



Mendell Primary School

December Newsletter 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy time of year! There has been so much going on in school...bow ties, calendars, film night, parties, elf runs!

You may be aware that the DfE gave schools the option yesterday to close to children and arrange an INSET day on Friday 18th December. This is very short notice and many parents will have working arrangements that cannot be changed. INSET days are also planned in advance and to change any at this stage would be problematic. We will therefore be remaining open and home time will be as normal.

For the first 6 days after school ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school will assist in identifying close contacts and advise self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. If your child displays any COVID 19 symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough or loss of sense of taste or smell) you should arrange a test by calling 119 or visiting nhs.uk/coronavirus. If your child develops any symptoms, then please notify us that your child is self-isolating, arrange to get a test and continue to isolate until the result comes back.

Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Should parents need to contact the school, you are asked to email school on support@mendell.wirral.sch.uk

In summary:

- If your child develops any COVID-19 symptoms within 48 hours of finishing school on Friday 18th December and you are arranging to have a test, email us to let us know.
- Email us again once the test result is back to inform us of the result, even if it is negative.
- If it is positive, then we will begin the process of notifying close contacts.
- If your child develops symptoms 48 hours after being in school, then you do not need to notify us.

Staffing Update

Thank you to all the parents who contributed to Mrs Kearney's leaving gift – I know you will join me in wishing her the very best for the future and thanks for all her hard work and dedication over the last two decades! As we say our farewells to Mrs Kearney, we also welcome some new faces in our office team. Miss Jones who has worked as a TA for many years at Mendell, will be a member of our office team from January. Mrs Mansell and Miss Jones will also be joined by Ms Harvey (who you may know as Faye and George's Mum!). We are looking forward to a new exciting team and I know you will make them feel most welcome.

We also welcome a new parent governor to our governor team... Mrs Anna Leadbetter was successful in our recent parent election and we look forward to having a new member of the team to assist in developing our school even further.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support during these often changing and challenging times. I would like to wish you all an enjoyable break with your family, please keep safe and take care of each other. All the best and see you in 2021.

Mrs O'Neill Edward

#EVERYDAYCOUNTS

A reminder- if your child's attendance falls below an acceptable level you may be asked to provide medical evidence for any future absences.



Elf Run!

This half term the children participated in a sponsored Elf Run to raise money for St John's Hospice. You raised an incredible total of £862.47!!

The hospice will be sending a thank-you video and certificate into school in January for the children.

Don't forget to follow your child's new class on Twitter for daily updates! @mendellf1

@mendellf2 @mendellyear1 @mendellyear2 @mendellyear3 @mendellyear4 @mendellyear5

@mendellyear6. You can also search by # to look at particular subjects

e.g. #mendellhistory #mendellmaths #mendellscience #mendellenglish etc



Don't forget you can drop off any old uniform into school. It will be washed and sorted through by F.U.S.S. and will be available free of charge to anyone who requires any school uniform at the Methodist church in Bromborough.

Pop in any time the church is open to see what they have or for more information.

Upcoming Dates

4th January

Back to School

12th February

Break up for Half Term

Leave of Absence During Term Time

Please be aware that the law around compulsory school attendance is now back in force since the start of the Autumn Term. This includes the regulations around leave of absence during term time. There continues to be **no entitlement** for parents to take their child out of school during term-time, unless this is completely unavoidable. Children have already lost so much teaching and learning time due to the coronavirus, and the priority now is for us to work together in the best interests of all children's education.

All schools within Wirral work closely with the Council on school attendance matters. The Council is fully committed to making sure that all children attend school and make the best possible progress. Unauthorised holidays taken during term time can result in Penalty Notices being issued by the Council. As a school, this is something that we would wish to avoid and ask that any holidays be planned for school holiday periods.

Coronavirus

Please remember if you or your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus you **MUST** inform us straight away, get a test and self-isolate until the results of your test come back.

Work will be set and uploaded to the school website every day, which we would expect your child to complete while isolating.



St Barnabus Church

23rd Dec 6PM – Carols in the carpark (please bring a torch and don't forget to wear a face mask!)

Search "St Barnabus Nativity" on YouTube to view this year's church rendition of the Christmas story.

Any families needing any extra support over the festive period can phone the St Barnabus helpline on 07990 693 330

Class Trips and Visitors

F1 - The independence and resilience of the children has hugely improved this half term and they are all able to put on their own coats, and look after themselves physically. Our theme of 'Why Do Leaves Go Crispy?' has led us to explore many beautiful literacy texts. We have investigated leaves and their changing colours and mixed colours to make new autumnal colours. At Diwali, we learned such a lot about the Hindu festival, making Diva lamps, looking at Rangoli patterns and finding out about the celebrations and story related to Diwali. Our Christmas preparations continue with our Nativity play called 'Mary's Knitting' and the children are all looking forward to sharing their learning with you.

F2 - F2 have worked so hard this half term and I am so proud of them all. We have continued to enjoy our forest school sessions where we have made hedgehogs, bonfire pictures and been on a bug hunt. We have learnt about the festival 'Diwali' and made some brilliant Diva lamps using clay. We have also enjoyed learning about changes that happen during autumn and winter and how animals such as hedgehogs and squirrels adapt. The children prepared a delicious harvest soup and really enjoyed tasting it for their extra snack. The children worked hard on our Christmas Nativity 'Mary's Knitting' and can't wait to share it with you.

Y1 - This half term Year 1 have enjoyed practising for our Nativity play. We have welcomed two new children to our class. Our topic this half term has been 'Paws and Claws'. We have looked at animal camouflage. In addition to this, we collected data about eye colours in our class and made pictograms. Thank you to all of you for your support during our bubble closure.

Y2 - During this half term Year 2 have enjoyed exploring and learning all about animals and wildlife. In English, we have read the story 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' and have learned lots of facts all about owls, which we have used to write a non-chronological report! During our Science topic 'Wriggle and Crawl' Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed hunting for minibeasts, investigating where snails live and we even found out how honey is made! Year 2 also had lots of fun filming the Christmas Nativity this half term!

Y3 - Year 3 have had so much fun this half term finding out all about rocks, volcanoes and the tectonic plates. We have enjoyed investigating the different properties of rocks and their uses as well as exploring how tectonics plates move and the consequences. The children became historians and explored the eruption of Pompeii using artefacts to infer what life was like before and after the eruptions.

Y4 - Year 4 have had a great Autumn term; we've seen their confidence grow with each week and we are starting to get some resilience shining through!! The children really enjoyed learning all about instruments and composers in the first half term but as you can imagine our second topic of 'Bile, Bottoms and Burps' has been a real winner. Their progress on TTRS has been fantastic so we need to keep this up but the new focus is Numbots . . . Who can reach 70% before we return to school in January? Have a great Christmas.

Y5 - The children have enjoyed reading our class text, The Lost Happy Endings, we wrote a traditional tale focusing on describing settings, characters and an alternative ending. Following our theme, Off With Her Head, where we travelled back in time to the 1500s and meet the terrifying Tudors, a domineering dynasty that changed our history. We discovered an opulent court where dancing and singing went hand in hand with swift falls from favour, and even swifter falling of heads. The children have worked extremely hard this term and I am very proud of them. Merry Christmas.

Y6 - Year 6 have had a brilliant half term and thoroughly enjoyed their theme 'Darwin's delights.' They have spent lots of time outdoors in our forest school collecting live specimens to analyse and examine just as Charles Darwin did. As part of their learning in Art, Year 6 collected a range of plants and natural items to produce some amazing botanical artwork in their sketchbooks. All of the children have worked hard on their

online learning and enjoyed many rewards, especially for TTRS, which the children are really excelling at. Have a look at our twitter page @mendellyear6 to see photographs of our learning.