



WEEKLY UPDATE – 16TH NOVEMBER 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

Welcome to another weekly update!

Diwali

Happy Diwali. We hope you all enjoy your Diwali this weekend and look forward to seeing all the children on Monday. As Diwali falls over the weekend this year, we will not be authorising any absences for this festival.

Attendance

If your child is fit and healthy, they must attend school as normal. If they are unwell you must follow usual attendance procedures by calling the school office on 0116 276 7708 by 9.15am each day your child is ill, giving the reason for the absence.

If anyone in your families does have symptoms of coronavirus they must be tested and the family must isolate until a test result is received, letting the school office know as soon as possible. A quick reference guide for Coronavirus related absences is on our website.

<https://www.merrydalejuniors.com/images/covid/Covid-19%20Pupil%20Absence%20Guide%20v1.pdf>

If your child has any symptoms of Coronavirus or you have any questions that you would like to ask us regarding this, please send all queries to covid@dsatmerrydale.org. This inbox will be checked regularly, including out of hours. If your child has normal cold symptoms like runny/blocked noses etc. we would urge that your child attends school. If you are unsure you can call the school office on 0116 276 7708 for advice.

Remembrance Day Colouring Competition

For Remembrance Day we ran a colouring competition for all children at 20p per entry. We raised a total of £23.40 for The Salvation Army. Thank you for your contributions.

Children in Need – Friday 13th November 2020

Thank you all for taking part in Non-Uniform day to raise money for children in need. Donations can still be made on our online donations page on ParentPay and the link is below for you to use. So far, we have collected £90.00 – Thank you

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=1812>

Poetry Day – Friday 13th November 2020

An Author visited Merrydale Junior School to celebrate Poetry Day today. The aim of the day was to encourage the children to be more confident in reciting poetry, writing poetry and increase their enthusiasm for poetry. The visit was socially distanced in the school hall and the children visited the author within their own class bubbles. A virtual session also ran through Teams during the day. We hope all the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring poetry today.

Parent Meetings

Today we sent out an email inviting you to make an appointment to virtually meet with your child's class teacher. Parent meetings are taking place via video call on 24th, 25th and 26th November, please do book an appointment you don't need a computer, it can be done on your phone. The letter contains a guide how to make your appointment, any queries please call the school office for help

<https://dsatmerrydale.schoolcloud.co.uk/>





Microsoft Teams

For any Parents or children that struggle or find Teams complicated, 2 new videos have been uploaded to the school website under learn from home > Videos on how to use teams online at home. These videos show students how to log into Teams and how to work on and hand in assignments.

<https://www.merrydalejuniors.com/learn-from-home>

Learning Log/Homework

All year groups are now setting weekly online homework for their pupils. The learning log menu can be accessed by the children on their class TEAMS and was also emailed out to all Parents/Carers at the beginning of this week and added to the current letters section of the school website. Their completed homework should be uploaded weekly. Nuggets will also be set on Century weekly. If your child is unable to access their homework online, please contact the school office. <https://www.merrydalejuniors.com/school-news/current-letters>

Year 3 Parents/Carers – We need your help!

Do you have questions about your child's class or the school? Do you have issues that you would like resolving? Ideas on how we could make things better? Family issues or queries that you would like advice on? We are here to listen and help and your opinions matter to us! Would you be interested in meeting to discuss the above things and more... This may be done virtually or in person (if government guidelines allow us to). We can meet in groups or 1 to 1 if you prefer. If you are interested in getting more information on this, please complete the online survey by clicking the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7cXzqZdY-KCCZ246vAAaNCANHphDf49OifMQpUSNVgpUQTM3QzJRWFpKR1JKSjZLNU5MWExJWEVJUi4u>

Century Stars Competition

Kicking off on 9th November, Century will be running the CENTURY Stars Winter Cup. For four weeks they will be tracking who has been answering the most questions and keeping us up to date on where we are on their leader board. There will be trophies awarded for each size of institution, so every school or college is in with a chance of winning! We would be grateful if as many children as possible could take part on Teams! You can do this at home too...

https://discoveryschoolstrust.sharepoint.com/sites/MerrydaleTeachers/Shared Documents/2020-21 Planning/Teach_poster.pdf

Timetables Rock Stars

We are taking part in a competition for Maths Week England. It's called Rock Out 2020 and it's all done online via play.trockstars.com. For every correct answer to a multiplication or division question, your child will earn their class a point. The TTRS platform will calculate the class average (the number of correct answers per pupil in the class who play during the competition hours). Winning classes in the school and in the country will be the ones with the highest average.

All game modes (Gig, Garage, Studio, etc.) will count but only from games played between 7.30am and 7.30pm on Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th, Friday 13th and Saturday 14th.

Please encourage and support your children to take part in this exciting competition - we suggest they all play for half an hour a day outside school hours if they can; some will play more, some will play less. Thanks for your support.





Odd Socks Day – Monday 16th November 2020

All you need to do is wear odd socks! It is a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique in Anti-Bullying Week! It will be held on Monday 16th November 2020, the first day of Anti-Bullying Week. What is Odd Socks day? Most importantly, Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!

No Pens Wednesday -25th November 2020

No Pens Day Wednesday is a national speaking and listening event which takes place in schools and settings annually. No Pens Day Wednesday puts spoken language in the spotlight. Through a day of fun and engaging activities, schools and settings can raise awareness of the importance of spoken language. Learn more by visiting <https://ican.org.uk/about-us/>

Break-Time Snack

Children are encouraged to bring a small snack to school that they can eat during break-time e.g. fruit, breakfast bar, bag of crisps. Unfortunately, we do not allow chocolate bars, fizzy drinks or packets of sweets. Please remember to only send one snack per day, not large share bags to last the week as there is no facility to store them.

Milk

If you would like your child to have milk during the morning this will be available. Unfortunately, we are unable to do this on a day by day/weekly basis. The cost is 20p per day, 5 days for the remaining 6 weeks till Christmas – if you go on to ParentPay you will see how much needs to be paid till the end of term. If your child is registered for Free School Meals milk will be provided free of charge.

Hoodies

All orders will be placed on Fridays and may take up to 2 weeks to arrive. If you would like to order a hoodie, the option is on ParentPay, please remember to add your child's size option in the notes section of your order. Thank you for your patience.

School Fleeces with a logo will be available to purchase from Friday via ParentPay. The fleeces are blue like the hoodies with a logo but have a zip down the front and cost £10.55. Again, please bear with us as deliveries are taking a little bit longer than planned.

Third Discovery Live Event

The next Microsoft Teams LIVE Event is on Wednesday 18th November, 7.00-8.00pm on 'How children learn and how you can help them' followed by a Q&A for parents. All sessions are recorded. The link below will require you to have Microsoft Teams installed on your computer or mobile phone.

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZjJlZDk4YTQtZjdhZS00YjFmLWJlYjQtM2FhMDdhNTQxYjdi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22a9f3c5ed-5897-40fa-8267-6e3abc001a34%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%228abc124d-91cd-4f73-bec6-1564c754bbd2%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3a%22true%7d

Recordings of previous Live Events are available on Teams.

I hope you all have an enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely

C Mugglestone,





Head Teacher

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Date	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Week Commencing 16 th November 2020	Monday & Thursday	Tuesday & Wednesday	Wednesday & Friday	Thursday
Week Commencing 23 rd November 2020	Monday & Wednesday	Tuesday & Wednesday	Thursday & Friday	Tuesday & Thursday

SCHOOL MEALS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 16TH NOVEMBER 2020

IMPORTANT - Please accept our apologies but due to national lockdown and staffing issues within our school kitchen we are unable to provide a 4-choice menu as planned. Meal choices for next week are now as follows

	Monday 16 th November 2020	Tuesday 17 th November 2020	Wednesday 18 th November 2020	Thursday 19 th November 2020	Friday 20 th November 2020
RED (Meat Option)	Jacket Potato with tuna mayonnaise Side: Salad	Quorn Dippers & Chips Side: Peas	Jacket Potato with beans Side: Salad & Coleslaw	Margarita Pizza with plain pasta Side: Sweetcorn	Fish & Chips Side: Beans
GREEN (Vegetarian Option)	Jacket Potato with beans Side: Salad	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Vegetable Sausage & Chips Side: Beans
CHOICE OF FRUIT, YOGHURT or CAKE/BISCUIT					

