

### Upcoming Events

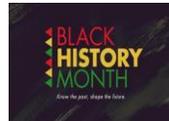
#### September

Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> – Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Exceptional closure to children/ Teacher Training Day
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	School opens to Y1 – Y6 children
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Reception 'Stay & Play' sessions
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Reception induction sessions begin
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Current Nursery children return to Nursery
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> September	New Nursery children 'Stay and Play' sessions
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Nursery induction sessions begin
Wk. beginning 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Courage & Creativity Week
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	International Dot Day
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Parent partnership virtual meeting, 2pm
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Theme Day – European Day of Languages



#### October

October	Black History Month
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Bring donations or donate online for The Wellspring
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Hello Yellow – World Mental Health Day
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	School photographs
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	School closes
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Teacher Training Day 2
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	School opens



### Welcome back to a new school year!

Welcome back everyone! It has been an exceptionally long time since March when all children were able to attend school and it is so lovely to be reopening all classes. We would also like to welcome all the new children and their parents/carers in our Nursery, Reception and other classes throughout the school. At Mersey Vale we get to know all our children quickly and we pride ourselves on the family atmosphere within school and the good relationships we have with families and the wider community.

We believe that a strong partnership between school and home really does help children to achieve well and we welcome your involvement in all aspects of school life. If there is anything that you would like to know, or if you have any concerns, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Each July we usually send out a handy calendar of school terms, holidays and events planned but this was not possible this year. We hope to be able to put this together and send it out soon. Obviously this will be more limited this year in terms of larger/ whole school events and also the opportunities for parents and carers to be involved due to the current restrictions. Our Friends of Mersey Vale (FoMV) group also usually organises a variety of events, but again these are not possible at present.

At Mersey Vale we do not send out copies of our half-termly newsletters. Instead we hope that parents and carers will read the newsletters via our school website. This helps us to save paper and money and fulfil our commitment to being an Eco-school.

Newsletters will be put onto the website on the first day of each new half term, and we will send a text reminder to let you know. If you do not have access to the internet, or if you prefer to have a paper copy, you will be able to get a printed copy of the newsletter from the school office.



### “Meet” the Teacher

To help your child settle in to their new class, and to help you become more familiar with the routines and expectations of each class, we usually have a 'Meet the Teacher Week' where parents/ carers and teachers meet in person.

At present as we have to limit visitors, including parents and carers, onto our school site we will not be able to hold these meetings. Instead, all teachers will issue a letter next week with lots of information about the curriculum, classroom procedures, routines and expectations for the year ahead. If you have any questions, or if there is anything else that you would like to know, please message the class teacher via ClassDojo or phone the school office and arrange a time for the teacher to call you. You can also contact teachers by emailing [headteacher@merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk) and we will ensure that the message is passed on.



Good communication and relationships with all our families is very important to us. We understand how important it is, and how beneficial it can be for all our children when school and home work closely together.



## Respect Charter + Parent & Visitors Behaviour Policy

At Mersey Vale Primary School we believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to learn, work or visit.

We strive to ensure that our school offers a warm and nurturing environment for everyone where all members of the school community and visitors demonstrate mutual respect. Last year Stockport Local Authority issued a model Respect/ Parent & Visitors Behaviour Policy which was agreed by our Governing Body in July and which includes a Respect Charter. Both documents can be found on our website:

[Parent and visitor behaviour policy](#)

[Respect Charter](#)

## Jewellery

Jewellery, other than stud earrings and watches, must not be worn in school. Thank you to all those parents who support us with this school rule. If your child wears stud earrings or a watch you must sign a consent form available from the school office to accept responsibility for any loss or injury caused.

## P.E and Sports

As part of the curriculum each class has 2 P.E. sessions every week. This may be gymnastics, dance, outdoor games or swimming. Please make sure that your child has their labelled P.E. kit in school every day.



We expect all children to have a Mersey Vale P.E. kit. This can be bought from our uniform suppliers and includes a T Shirt with logo and shorts. An optional 'hoodie' sweatshirt is also available for colder periods.

## Children with Medical Needs

We support and welcome pupils with medical conditions. If your child has asthma please inform school and provide an inhaler to be used if needed. Inhalers are kept in classrooms at the present time but usually, apart from those for Nursery children, they are kept in the school office. If your child requires any other medication please discuss this with the school office and complete the relevant forms. The school office monitors expiry dates and will contact parents when replacements are due.

## Healthy Snacks



At Mersey Vale we usually have a system of healthy snacks for children to have at morning break. Unfortunately we will not be able to offer this at the present time and ask that parents/ carers provide a healthy snack and a bottle of water for children each day. A piece of fresh fruit is ideal or you could send in a cereal bar, bread sticks, raisins etc. Please help your child to make healthy choices and remember that chocolate biscuits, crisps, sweets and fizzy drinks must not be brought as snacks.

## Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)

The Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) is used to raise attainment of disadvantaged children and close the gap with their peers. The following groups are eligible for PPG:

- Pupils known to have been eligible for free school meals at any point in last 6 years
- Children in public care continuously for at least 6 months
- Children who are adopted under the Children Act 2002

## School Lunches & Dinner Money

At Mersey Vale we have developed a bespoke school lunch menu which includes daily homemade, halal and vegetarian options as well as jacket potatoes and sandwiches with a choice of fillings and a range of desserts. All items meet the required nutritional standards. You can get a copy of the menu from the school office or on our website.

As part of the additional safety measures in school children will be eating lunch in classrooms or outside when the weather permits. This inevitably means that there is a more limited choice of options at present, however we have arranged with our school lunch provider that there will be a daily option of a hot item e.g. warm tomato pasta, pizza, warm wrap/ toastie, burger in a bun, fish fingers and chips. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays wrap option and on Tuesdays and Thursdays there will be a baked potato option.



All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children have the opportunity to receive a free school meal every day. We will assume that all parents wish their child to receive a free school meal but please advise the school office if you do not wish your child to have one. This will allow the kitchen to plan properly for meals required and prevent the school being overcharged by the meals provider. Whilst all children of the relevant age groups will receive meals free of charge, it is important that parents still apply for free school meals for all children if your circumstances make you eligible. This ensures that the funding available from the local authority continues to help the children. If you are unsure of the process for this please contact the school office.

For Year 3 – Year 6 children only please pay dinner money using Parentpay. Dinner money is £2.25 per day/ £11.25 per week which must be paid for in advance to ensure that your child

- Children of service personnel

The fund, whilst used to target specific groups of children, is not individual child specific and schools use the fund received to finance various projects and initiatives in school. All schools must publish their allocation and breakdown of spending each year. Our [Pupil Premium Strategy Review March 2020](#) provides full details. The vast majority of the PPG is utilised to employ staff and buy resources which directly benefit these groups of children. There is a small residual sum each year which we have generally used to ensure that such children gain benefit from some of the extra-curricular and other activities in school, funding such things as breakfast club and after school clubs, trip contributions and occasionally school uniform for parents of eligible children who are having financial difficulties at that time. The available funds have been reduced this financial year due to budget cuts, but we will still help where possible and where parents request such help in advance.

Parents/ carers requiring assistance towards after school clubs, school trips and breakfast clubs will need to complete an application form before the places are allocated. A copy of this form is available upon request from the school office. Where places can be offered without charge, we will provide approval for a specific number of sessions, after which payment will need to be made or sessions will cease. Each term, the process will begin again with new vouchers issued to valid applicants. Should you have any queries regarding this, please contact Mr Farrell in the first instance or any of the office staff if it is simply to request a form.

## Compliments, Comments & Complaints

We are always happy to hear your views and to receive feedback about what we do. Thank you to all the parents and carers who took the time to complete our online end of year survey in July. We have now been able to analyse your feedback and the results are presented on the following link [Parent & Carer Survey 2020](#). It is great to know that the vast majority of parents and carers are happy with what we do at Mersey Vale and we will consider and try to address the comments about what we could do to make our school even better.



We recognise that from time to time there may be things which you are unhappy about regarding school. We encourage parents/ carers to raise any issues in the correct way in line with our [Complaints policy](#) based on Stockport local authority's model policy and available on our website. If there is ever a problem parents/ carers should initially speak informally with the class teacher. This should be the first step for a parental concern due to the first-hand information that the teacher has about your child(ren) and many concerns can be understood and resolved at this point with effective communication. If after discussion with the class teacher a parent/ carer remains dissatisfied the matter should be referred to the Headteacher and phone appointments can be made through the school office.

## Great News!!

It is with tremendous pleasure that we can share the great news that Hakim Afzal in Year 3, who has been absent from school since last January due to illness, has completed his chemotherapy and radiotherapy successfully and has been given the all clear. We are so proud of our strong, brave boy and cannot wait to welcome back to school soon.

## Electronic Payments

receives their school meal. We expect all parents who pay weekly to pay by the Friday of the week before the meals are taken. The cost of dinners for this half term for those of you who prefer to pay it in full in advance is £76.50.

We encourage all parents to sign up and use [Parentpay](#) for all transactions with school. Please see Mrs. Ahmed in the school office for any information about school lunches. She is available Monday – Friday 8.45am – 12.45pm.

## After School Club

Children can enjoy a variety of activities including themed crafts, baking, puzzles and games, linking to topics, Weather permitting, we also provide lots of outside activities.

The After School Club will recommence on 14/9/20 and further details will be sent out to parents during the first week back in school.

## Breakfast Club



Our breakfast club will also recommence on 14/9/20 and operate every day from 8am/ 8.15am until the start of school and is staffed by Mrs. Knott, Mrs. Mobbs, Miss Mayall and Mrs. Cropper. The cost is £2.50 per day from 8am and £1.00 per day from 8.15am. For this children are offered healthy breakfast choices of warm food (toast, crumpets, bagels), cereal, fruit and a drink. After they have eaten the children take part in activities such as board games, construction activities, computer activities, drawing and creative activities. If you would like your child to come to the breakfast club please see Mrs. Knott or the school office. Payment should be made via Parentpay.

## Uniform

We are very pleased to see that most children have returned to school looking very smart in their school uniforms. We have a special uniform for our Nursery children with a royal blue sweatshirt and polo shirt, both embroidered with "Nursery Class". We really hope that parents buy this for their child as we feel it is very practical and smart for Nursery. We also offer a new sweatshirt free of charge for members of the Eco-committee (Green) and School Council (Purple) and these will be given out early next term when children have been elected to these roles. This will ensure that pupils who put a lot of effort into both groups are recognised throughout the school.

Please can all parents note that to reduce overall COVID-19 risk in school, **we will no longer be receiving cash for payments** and will accept electronic payment only. This can be through Parentpat or if appropriate Childcare Vouchers. If you do not have a login for Parentpay or require assistance, please contact the school office.

## PSHE & Relationships & Sex Education

At Mersey Vale we pride ourselves on the work we do to encourage children to develop into healthy, responsible citizens of the future. As part of this we have a Personal, Social, Health Education curriculum which includes activities in class such as discussions through 'Circle Time'. We also follow the PSHE Association scheme of work based on 3 core themes and Stockport's recommended curriculum for Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco Education (DATE) and Relationships and Sex Education. This covers the following topics; feelings, friendships, growing up, personal hygiene, families and keeping safe. Last year we reviewed our PSHE/ RSE curriculum following a working party involving parents, staff and support from Stockport Local Authority. We also held an information session in October 2019 when parents and carers could find out more about what children learn in this vital area. You can find out more on this link [PSHE curriculum framework Y1 - Y6](#)



## Governing Body

Like all schools we have a Governing Body which meets regularly to discuss and look after how school money is spent, what sort of lessons are taught, outcomes for children, the upkeep of the school buildings and grounds, how many staff there are and what they do, the safety of the pupils and staff and much more...! The Governing Body is made up of parents, staff, people appointed by the Local Authority and people from within the local community. In this way all interested groups can give their views of how the school is run. The minutes of Governing Body meetings are published on the school website [Governing Body Minutes](#).

## And finally...

I am sad to inform that Mrs. Barbara Jewsbury who worked as a teaching assistant at Mersey Vale for many years lost her long-term battle with cancer. She was a lovely funny lady who many of our Staff, pupils and parents will remember very fondly. Our thoughts are with her family at this very sad time.

Finally we would like to say a big thank you to all the children, parents and staff for contributing to a great start to the school year. We appreciate that things are very different at the moment but the health, safety and well-being of our whole school community is our absolute priority. By everyone following the new procedures, as well as following our school motto of "Working Together For a Brighter Future", we will all contribute to the continued success of our Mersey Vale family.

Yours faithfully,

Handwritten signature of Mrs. J. Mullane in black ink.

Mrs. J. Mullane  
Headteacher

Handwritten signature of Ms. C. Varetto in black ink.

Ms. C. Varetto  
Deputy Headteacher

Please can we remind parents/ carers that children should also have black, flat shoes (not trainers or boots please) that are comfortable and appropriate for school? All children are expected to wear their uniform every day for school except on non-uniform days. It's really important that all items are clearly labelled to enable us to return them to their owner if they are lost. Please check labels regularly to ensure they can still be read. You can buy name labels from many online providers at very reasonable prices.

## Attendance

At Mersey Vale Primary School we follow the Local Authority's Attendance Policy and information about this can be found at; <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/attendance-at-school>

Department for Education regulations state that "headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances." <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence> and you may receive an education penalty notice or fine of £60 per parent, per child if a child is taken out of school for holidays or other unauthorised reasons.

Good attendance is vital to ensure that all children can fulfil their potential and benefit from their education. Missing out on school and lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind and children with poor attendance tend to achieve less. Please help your child by ensuring that they attend school but let us know immediately if they are ill or unable to attend for any other reason. Thank you.

