



MERRYLANDS

PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Cumberland Drive, Basildon, Essex SS15 6QS
Phone: 01268 417893 Email: admin@merrylands-pri.essex.sch.uk
Website: www.merrylandsprimaryschool.co.uk

9th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we enter the second half of the Autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to share some notices and updates with you.

Parking

Many cars are parked on pavements or blocking residents' access, particularly at the end of the school day and this in turn becomes a hazardous journey for families and the community. Should there be a need to drive to school then parking a little further away and walking helps to reduce congestion. The School Council and Eco Warriors have raised it as a concern and are keen to start our 3PR Road Safety Initiative again. Please help us to make the local area road safe.

Attendance

It is essential that children arrive promptly to start the school day and attend regularly. The gates open at 8.30 am and there is a window of 15 minutes 8.40-8.55 am to enable all families to arrive on time. If you are experiencing difficulties, then please let us know.

School Uniform

All items should be clearly marked with your child's name. Full school uniform and plain black school shoes is expected, and a list can be found on the school website. Trainers will not be permitted (other than plain black with no markings). If you have any difficulty or require further information regarding uniform, please email admin@merrylands-pri.essex.sch.uk.

Bows and headbands should be small and worn to match school uniform colours only. Earrings should be small gold/silver coloured studs only and must be removed for PE days if your child is unable to remove them. Staff are not permitted to remove them.

Coats

Despite the warmer than usual start to the school year, it is now verging on winter with temperatures dropping. All children should wear a coat particularly for break and lunch time play.

Staff absence

We are currently experiencing higher than average staff absence due to illness other than Covid. As always, we will endeavour to keep disruption to a minimum.

Supporting and Learning Together sessions

Thank you to all the parents/carers who have supported these sessions so far. Attendance has been exceptionally high and from the feedback we can see that you are finding the sessions beneficial. If you are unable to attend, then information will be available for you to access via the school website. Additional sessions have been scheduled and we are aiming to continue these into the new year.



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Christmas

COVID 19 cases are low in the school; we are still planning to hold our Christmas performances for Reception and Year 1 but continue to monitor the situation. Should the Local Authority or Government guidance change then the performances will be recorded for parents/carers to view.

Dates are as follows:

Reception: Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th December (2pm)

Year 1: Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th December (2pm)

Outdoor Education and Environmental Sustainability

We held another successful Outdoor Learning Day last week and had a very positive response from the children across the school. The Eco Warriors and School Council are currently looking at ways to preserve energy around the school and year groups are keen to begin work on the new raised beds that will form part of the nature area in front of the new build. We also have a recycling team up and running working with Mr Thomas and the kitchen staff are looking at how we can reduce food waste.

Reception Garden

The reception garden has been expanded and we are now looking to further develop this area to create various learning zones. We have also had some volunteers come forward to help create the garden for Reception and look forward to seeing this develop - thank you in advance.

We look forward to working with you over the next half term leading up to Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Robinson