

Mereside Primary School and Children's Centre

www.meresideprimary.com

June 2018



Measles outbreak

Message for parents/carers and guardians from the Director of Public Health:

There are currently outbreaks of measles in several areas of the UK affecting unimmunised children and young adults, including 2 recent cases in Cumbria. There are also large outbreaks in several countries across Europe, including holiday destinations. Measles is highly infectious. It can cause serious illness and can sometimes be fatal. Vaccination with 2 doses of MMR is the safest way to protect children and young people.

The first MMR vaccine is given to toddlers at the age of 13 months and the second vaccine at around 3 years and 4 months before your child goes to school. MMR can be given to older children, teenagers and young adults if they missed their injections when they were younger. Many of you will still have your Personal Child Health Record (Red Book) which should have a record of your child's MMR vaccines. **Contact your GP practice if you or your child needs an MMR vaccine.** The vaccine is free. If you are not sure if you or your child needs an MMR vaccine, you can contact the GP practice to ask.

Measles is not just an illness that can affect young children. Teenagers, young adults and anyone who has missed their MMR vaccination can get measles. The first signs of measles are fever, cough, runny nose and red sore eyes. After a few days, a spotty rash will appear. It starts on the face and neck before spreading to the rest of the body.

If you think you or your child has measles:

- Ring your GP practice for advice
- Please don't turn up to the surgery, walk in centre or to accident and emergency without calling ahead. The doctor will make special arrangements to see your child so that if your child has got measles they won't pass it on to others.
- Keep people with symptoms of measles away from others to avoid spreading measles, and stay away from school, nursery or work for 5 days after the onset of rash.

If you would like more information, see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Senior Leadership Team from September

In my last newsletter I informed you that Mrs Sarah Bamber has been appointed as new Principal from September. I can now confirm that Miss Sam Upton will continue as Deputy Principal, and that Mrs Jane Walpole will join the school as Assistant Principal/SENCo, taking over from Mrs Wheatley, who has been appointed as an SEN Advisory Teacher for Blackpool.

Visitors from Spain

Between 25th June and 6th July, we will be very pleased to welcome staff from Las Cumbres, our twin school in Madrid. They will be spending time in the classes, getting to know the children, and finding out about the English school system. We are also looking forward to learning more about Las Cumbres from them.

ParentPay

Parent Pay is now live and so far it seems to be working really well for the parents who have activated their accounts. Feedback so far is positive as it is helping parents see what fees are due relating to Nursery Fees, After School Club and Dinner Money.

We hope to use the system from September to allow for trips and visits to be paid through Parent Pay too so it is important that you activate your account so you can do this in the future.

If you have not yet done so, please remember to go online and activate your account. If you have misplaced or not received your activation letter from us, please call into the school office and we can arrange for a copy for you.

Mrs Lydon is also available to support anyone who may be having difficulties activating their accounts, so please just come into the office or phone and ask to speak to her.

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Childcare Vouchers

We are now able to accept Childcare Vouchers to pay for After School Club. To find out more, please speak to Mrs Lydon in the office.

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Children’s Centre news

The consultation being held by Blackpool Council on the future of the Children’s Centres has now closed. We are now waiting to hear what steps the Council propose to take and how they will affect our Children’s Centre. We will keep parents informed of any news when we get it. Thankyou to all those parents who responded to the consultation.

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Important dates

All holiday dates for 2018-19 and 2019-20 are on our website

Please note that from 2019-20 the holiday pattern will change to 2 weeks’ holiday in October, 2 weeks at Easter and 1 week in May/June – please check the dates if you are thinking of booking a holiday

11 th – 15 th June	KS1 Phonics Screening week
Tuesday 12 th June at 2pm	Induction meeting for parents of children starting school in September
Friday 15 th June	Reception trip to the Bowland Wild Boar Park
Thursday 21 st June 9:30 KS1 and KS2 1:30 Reception	Sports Day – please note the separate time for Reception only
Thursday 28 th June	Alternative date for Sports Day if 21st is cancelled due to poor weather, same times as 21st
Friday 29 th June	Non-uniform day – bring a bottle for Summer Fair
Tuesday 3 rd July at 2pm	Children’s University Graduation Ceremony
Wednesday 4 th July	Book Bus at school
Thursday 5 th July	Reports home
Friday 6 th July	Non-uniform day – Bring cakes or biscuits for Summer Fair
Friday 6 th July 3:30-5:00	Summer Fair
Tuesday 10 th July	Y6 SATS results published
Wednesday 11 th July 3:30-5:30	Parents Evening to discuss reports
Friday 13 th July	Early Years Big Toddle and Fairytale Picnic
Monday 16 th July	Moving up morning (children spend the morning in their next year’s class)
Tuesday 17 th July at 2pm	Awards Ceremony
Thursday 19 th July at 8:55am	End of year Attendance Awards Assembly
Friday 20 th July at 9:30	Y6 Leavers’ Assembly Mrs Diver’s last day Break up 2pm for Summer