

Mersey Park Primary School



Headteacher's Newsletter - December 2023



MPPS P.T.A. Christmas

Unfortunately there will not be a P.T.A.



Christmas Fair this year. The P.T.A. will instead be having a



Christmas cake sale and there will be a Christmas raffle. Donations of unused, unopened and unwanted gifts can be brought to the school office and will be given to our lovely P.T.A ladies to create prizes and hampers. for the raffle. Details and dates for the cake sale and raffle will follow soon!

Thank you!



Thank you to **Timber King** on Borough Road who have supplied our beautiful Christmas trees this year.

Christmas Jumper Day



Wednesday 20th December will be our Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. Children are welcome to come into school wearing their Christmas Jumper with their uniform for a small donation. Click [here](#) to donate. (Christmas jumpers can also be worn on our last day in school — Friday 22nd December).

Christmas Party

Our party day is on **Thursday 21st December** and we invite all our children to come into school in their party clothes — sensible shoes and a warm coat please!



December Dates to Remember

Year 1 Christmas Performance Class 1L

Tuesday 12th December - 10.00am



Year 2 Christmas Performance Class 21R

Tuesday 12th December - 2.00pm



Year 1 Christmas Performance Class 1B

Wednesday 13th December - 10.00am



Year 2 Christmas Performance Class 2J

Wednesday 13th December - 2.00pm



Foundation 2 Christmas Performance F2D

Tuesday 19th December - 10.00am



Foundation 2 Christmas Performance F2M

Wednesday 20th December - 10.00am



Foundation 1 Christmas Sing-A-Long

Thursday 21st December - 11.15am/2.45pm



Remember to bring your ticket FS2/Yr1/Yr2

Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 20th December



Christmas Party Afternoon

Thursday 21st December



Christmas Jumper Day (2) - Last Day of Term

Friday 22nd December



Christmas Holiday

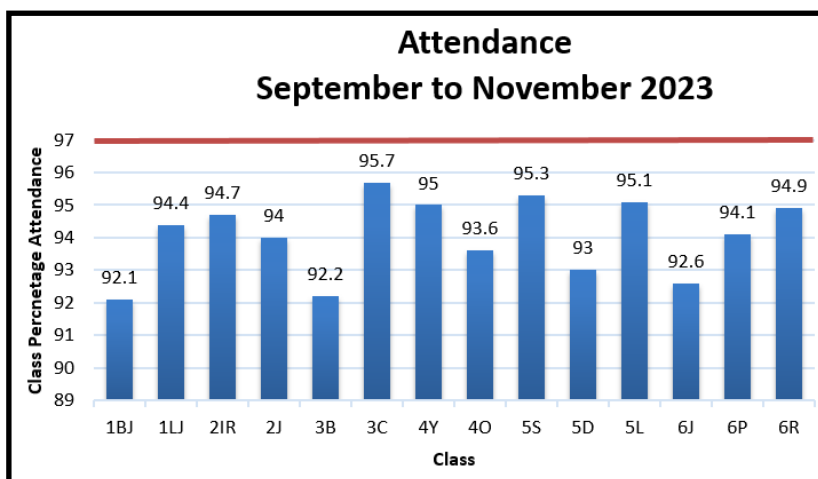
Monday 25th December - Friday 5th January



CHILDREN WILL RETURN TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY 8th JANUARY 2024

Attendance

Current whole school attendance is 94.7%, which falls below our school target of 97% and has declined in the last month. The **class with the best attendance** so far this year is **3C** with 95.7% - congratulations! All the classes in school are working hard to try to improve their attendance. The following classes have maintained or improved their attendance since last month - **4O**, **5S** and **6R** - well done!



Why is it important for children not to miss school?

All parents want the best for their children and for them to get on well in life. Having a good education is important to ensure that they have the best opportunities in their adult life. They **only get one chance at school**, and **your child's future may be affected by not attending school regularly**. If children do not attend school regularly they may:

- **Struggle to keep up with school work.** In a busy school day it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up.
- Miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can **affect children's ability to make and keep friendships**; a vital part of growing up.

Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery through primary school, will also help your child later on in their life. Children who have a poor school attendance record may have less chance of securing a job when they are adults.

Being on time is also vital. **Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child**, their teacher and the other children in the class.

What might the impact of poor attendance be on you child?

Research shows that in primary schools children with **attendance that is below 95%** are **less likely to achieve good results in English and Maths**. Parents and carers can be very surprised at how quickly their children's attendance can fall below 95%. **From September to the end of November, if your child has missed 3 days of school they have already dropped below 95% attendance.**

Support

If you are concerned about your child's attendance or punctuality please speak to your child's classteacher or Mrs Hardy (Home/School Liaison Officer) who will be able to offer support.



Celebrate

We have just come to the end of the Celebrate module in the myHappyMind programme. The children have learnt so much through this module including:

- What character strengths are and why they matter.
- How to recognise character strengths in ourselves and others.
- How understanding our character strengths can make us feel.

Why not ask your children to tell you what they have learnt. Here's some questions to help you:

- What is your top Character Strength?
- Which strength would you like to grow and use more?
- Why is it important to spot Character Strengths in other people?



Support your child at home:

Log onto the parent app for more information about the Celebrate module and how you can support your child at home.

There are lots of activities you can do together at home including creating strength spotting glasses, listening to the story and song, plus much more.

To access these materials just go to
and enter your name, email, and authentication code.

Recipe of the Month

Each month we will be adding a new healthy, easy to follow and inexpensive recipe to our newsletter. Read on to see December's Recipe of the Month.



Follow Us @MPPS_Wirral



"Be Nice, Work Hard, Never Give up"



Unbelievably Easy Mince Pies

From BBC Good Food

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/unbelievably-easy-mince-pies>

No rolling required! Press the raw, crumbly pastry directly into your tin for a short biscuit finish.

Our easiest mince pie recipe and great fun to make with the kids.

Ingredients

225g cold butter, diced
350g of plain flour
100g of golden caster sugar
280g mincemeat
1 small egg, beaten
Icing sugar to dust

Method

STEP 1

To make the pastry, rub the butter into the flour, then mix in the golden caster sugar and a pinch of salt.

STEP 2

Combine the pastry into a ball — don't add liquid — and knead it briefly. The dough will be fairly firm, like shortbread dough. You can use the dough immediately, or chill for later.

STEP 3

Heat oven to 200c/180c fan/gas 6. Line 18 holes of two 12 hole baking trays by pressing a small, walnut sized ball of pastry into each hole.

STEP 4

Spoon the mincemeat into the pastry. Take smaller balls of pastry than before and pat each of them out between your hands to make round lids big enough to cover the pies.

STEP 5

Top the pies with their lids, pressing the edges gently together to seal—you don't need to seal them with milk or egg as they will stick on their own. You can freeze them now and they will keep for up to one month.

STEP 6

Brush the tops of the pies with the beaten egg. Bake for 20 minutes until golden. Leave to cool in the tin for 5 minutes and then transfer them to a wire cooling rack. To serve, lightly dust with icing sugar.

Will keep for three to four days in an airtight container.

Neo Community Social Supermarket at Mersey Park

Due to difficulties in maintaining stock levels we may need to limit visits to our Social Supermarket. Please check your ParentApp for updates.

Thank you for your support



Kindness in the Community

Thank you to E . Reynolds Fencing, on Church Road, who have very kindly donated wood to allow us to repair our equipment shed in middle playground.



September 2024 Admissions

If you have a child who was born between the 1st **September 2019** and **31st August 2020** then you now need to think about applying for a Foundation 2 (Reception) place for your child to start school in September 2024. Applications should be made online at [www.wirral.gov.uk/school admissions](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/school%20admissions).

Please ensure applications are submitted online by:

15th January 2024.

If you require any assistance please contact the school office.



Christmas Wishes



On behalf of everyone here at Mersey Park Primary School, and as we approach the Christmas break, I would like to wish all our children and their families a very Happy Christmas. We hope you have a lovely Christmas holiday and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Mrs Thomas

