



## Welcome to the February Part 2 Newsletter



### School Gates Reminder

Just a reminder about gate and access times. The main entrance door at the back of the school is locked at 8.55am, so if you are arriving after this time please come via the front reception to sign in your child. Other doors to classroom areas are closed prior to 8.50am and dependent upon the number of parents in the playground and staff on duty. Merrydale Junior School site gates at the back of the school and at the side are locked from 9.00am. The Hastings Road gate with pedestrian access to the infant school is locked at approximately 9.10am to allow Infant school parents to exit the pedestrian access.

### Class Assemblies—February 2020

28th February 2020, 4GW—Henry Walker  
6th March 2020, 4AV—Lady Jane Grey  
13th March 2020, 4FM—Ernest Gimson  
The assemblies are scheduled to start at 9.15am. We ask that you arrive for 9.10am latest. The fire doors in the playground will be open for you to enter the hall after dropping off your child.



### Fun and Families Group with Mrs O'Connor

Mrs O'Connor is inviting Parents/Carers into school on 27th February 2020 at 2:00pm for a taster session of her group. You will work together with the school to share ideas and experiences, have fun and become more confident as a parent/carer. Please contact the office or Mrs O'Connor if you are interested.



### Upcoming Trips;

Sikh Temple—Year 3, 27th February  
Warning Zone—Year 6, 3rd March  
Billionaire Boy—Year 6, 5th March  
Please make sure the permission slip and payment (if needed) is promptly returned to school. There will be a date on each letter stating when this needs to be done by. Thank you.



### ParentPay—Important

All Parents/Carers should now be registered with ParentPay to pay for their child's school dinners, trips and clubs. All payments should be made on ParentPay, cash can only be used in exceptional circumstances in agreement with the office staff. From February 24th all parents/carers will need to be paying online for their child's dinner, club or trip **before it is taken**. If payment is not made for dinners, you will receive a phone call from the office asking you pay immediately or provide a packed lunch for your child. If Parents need help registering their account the school office is happy to help you. **This needs to be done before 24th February 2020**. Thank you for your co-operation.

### Clubs

If you would like your child to attend a club, you must resign a club letter and provide payment before the clubs starts. Clubs are run on a termly basis and this does need to be done every term. A new club letter is sent at the end of every term giving you enough time to return this and provide payment. Clubs for next term will start on 24th February 2020.



### Family Health & First Aid

Any parents that are interested in attending the Family First Aid Course on 24th February 2020, 1:10—3.10pm then continuing every Monday for 6 weeks, please contact the school office. This is a brilliant opportunity to learn skills to keep your family safe, meet new people and have some fun.

### Carparking

Please remember that no one should be parking on the yellow lines outside the school at either entrance. Also, please do not park over residents driveways, we understand that it is hard to park but we must be mindful of people having access to their homes to avoid any conflict going forward.

### Inhalers/Medicines & Dietary Requirements

If your child needs to bring an inhaler or medicines to school with them, can you please ensure that they are kept up to date. If your child no longer needs them, please inform us to keep are records updated. Thank you

## Coronavirus advice

You have probably heard a lot of reports about Coronavirus. DSAT, our academy, have asked us to send out the following information to all parents/carers. The government is closely monitoring the spread of the Coronavirus and the overall risk to the UK remains moderate. Advice from the DfE is that parents/carers should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus. There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend school as normal.

You can help by promoting basic hygiene practice - regularly washing hands and always sneezing into a tissue, to stem the spread of viruses. Latest information and advice can also be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

If you are planning to travel to China during the forthcoming half term period, please refer to the Department of Health and Social Care and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's latest travel advice (links below): <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-and-avian-flu-advice-for-travel-to-china>

## DSAT Holiday Camp

**Monday 17th—Friday 21st February 2020**

The holiday camp will take place from during half term, Monday—Friday, 10am—1pm for just £3.00 per day and this INCLUDES lunch for your child!

If you are interested please visit [www.discoverholidaycamps.co.uk](http://www.discoverholidaycamps.co.uk). You must register your child first but then you can book and pay for just one or as many days in the week as you like!  
Children from Foundation stage age up to year 6 are all invited!

## Free School Meals

If you and your family receive benefits you could qualify for receiving Free School Meals. Even if you are not sure, it takes one simple phone call to find out if you qualify.

By applying for free meals, you could raise valuable extra funding for your child's school through the Pupil Premium. It is therefore important that you find out. Pupil Premium continues even if your free school meal eligibility changes, for 6 years.

This means that some costs at school could be subsidized for you. Some trips could therefore be half price! Even if you are no longer receiving free meals.

It's worth checking, call 0116 454 1009 then select Option 3. You can also do this online at [www.leicester.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals).

## International Book Giving Day—14th February 2020

On Friday 14th February we will be giving each child at Merrydale Junior School a book as a gift. The aim? To get books into the hands of as many children as possible.

We hope the children enjoy reading their books!



Please follow us on twitter for fun updates and information

@MerrydaleJunior



## AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

You **MUST re-sign** the club letter. If your child had a place last term this does not mean they have a place this term.

Places are allocated on a first come first serve basis.

Clubs will be running from 24th February—2nd April 2020  
Please see the recent club letter sent out to you.

## Academic Year 2019-20

First Day of Spring Term—Tuesday 7th January 2020

School Closes—Friday 14th February 2020

School Opens—Monday 24th February 2020

School Closes for Easter—Friday 3rd April 2020

School Opens—Monday 20th April 2020

Early May Bank Holidays—Friday 9th & Monday 25th May

School closes for May Half Term—Tuesday 26th May 2020

School Opens—Monday 1st June 2020

## ADVANCE NOTE OF DATES

### January 2020

14th February—International Book Giving Day

17th February—Half Term—DSAT Holiday Camp running Monday—Friday

24th February—Return to school

24th February 2020—Family First Aid training for Parents.

27th February 2020—Fun and Families Group with Mrs O'Connor

[www.merrydalejuniorschool.com](http://www.merrydalejuniorschool.com)

You can find lots of useful information on our website

including term dates, letters, school curriculum, school meals and much more.

