



Mercenfeld Primary School



Spring 2 Newsletter

Welcome to our first Mercenfeld School Newsletter! We are hoping to produce one every half term to keep you updated with the great things that are going on in school as well as to celebrate some of the achievements of our children.

We are having a wonderful term and the children are settled and working hard. We have introduced a new positive behaviour system which all of our children are really responding positively to.

Thank you to all parents/carers that responded to the Trust survey. One of the key findings was that you did not feel informed about what your child is learning in their classes. We are endeavouring to rectify this so you will see a resume of each class learning this term at the end of the newsletter. Please do also look at class pages on Google Classroom

Mrs Weatherill and Mrs Randle



(Joint Acting Heads)



Staffing update

Year 2 Meerkats Class

Sadly, Mrs Cook's time teaching in Year 2 will come to an end on Thursday 31st March. However, we are extremely pleased to inform you that Mrs Farley will be returning from Maternity leave and will be stepping in to her shoes. She has worked at Mercenfeld for over ten years and has experience teaching across Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. Mrs Scott will continue to teach the class on a Monday and Tuesday.



Mrs Cook

Year 2

Year 3/4 Chameleons Class

Mrs Noon will continue to teach the class for four days with Ms Hurst teaching on Fridays.

Commando Joe

Mercenfeld are excited to announce the launch of a new character scheme throughout the school called Commando Joes. The children already know about this and may have told you a little about it as it was launched in a recent assembly. The aim of this project is to provide a character learning journey that can be personalised to the needs of children, whatever their background or circumstance - encouraging our children to think critically and develop a mind-set that thrives on looking at themselves and others from different perspectives. The programme will contribute to cultural, physical, spiritual, moral and social wellbeing and play a part in extending each child's understanding of British values.

The COJO Character Curriculum is based upon the following 4 principles:

1. Character development is a right for every child
2. Character education will empower young people
3. Character will inform the ethos, direction of learning and culture of the school
4. Character should be developed in partnership with staff, pupils and parents



After School Clubs

Did you know we offer these fabulous after school clubs for only a small charge?



Tennis – Friday
Gymnastics - Tuesday
Multisports - Thursday
Pop in to the office to book a place!



Friday Celebrations

On a Friday, the children attend Headteacher's assembly. During this time we celebrate the achievements of our children together. Children may get;

Headteacher's Certificate – children have shown exceptional learning or behaviour in a subject or in class in general

Dojo Award – children are given dojos for good behaviour, work or learning. Those that have achieved the most dojos that week get a certificate and a 'Treasure Box' prize

The Always Club – children that are consistently showing good behaviour for learning and excellent attitudes are invited to partake in The Always Club for an hour on a Friday afternoon where they get to have milkshake, a biscuit and play some games

Throughout the week, children may also be sent to see the Joint Acting Heads to share their good work. This work is then displayed in outside the Heads office

You will be notified if your child has achieved any of these awards via email so you can share and celebrate their success too!

Keeping our children safe

We take safeguarding extremely seriously here at Mercenfeld. The children have been talking about who they can talk to in school if they want to share worries or concerns. Mrs Allen has made a wonderful display in the hall to support and remind.



First Aid

We have recently tightened our First Aid procedures at dinnertime. Children who have had first aid administered for minor bumps, bruises and scrapes will have a slip sent home to inform parents/carers as well as an email sent.

If a child has had a bumped head or nose bleed, they will be given a yellow or red wrist band. For a more serious injury, parents will be notified by telephone call



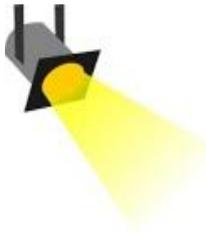
Parents Evening

We have taken the difficult decision to hold parent evening by telephone again this term. We appreciate that many of you, especially those that are new to the school and have Reception children, have not been in to school to visit and talk to us. However, we still have levels of staff sickness due to Covid and are trying to reduce the risk of class teachers being away from teaching. Thank you for you understanding.

We are hoping that the next parents evening will be in person.



Spotlight on.....



Our Trust - Bradgate Education Partnership



After reading through some of your responses on the parent survey we thought a brief 'spotlight' on our Trust, Bradgate Education Partnership (BEP) would be useful.

The Trust, known as a MAT (Multi-Academy Trust) was formed on September 2016 and currently comprises of 15 primary schools and 2 secondaries. Their offices are based at Wreake Valley Academy, in Syston.

It provides many services for our school including HR, finance and premises, along with collaborative meetings and professional development for year group teachers, subject leaders and Headteachers.

They firmly believe in a 'through' education model, developing individuals and schools to ensure each pupil has the chance to reach their full potential. The ethos behind the Trust is one based on autonomy and sustainable school improvement.

Please do look at the Trust website for more information <https://bepschools.org/>

Key Education personnel



Gareth Nelmes

Chief Executive Officer

Dean Pomeroy

Director of Schools



Di Cresswell

Attendance & Welfare
Lead



Kirstie Randle

Lead Practitioner – EYFS/KS1



Clare Bettles

Lead Practitioner – KS1/KS2

Cross Country

Congratulations to all those that competed in Yrs 4, 5 and 6 and our wonderful medal winners! Thank you to Mrs Jewitt and Mr Dunn for taking such a superb group of athletes.



What we will be learning this term...

EYFS - Koalas

Our Topics this term are:

Starry Night

This project explores the differences in the world at night compared to during the day. It teaches children about the importance of a good night's sleep, and helps them to discover what is happening in the world while they are sleeping, including finding out about nocturnal animals.

Winter Wonderland

This project teaches children about the changes that happen during winter, including the types of weather associated with winter. It also explores places that have snow all year round and the types of animals that live there.



Some of our focus books/stories:

Peace at Last
Night Monkey, Day Monkey
Owl Babies
How to Catch a Star
Whatever Next!
The Gruffalo's Child



Yr 1 - Toucans

Bright Lights, Big City

For the spring terms, we have been focusing on Geography by learning about our capital city, London, and about the Royal Family. We are also discovering our artistic selves by creating art from nature as well as learning about collagraphy - a printing process.

In English we are becoming better at writing stories and creating precise instructions. Learning and knowing our number bonds is really helping us to problem solve in Maths and helping us develop our understanding of measuring length, weight, and height.

As always, we are learning new words and practising our phonics to help us with our reading and understanding of texts



Yr 2 - Meerkats and Zebras

Year 2 are having lots of fun learning all about Coastlines around the United Kingdom. We are focusing on the seaside town of Whitby and all the features of this beautiful resort. We will be writing a non-chronological report on this very soon. Our Design Technology project also links in with Coastlines as we endeavour to design and build our own beach huts.

Our Science topic 'Plants' is allowing us to carry out some interesting investigations to see how they grow best. We are monitoring the different conditions carefully and have enjoyed sketching the spring flowers around the school grounds.

In Maths we have been learning all about money, 2D and 3D shapes and symmetry.

Other areas of learning this term include Personal Safety, New Beginnings and Endings and 'Space' as our music topic.

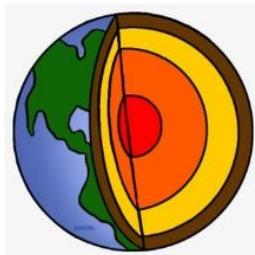


Yr 3/4 – Penguins, Rhinos and Chameleons

Our English lessons will focus on reading and writing journey stories, thinking about features of a journey story and what good writers should include in their work. We will also be creating shape poems about volcanoes, using fronted adverbials, similes and onomatopoeia

In Maths we will continue to practise learning multiplication facts up to 12×12 . Fractions and decimals will be key areas of learning, together with multiplying/dividing by ten and hundred. Finally, children will also learn how to find the area and perimeter of regular and compound shapes

During this term's geography topic, Rocks, Rumbles and Relics, Year 3 & 4 pupils will learn about the layers of the earth, types of rocks and their uses, features of volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, longitude and latitude.



Yr 5 – Huskies and Orcas

Year 5 are learning all about the Shang Dynasty (Ancient China).

We have particularly enjoyed learning about and making oracle bones. In Science, our topic has been all about properties of materials, ask your children about some of the experiments we have carried out.

Forgiveness is our topic in RE and in PSHCE we are thinking about how to keep ourselves safe.

The children have been enthusiastic about dance and tennis in PE.

During computing, we looked at the Mars Rover and how computers send information using binary code.

We are fortunate to have Mr G continue to teach Year 5 Music where the children have started to read music.

We were very impressed with the children's initial drawings following the style of Picasso in our new art topic.

In English, we are writing a portal story and we will be writing a descriptive narrative based on the short film 'The Piano'. We are working hard to include a variety of sentence openers and expanded noun phrases. In maths, we are building on our knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages



Yr 6 – Panthers and Tigers

This half term, Year 6's main topic is Frozen Kingdom.

This will give them the opportunity to explore the polar regions through many subjects such as Geography, Art and History.

We are also lucky enough to be learning how to play the ukulele with an external specialist to coming in to teach us.

Within English, the pupils will be studying *The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes. We will be looking at the main characters, writing diary entries in role and retelling the narrative using different character perspectives. We are really enjoying our learning so far.

In PE, pupils will have the opportunity to participate in hockey. It has been great to see a number of pupils also take the sport up outside of school because of this!

Having sat their mock SATs, the children will be working hard to plug any gaps and prepare for their tests in May. They will be given extra homework on a Friday to return on Wednesdays; we will then mark this together at school. We would really appreciate it if you could support and encourage your child to complete this.

