

Mersey Park Primary School



Headteacher's Newsletter - January 2023



happy new year
2023

Website Updates

We have recently been updating the curriculum pages on our school website. Please click [here](#) to visit the curriculum page and to see what your child has been learning last term.



September 2023 Admissions

If you have a child who was born between the **1st September 2018** and **31st August 2019** then you now need to think about applying for a Foundation 2 (Reception) place for your child to start school in September 2023. Applications should be made online at www.wirral.gov.uk/school-admissions.

Primary preference packs are available from all primary schools, One-Stop-Shops and libraries.

Please ensure applications are submitted by:

15th January 2023.

If you require any assistance please contact the school office.



"Be Nice, Work Hard, Never Give up"

January Dates to Remember

Christmas Holiday

Wednesday 21st December

- Tuesday 3rd January



Staff Development Day

School Closed to Pupils

Wednesday 4th January 2023

CHILDREN WILL RETURN TO

SCHOOL ON

THURSDAY 5th JANUARY 2023



Half term Trophy Assembly

Friday 13th January 2023



Social Supermarket

Remember our Social Supermarket will be open each **Monday** and **Wednesday** from 2.30pm until 3.30pm. All parents and carers of children attending Mersey Park are welcome to come along and use this facility.

The entrance can be found on Downham Road, by the Caretaker's house.

Payment for any items can be made in cash or by card (minimum £2.00 spend)

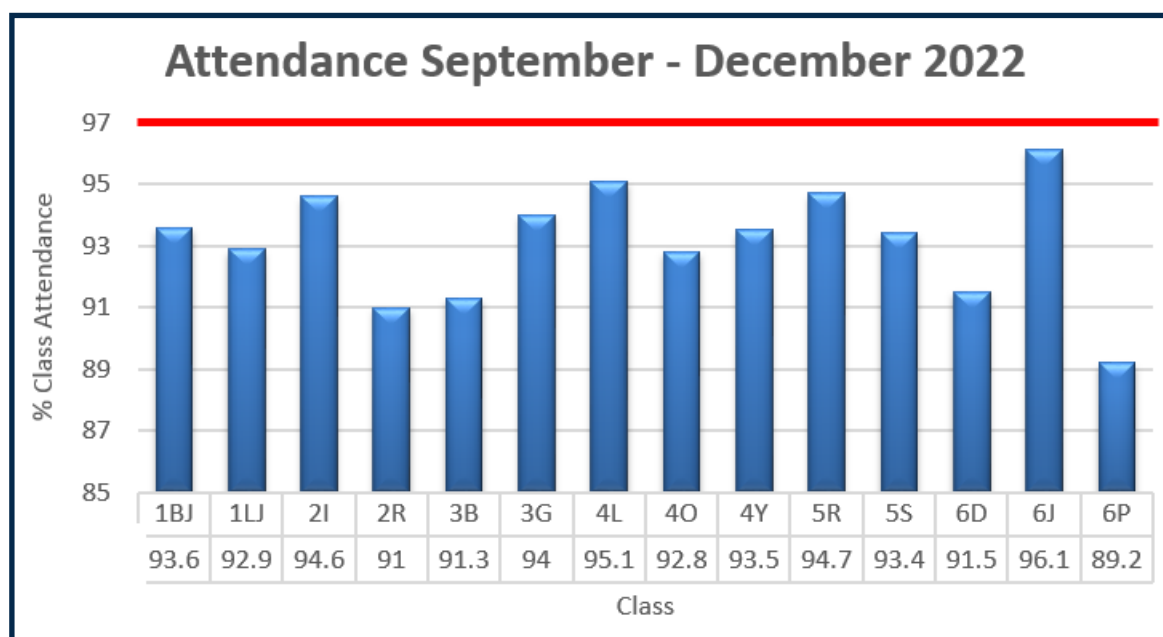
**Mersey Park
Primary School**



Social Supermarket

Attendance

Current whole school attendance is 94.2%, which falls below our school target of 97%. The class with the best attendance this year continues to be **6J** with 96.1% - congratulations!



Class Rewards

All the classes in school are working hard to try to improve their attendance, in order to win the weekly Attendance League and the chance to be entered into a raffle to win a box of chocolates to bring home. They also have a visit from Daley Bear who joins in with the class activities for the week. Each class is also aiming to have over 97% attendance each week to gain the parts to add to their class Potato Head. 6J have completed their potato head collecting all 7 parts and enjoyed a reward at the end of term.

Individual Rewards

We also have our weekly £5 for 5 reward, where a child's name is randomly selected and if they have been in school every day in that week they win £5. If they have had a day off, there will be roll over and the money will be added to the prize for the following week. All pupils with attendance of over 97% will be bringing home a postcard in January to congratulate them on reaching our attendance target.

Authorised Absence

Can parents/carers please ensure that if children are absent from school that a reason is provided every day, so we are able to authorise the absence. If we are not informed of the reason or if the reason is not acceptable, then the absence will be marked as unauthorised. Ten sessions (five days) of unauthorised absence within two half terms may incur an Education Penalty Notice, the cost of which is £60 per child for each parent, if paid in the first 21 days.

Support

If you are concerned about your child's attendance or punctuality do not hesitate to contact school staff for support.



MyHappyMind - 'Appreciate Module'

This module for this half term is all about teaching children the importance of gratitude. It looks at a number of elements of gratitude including:

- What happens in our brain when we give and receive gratitude? We link this back to the science of the brain covered in the 'Meet Your Brain' module and the dopamine release that happens;
- The gratitude wheel -this is a way to think about the types of gratitude that children should try to take the time to notice;
- Ourselves - this is really focused around building self-esteem. By continuing to focus on character strengths, the children are encouraged to think about what they appreciate about themselves or their top character strength;
- Others - children are encouraged to stop and reflect about who in their lives they appreciate and why;
- Experiences - using happy breathing, children are encouraged to stop and think about the simple, everyday experiences that they have.

This module includes a fair amount of reflection and is very much about the children learning to develop what we call an 'attitude of gratitude'. An attitude of gratitude is best described as taking the time to stop and think about all there is to be grateful for. The research shows that regularly doing this has a hugely positive impact on mental wellbeing.

Vocab: Appreciate, Grateful, Thankful, Gratitude Wheel, Our self, Others, Experiences,
Team H-A-P

Parents who attended the workshops found them very informative and useful.
Following a further request by the Parent Partnership Group, the session will run again later on this term.



Foundation Stage 1 Intake 2023

If you or anyone you know has a child who will be **3** on or before **31st August 2020** and would like to apply for a place in our Nursery, please pick up an application form from the school office.



The admission process will begin very shortly, therefore we would kindly request that all applications are completed and returned to the school office by **Friday 24th March 2023**

Recipe of the Month

Each month we will be adding a new healthy, easy to follow and inexpensive recipe to our newsletter .





Cheesy Ham & Broccoli Pasta From BBC Good Food

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/cheesy-ham-broccoli-pasta>

Satisfy your comfort food cravings with this cheap and simple creamy pasta dish with chunks of ham and crunchy veg Ingredients.

Ingredients:

300g pasta (we used conchiglie)
1 head of broccoli cut into small florets
1 tbsp oil
1 onion, finely chopped
2 garlic gloves, crushed
250g ham, cut into chunks (get a nice thick slice ham)
300ml pot of double cream
1 tbsp English mustard
140g mature cheddar, grated

Method:

STEP 1

Bring a large pan of water to the boil and cook the pasta following pack instructions, adding the broccoli florets to the pan for the final 4 mins. Drain and set aside.

STEP 2

Meanwhile, make the sauce. Heat the oil in a large pan and cook the onion for 5 mins to soften, then stir in the garlic and cook for 1 min more. Stir in the ham, cream and mustard, then bring to the boil. Add the pasta and broccoli, then stir in the cheese, coating everything in the sauce.

STEP 3

Serve.