

Dear parents/ carers,

Upcoming Events

April

Tuesday 23rd April

Monday 29th April

Wednesday 24th – Friday 26th April



School opens
Swimming lessons start Y6
Kingswood residential visit

May

Monday 6th May

Thursday 9th May

Wk beginning 13th May

Wk beginning 20th May

Friday 24th May

Friday 24th May



May Day public holiday
Class photographs
Y6 test & whole school assessment week
Whole school writing workshops
Kingswood assembly, 9am
School closes

Spring Celebration

A huge “Thank You” to all the parents and friends who came along to our ‘Spring Celebration’ assembly at the end of last term. It was lovely to see so many of you there and it was wonderful to hear everyone’s lovely comments afterwards.

As always the Easter bonnets and decorated eggs were really creative and impressive and it was incredibly difficult to choose winners. Here’s a few photographs of some of the fantastic decorated eggs and Easter bonnets.



Wonderful Writing Winner!

Congratulations to Molly from Y2 who won the Manchester Airport writing competition with her amazing story, ‘Sophie and Evie’s Airport Adventure.’ The competition was open to all schools in Greater Manchester and Molly’s story was chosen as the overall winner out of thousands of entries. As a result all children in school will experience a workshop with Gabrielle Dow a book creator from Fantastic Fiction Factory and everyone will contribute to our very own book! Gabrielle will work with each class in school from Nursery to Y6 during the week beginning 20th May to get ideas and to support the writing and illustrations. The book will then be published and every child can have a copy for £5. Ms Mather will write to you soon with further details.

Kingswood Visit & Assembly

From 24th – 26th April

a group of 40 children

from Years 5 & 6

along with 6 members

of staff will go on a

residential visit to Kingswood Peak

Venture outdoor activity centre near

Sheffield. When they are there they will

experience activities such as raft-

building, outdoor laser, bouldering,

canoeing, 3 G swing, archery, problem-

solving and lots more.



We will be holding a special assembly to share what they do on Friday 24th May and parents of the children involved are very welcome to attend. We are beginning to plan for next year’s trip, either at Kingswood or possibly a new venue with similar activities, so if you have a child in Year 3, 4 or 5 and would like to find out more or reserve a place please come along too. Places are limited to between 30-40 children with preference initially given to current Year 5 children. You can find out lots more info from this link!

<https://www.kingswood.co.uk/activities-centres/peak-venture/>

STEM Workshops

On Thursday 25th April when many of our upper key stage 2 children and staff are at Kingswood we’ve got some visitors in school delivering “Thinking Like An Engineer” STEM workshops to the other Y5 children and to our Y4 class. They will be doing lots of exciting activities such as coding drones and sferos. We have arranged this to link with our school improvement target 3 about improving knowledge and skills in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics ...and just to have a bit of fun! Children will also be developing other skills such as team building, communication, problem-solving, resilience and much more.



Thank You!

Last term we had several charity and fundraising events. On World Book Day we collected donations of £154.76 for Book Aid International <http://www.bookaid.org/> an organisation which works to create “a world where everyone has access to books that will enrich, improve and change their lives.”

We also raised £277.62 from the sale of red noses and donations for Comic Relief and our Spring Fair made a profit of £612.00 for the Friends of Mersey Vale. This money will be used towards things such as helping with costs of class trips, the Nursery/ Reception fun day and extra equipment in school. Thanks to all the parents and carers who donated cakes and food. A special mention as always to Ms. Blair for organising things so well and to the other parents and family members who helped to set up the hall and run stalls on the day. This was very much appreciated. Thank you for your support!



Assessment Tests

During May/ June most children will be taking part in school based tests and national tests and tasks. Please make sure that your child is in school and punctual every day unless they are ill. These tests, along with ongoing teacher assessment, help us as to identify improvement targets for school, classes and individual children. The outcome of this process will be recorded on your child's end of year report.

Relationships Education, Relationships & Sex Education and Health Education

Last term we held a really informative online safety session for 15 parents led by Tanya Cross, Stockport's Schools Health & Well Being Adviser. This covered aspects such as; online relationships; keeping children safe and it gave parents lots of helpful advice. At the end of the session Tanya offered to further support school in reviewing our Relationships Education, Relationships & Sex Education and Health Education curriculum.

We want to ensure that we are in the best position to promote the well-being of all our pupils. It is important that young people are able to make informed decisions about relationships, and that they have the positive attitudes and skills they need to become responsible adults. We recognise that this can be a sensitive subject and as a school we want to work with parents and carers to develop our curriculum to ensure we are providing our children with the best possible learning opportunities within statutory guidelines.

Following on from the e-safety session many parents expressed interest in being part of a working party which will meet early in May and we will then share information with our wider parental community. If you have any questions or concerns that you would like the working party to consider please contact any of our parent governors by letter via the school office, by speaking with them directly or by emailing them; gov.mehvosh.akhtar@merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk; gov.stephen.bray@merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk; gov.tim.gough@merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk; gov.angela.obrien@merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk. There is also a “We Welcome Your Views” box in the main school entrance where you can post your comments or views.

As always, if you have any questions or would like more information please let us know.

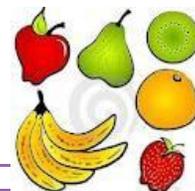
Dinner Money

For Year 3 – Year 6 children only. Dinner money is £2.15 per day/ £10.75 per week which must be paid in advance to ensure that your child receives their school meal. Please make payments using Parentpay. Meals can be paid for in advance for the half term 23rd April - 24th May = 23 days = £49.45. Please see Mrs. Ahmed in the school office for any information about school dinners. She is available Monday – Friday 8.45am – 12.45pm.



Healthy Snacks

At Mersey Vale we have a system of healthy snacks for children to have at morning break. We offer a variety of snacks including wholemeal toast, pitta bread, crumpets, pieces of fresh fruit, raisins, fruit juice drinks, water etc. Most children have two items each day (snack and drink) and this costs £2.50 per week and should be paid using Parentpay. Children who prefer to bring their own snack may bring healthy items but chocolate biscuits, crisps, sweets and



fizzy drinks should not be brought as snacks. Our school policy is that children should only have healthy snacks at morning playtime. Please help your child to make healthy choices. Snacks can be paid for in advance for the half term 23rd April - 24th May = 23 days = £11.50.

Trainee Teachers

At Mersey Vale we work in partnership with Manchester University to provide placements for trainee teachers. They work under the guidance of experienced staff and they are monitored by a mentor and a tutor. This term Ms. Barrett will be teaching in Y2 and Ms. Murphy will be teaching in Y3. Please do say "hello" to them.



Punctuality and Attendance

Well done to all those children, parents and carers who make a special effort to be at school and on time every day. Last term an amazing 50 children achieved 100% attendance and received a certificate in our Spring Celebration assembly. Attendance overall is improving although there are still some parents who take their children out of school on holiday during term time. These absences are not authorised unless there is an exceptionally good reason and parents can receive an education penalty notice and a fine of £60 per parent, per child if they take holiday without authorisation.

There are also some children who are often late for school, arriving after the bell has gone at 8.55am. It is important to understand that all absence and lateness affects your child's learning and it can be very disruptive to the rest of the class.

We would like to remind parents that if your child cannot attend school for any reason it is your responsibility to let school know on each day of absence. You can call into the school office, phone 442 7535 or email headteacher@merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk.

Summer Sun



We're sure that everyone is looking forward to some sunshine! Please can we ask you to ensure that your child has a sun hat/ cap and is wearing sun screen when we have hot, sunny days?

Children spend time outside every day at breaks, lunchtimes and during outdoor Physical Education sessions and we don't want them to get sunburnt. It's also a good idea for your child to bring a water bottle to school so that they can keep themselves refreshed and not get thirsty. This can be refilled by the children using the school drinking fountains during the day.

P.E. Kit Reminder

Please make sure that your child has their P.E. kit in school on the days when they do P.E. It is especially important on warmer days that children change out of their school uniform and into their P.E. kit of shorts and t-shirt. Children also require trainers (not pumps) for outdoor games.

School Website & Prospectus

Reminder...you can find out lots of information about school on our website and in our prospectus which are both updated regularly [Mersey Vale Primary School Website](#) [Mersey Vale Primary School Prospectus](#)

Yours faithfully,

Jayne Mullane
Headteacher

Claire Varetto
Deputy Headteacher

