

Dear parents/ carers,

As you know I am leaving Mersey Vale at the end of this term, so this is likely to be my very last newsletter to you. It has been a difficult term with school being open from January only for vulnerable children and those of critical workers, and with most children learning remotely, but it is fantastic that all children were able to return to school last week. It is lovely to see children back where they belong; learning and playing with their friends. There is a real buzz in school and children and staff appear to be very happy to be back! Thank you to everyone who helps to keep our school community safe by following the Government guidance and our own procedures.

Although things are far from normal and we continue to follow the DfE guidance and additional protective measures in school, we want to make the experience for children as great as it can be. We are offering a range of indoor and outdoor learning to deliver an ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum including sports, music, Forest School and PSHE activities alongside more formal learning to ensure that children stay on track in English, Mathematics and other subjects.

Upcoming Events

Friday 19th March
Wk. bg. 22nd March
Friday 26th March

Non-uniform – bring £1 for Comic Relief
Parent/ teacher consultation meetings
School closes



Summer Term 2021

Monday 12th April
Wk. Bg 12th April

School opens
'We are readers' theme week



School Year 2021/ 2022

For your information below are the school term dates for next year when all children are expected to be in school. We do not authorise holidays during term time so please do not arrange any holidays during these dates.

Autumn 1	Wednesday 1 st September – Friday 22 nd October 2021
Autumn 2	Monday 1 st November – Wednesday 22 nd December 2021
Spring 1	Thursday 6 th January – Friday 11 th February 2022
Spring 2	Monday 21 st February – Friday 1 st April 2022
Summer 1	Tuesday 19 th April – Friday 27 th May 2022
Summer 2	Monday 13 th June – Thursday 28 th July 2022

The following dates are in-service training (INSET) days when school will be closed to pupils to allow staff training.

1. Wednesday 1st September 2021
2. Monday 1st November 2021
3. Wednesday 22nd December 2021
4. Monday 13th June 2022
5. Thursday 28th July 2022

Comic Relief 2021

Friday 19th March will be a non-uniform day in school and we ask that children bring a £1 donation for Comic Relief. The money raised goes to supporting many, many projects which improve the lives of millions of people in the UK and around the world.



We have registered with Comic Relief and on Friday our School Council members will be helping to lead an assembly with their class. Children will also take part in curriculum-linked learning and fun activities in their bubbles.

Staffing News

Ms. Whiteley will be leaving Mersey Vale at Easter to take up a post as a specialist reading and phonics teacher at another Stockport primary school. She has worked at Mersey Vale since 2014 and currently teaches here for three days each week. I would like to thank Ms. Whiteley for her service to our school over the past 6 years and wish her every happiness in her new role. Mrs. Hussain who joined our staff team in January, will teach Y2 on Mondays and Tuesdays and Reception on Fridays from after the Easter holiday.



As Ms. Whitehead will be taking up post as the new Headteacher after the Easter holiday we have appointed Mr. Kingsley, a very experienced teacher, to teach our Y6 class for the summer term. We are confident that he will ensure that Y6 have a successful and happy last term at Mersey Vale. More information regarding this will be sent in a letter to all parents in Reception, Y2 and Y6 next week.

Parent/ carer consultations 22nd – 26th March

Our spring term parent/ carer consultation meetings with class teachers will take place next week. This will be an opportunity to discuss how children have settled back into school, how they engaged with remote education and to identify their strengths as well as any gaps in their learning.

The meetings will be held virtually using the SchoolCloud system which we used in November and further information about how to book appointments will be issued very soon.



'We are Readers' week 12th – 16th April



Since September 2019 improving phonics and reading has been one of our school improvement targets. This area is led in school by Ms Mather. As part of this work she has organised a theme week focused on promoting the enjoyment of reading and improving children's reading skills.

During the week beginning 12th April children will take part in a range of activities including workshops delivered by authors and storytellers as well as dressing up as a book character. Our School Council will be sending out a letter giving more information soon.

There are now just 8 school days left until I leave Mersey Vale and it is starting to feel quite real. I have a mix of emotions. I will be very sad to leave and I will deeply miss our whole school community. I have spent over 18 very happy and enjoyable years here since I joined as Deputy Headteacher and Y5/ Y6 teacher in 2002 and have loved being Headteacher of our wonderful school for the past 16 years. During this time it has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with you and your children. Our Mersey Vale family will always hold a special place in my heart. I am also really excited and looking forward to being able to spend more time with my own family and to travelling and doing lots of other things which I love as restrictions lift.



Our school logo and ethos is centred around "Working Together for a Brighter Future". I believe that this is so important, not just for Mersey Vale, but for the wider community and society as a whole. It is by working together, understanding each other's views and needs and by trying to improve things for everyone that we can achieve a brighter future. Thank you for the part that you each play in this and for your continued support.

I hope to be able to see you at the gates before I leave to say a socially-distanced "goodbye" in person. If I do not have a chance to see you though I wish you, your families and our school a very happy and successful future. I am certain that Mersey Vale will go from strength to strength with Ms Whitehead as the new Headteacher, Ms Varetto as Deputy Headteacher and with the support of our whole staff team and our Governing Body.

Yours faithfully,

Jayne Mullane
Headteacher
