAVEL CONTINUED



As mentioned in my letter this week about the gas mains works, cars and congestion outside of school at drop-off and pick-up continue to be an issue and it is an increasing safety concern. I urge all parents/carers to consider active travel (walking, cycling or scooting) wherever possible and I would also remind you that if you park on the yellow zig-zag lines, you are not only parking inconsiderately, you are parking illegally.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Half Term break – Week beginning Monday 28th October
- PD Day (School closed to all pupils) – Monday 4th November
- Arthog Information Meeting – Thursday 7th November – 5.00pm
- Children in Need (Non-uniform day) – Friday 15th November
- EYFS Open Evening – Wednesday 20th November – 4.00 – 5.30pm
- Arthog Residential Visit (Year 6) – Wednesday 27th – Friday 29th November
- Year 3 & 4 Christmas performances – Monday 2nd December – 1.30 and 5.30pm
- Year 1 & 2 Christmas performances – Wednesday 4th December – 1.30 and 5.30pm
- Reception Christmas performance – Thursday 5th December – 1.30pm
- Year 5 & 6 Christmas performances – Tuesday 10th December – 1.30 and 5.30pm
- Nursery Christmas performance – Wednesday 11th December – 2.15pm
- Christmas Fair – Thursday 12th December – 3.30 – 5.30pm

TERM DATES 2024/2025

September 2024		October 2024		November 2024		December 2024		January 2025	
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February 2025		March 2025		April 2025		May 2025		June 2025	
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July 2025		August 2025				
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School Holiday									
Bank Holiday	8								
PD Days	8								

Autumn 1st Half	39 days
Autumn 2nd Half	34 days
Spring 1st Half	29 days
Spring 2nd Half	35 days
Summer 1st Half	18 days
Summer 2nd Half	35 days
Staff Total	196 days
Pupil Total	190 days

(Pupils are required to attend for 190 days)

2024/2025

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This year's term dates are also available on our [website](#), where you will find a full calendar of [events](#) which is updated throughout the year.