



Merrylands

Primary School and Nursery

Growth through Learning

Part of the Berlesduna Academy Trust

Welcome

On beginning their education at Merrylands Primary School and Nursery, children become part of a friendly, co-operative environment where there is an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. Each child is made to feel that they have a vitally important role to play in school life.

Merrylands Primary School was opened in 1977 to serve Laidon West (being the area bound between Laidon High Road and Lower Dunton Road, the railway line and West Mayne). The school accommodation includes classrooms, two assembly halls, a library, a purpose built technology room, curriculum resource areas and administrative facilities. The grounds are pleasantly landscaped with five playgrounds and an outside learning area for the youngest children. In addition there is a large playing field that the children can enjoy at lunchtimes (weather permitting) as well as for sporting events.

‘Our children have settled well at Merrylands. Very pleased with their progress and highly recommend Merrylands to others’

Year 4 Parent

Aims and Values

Merrylands Primary School and Nursery is a place where everybody is a valued individual and where all staff strive individually and collectively, to achieve their best in all aspects of school life.

We will achieve this through:

- teams working together
- the development of independent learners and thinkers
- a secure, safe and caring learning environment
- an exciting, stimulating and flexible curriculum
- respect and success for all
- encouraging self-confident, curiosity and the freedom to explore
- a partnership between staff, parents and the wider community
- a well-trained and highly motivated staff, who demonstrate high expectations and aspirations for every child

At Merrylands, all staff work closely together to ensure there is a safe, secure and supportive environment where children will be happy and well cared for. Our Behaviour Policy is based on a positive approach and each September classes compile a set of rules, rewards and sanctions for the academic year. It is important that home and school work closely together and we will liaise with and consult parents if difficulties arise.

Curriculum

At Merrylands Primary School and Nursery we deliver a broad and balanced curriculum with experienced staff, trained to a high level. In addition to gaining language, mathematical, scientific and technological skills, your child will build confidence, self-esteem, learn to make decisions and develop the ability to articulate feelings and ideas. We also attach great importance to the development of children's social skills and seek to enable them to build relationships with other children and adults.

We enable pupils to develop basic skills and to use and apply these skills meaningfully within a broad and balanced curriculum. Our approach is mostly topic related, based on the development of skills in the National Curriculum.

All children learn in mixed ability classes but within each class children are grouped according to ability for English and Mathematics lessons. Pupils are taught in a variety of ways – individually, in groups or as a whole class. All teachers strive to make learning active and meaningful and give plenty of opportunities for discussion and reflection.

'My child is very happy at school – her confidence has grown so much this year and she is making really good progress'

Year 5 Parent

Beyond the classroom

Merrylands Primary School and Nursery plays an active part in the wider community and parents and visitors are always welcome. Similarly, children are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities provide by the school and local organisations. The range varies according to the interests and abilities of the adults and the age of the children involved. These extra-curricular activities are run before school, during lunchtime and after school.

Active learning, educational visits, visiting experts and outdoor work are important parts of learning throughout the school.

All children are expected to read regularly at home. We encourage parents to read aloud to their children throughout their primary years. Other homework, including spellings, number bonds and times tables are sent home regularly with the children alongside relevant English and Mathematics activities.

‘I feel Merrylands is always working to do the best for its children’

Year 6 Parent

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