



# Mendell Primary School

## February Newsletter 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy half term! The children have been excelling with their behaviour this term and it has been noted that their manners are impeccable, well done everyone. We had Head Teachers from 4 local schools come to look at our reading provision and they were pleased with what they saw here at Mendell and all took away ideas for their own schools. Year 5 have been rocketing on TTRS this half term, well done year 5 – excellent progress for all of you! We recommended that all children complete their online homework (TTRS, Bug Club and Nessy for some children) at least 4 times a week with adult supervision.

Our school attendance had dropped this academic year. Attendance is something Ofsted will look at when they arrive, so we seek support from Parents in helping us improve our attendance and punctuality to help us get a 'Good' grading in our next Ofsted inspection. We are also currently reviewing our attendance policy to ensure we are providing as much support as possible to our pupils and parents. We are seeking support and feedback from a working party of parents and look forward to sharing the new policy and procedures with you in the near future.

We have the opportunity to run some parenting classes here at school. These will not be run by school staff, they will be led by Lynette Skipsey (Family Support Worker who works for CARITAS) who has worked with several of our families who have all really valued her support. We would like to invite everyone to a 'taster session' on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm, come along for a cuppa and see what it is like!

We have also welcomed several new families to our Mendell Team this year, everyone has settled in so well and it is great to see our numbers growing.

I hope you all have a relaxing half term and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Mrs C. O'Neill Edwards

### #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.



Don't forget you can drop off any old uniform into school that 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

25 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3&4 Trip to Chester
27 <sup>th</sup> February	F1&F2 stay and play
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Bedtime reading event
5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5&6 Wirral Young Chambers trip
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1&2 Dinosaur Visit
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 swimming all week
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Easter Disco
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Last day before Spring Break

Don't forget to follow your child's 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



## Class Trips and Visitors.

**F1** - We have been concentrating on our texts of *On Sudden Hill* and *Almost Everything* and have been developing our creativity with recycled materials. We have had model dragons, trains, superhero sleeves, homes and vehicles. Our learning centred around finding ways to fix things together using glue and tape. Next we moved on to learning about the festival of Chinese New Year where we read and retold the story of how the years came to be named, using this as stimulus for lots of reading and writing activities. We completed this learning by tasting a range of Chinese food which everyone enjoyed. In F1 we have made a range of foods for our snack and found that this tempted even the most reluctant eaters to have a try of what we made. Our daffodil bulbs have helped us learn a bit about growth and now we are eagerly waiting for them to flower!

**F2** - What an exciting half term we have had! F2 started 2020 learning about Chinese New Year. We read Chinese stories, wrote fact books, tasted food and listened to music. We always follow the children's interests and some of our children showed an interest in pirates so we have been making maps, reading pirate stories and we had a visit from a real pirate with treasure. In addition to this the children made and ate jelly, using their senses to describe the jelly at each stage. We finished the half term with a visit from our Diddi drama specialist. The children danced, sang rhymes, counted and used their imaginations.

**Y1** - Year 1 have enjoyed learning all about Dinosaurs this half term as part of our theme 'Digging into the Past'. We have studied Mary Anning and enjoyed reading the book 'Stone Girl Bone Girl' to find out all about her life! Year 1 have also loved learning about the impact our environment has on humans and animals as part of our current English Text 'The Last Wolf'. We are looking forward to finishing the term by creating calligrams all about why we should look after our forests and woodlands. Year 1 also visited the local church for an interesting workshop all about the birth of Jesus linked to their RE learning.

**Y2** - Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed the start of our new topic 'Digging into the Past' this half term. We have had exciting fossil digs and even found our very own dinosaur egg. We have found out key facts about dinosaurs and completed a time line for the three periods during the dinosaur age. The children also enjoyed studying the famous fossil hunter Mary Anning and completed activities linked to her exciting life and world famous discoveries.

**Y3** - Year 3 have had a busy and exciting start to the new year. They have started their 'Revolt of the Romans' theme and enjoyed researching and making some beautiful mosaics as part of their art work linked to this topic. As part of children's mental health week Year 3 created a class worry box and reflecting on how to deal with their worries positively. They also enjoyed a workshop from MEAS to teach them about different cultures which raised their awareness of racism. Year 3 have enjoyed reading lots of exciting books this half term including Ted Hughes' *The Iron Man*. They were delighted to receive thanks from Claire House Hospice after raising £57 for the charity through their blind date with a book sale.

**Y4** - The children have enjoyed reading our class text, *The Iron Man*, where they explored different characters' feeling and emotions through role play and poetry. Following our theme, *Revolt of the Romans*, the children have created mosaic art designs in the shape of a Roman soldier, which you can see on our Twitter page @mendellyear4. In Science, the children have been learning all about forces and magnets. The children particularly enjoyed setting up tests to observe friction on different surfaces. Keep up the good work Year 4!

**Y5** - This half term Year 5 have been learning all about Adventurers and Explorers. We've been reading about how Shackleton had to survive awful conditions during his Antarctic expedition and we had a visit from Ray Hamlet who taught us how we could survive in the wild. Ray helped us learn how to work as teams, showed us how to make shelters and we even found out how to light fires without matches and cook 's'mores' over a campfire!! Our class read is 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell Bryce about a boy who ends up in space because he looks like an adult. Well done for their efforts with TT Rockstars, Bug Club and Nesy; we are starting to see the impact in their work in school from those children that are engaging at home, keep it up!

**Y6** - Year 6 are really enjoying our new topic 'Adventurers and Explorers' and have produced some fantastic writing based on our class text 'Shackleton's Journey'. As an impact activity, they had great fun taking part in a 'survival day' which involved shelter building, fire lighting and problem solving. Year 6 are also enjoying weekly PSHE sessions focusing on friendship and self esteem with Kayte Walsh. They will be sharing what they have learnt in an assembly for the rest of the school later this term.