

Merrow Schools Federation

Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Louisa Dormer



Merrow Schools Federation Bulletin - Spring 2 2023

27th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

A very Happy New Year to all our families celebrating the Lunar New Year. On Wednesday our schools were awash with red and we all thoroughly enjoyed learning more about Chinese culture and celebrating with our families. A huge thankyou to all the parents who joined us for coffee, assembly and to support the children as they did a craft activity. We really appreciate your help and hope you enjoyed time with us. Thank you to Miss Lee for all her input and organising such a fun quiz for the children!

Barnardos - Wellbeing sessions for parents

Thank you to those who attended these sessions about anxiety and wellbeing. There were lots of useful resources and advice, a few nuggets I will share with you:

- If your children come home and say they don't remember much, give them space and encourage them to talk about other things. Ask things such as 'what made you smile today?' etc
- if your child is angry/distressed, don't talk to them at that moment, wait until they are calm
- help your child to recognise their feelings - help them to find the connection between how they physically feel when they are excited/anxious/worried etc
- model our own feelings/experiences and how we dealt with certain situations
- provide opportunities for children to test and build their resilience

Please refer to Mindworks: <https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/> for further information.

Book Day

This year we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March. The children will be invited to dress as a character from a book they enjoy. There will be lots of activities taking place throughout the day - more information to follow.

Clubs

Clubs finish at 4pm Merrow and 4.15pm at Bushy. Please ensure your child is collected promptly at this time as staff are unable to supervise after this time. If they are at Bushy, your child will be taken to After School Club and this will incur a fee.

Federation Update

I would like to invite all parents/carers to a Parent Forum at Merrow Infant School on Friday 3rd March at 9am for the opportunity to discuss/ask questions about the federation's vision and ideas about uniform. If you are unable to attend, there will be opportunity to feedback via Google Forms.

Panto time

Huge congratulations to Mrs Friend-Smith who is performing in this year's Merrow Dramatic Society's Rapunzel. She was outstanding - as reported by a number of children at school!

Prayer Group

The schools' prayer group plans to meet on Tuesday 7th Feb in the afternoon. Please email merrowandbushyprayer@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

PTA

I recently met with the chairs from both Bushy and Merrow PTAs to discuss upcoming events. Please see events on 'Dates for the Diary'.

Shoelaces

Please can you support the schools by teaching and practising how to tie shoelaces. There are plenty of video tutorials to help: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_wuRz3TSno Children at Merrow should wear velcro fastening shoes if they are unable to tie their own laces.

Spring Concert

A highlight of the school year is the Spring Concert at Bushy in March. Auditions for any budding Bushy musical artists, dancers etc will take place on 9th Feb. Children are to prepare a piece and provide instrument/backing track etc - school piano and drum kit can be used for the audition. Those successful on 9th Feb. will be asked to perform on 9th March.

Sportshall Athletics

Just to clarify, we have entered a team for each year group in the Sportshall Athletics competition at the Spectrum. This is for a small group of children from each year group who will receive an invitation to participate. Unfortunately there is no space for spectators.

Staffing

Miss Hussain will be leaving us at half term - we wish her all the very best. Mrs Hurrell has moved to 3H and will remain their full time teacher for the rest of the year.

Robert Wyld will join the team on Monday and he will work in 4SL, initially alongside Mrs Warren-Simpson until she goes on maternity leave.

I am also delighted to announce that we have appointed a new SENCo for the federation. We will welcome back to the team Mrs Kerry Bircher, who will start on 24th April. She has worked in both schools and has taken time out to work as a teacher at a special school. I know that she will be an asset to the team and work effectively with our staff to ensure the schools continue to provide consistent provision for our children with SEND.

Term dates 2023/24

Autumn term 2023

Start of term	Half term	End of term
1 September 2023	23 October to 27 October 2023	15 December 2023

Spring term 2024

Start of term	Half term	End of term
2 January 2024	12 February to 16 February 2024	28 March 2024

Summer term 2024

Start of term	Half term	End of term
15 April 2024	27 May to 31 May 2024	23 July 2024

I can confirm that Friday 1st September will be an INSET Day.

Volunteers

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to help out at lunch, with readers etc. We would also like 2 parent helpers in the library at Merrow. Please let us know if you are able to help - any time would be really appreciated. We also need more readers to support in all year groups - if you can spare an hour during the week, your time would be much appreciated.

Young Carers

A young carer is a child or young person who is helping to look after someone at home. Most are caring for a parent, commonly in a single parent family, but some may be taking responsibility for a sibling, grandparent or other relative. In some instances a young carer may care for more than one family member.

We are committed to supporting all of the Young Carers in our community and will be sensitive to their needs. At all times, we will respect privacy and show discretion. Any information about the family's circumstances will only be shared on a 'need to know' basis, in line with GDPR, in order to provide help and ensure safety. If you think your child could be a Young Carer, please contact Mrs Tutty our Home School Link Worker:

jtutty@merrowfederation.school

Safeguarding, Child Protection and Wellbeing

['The Game' on Roblox](#)

[Listen up, Speak Up](#)

[Free parent workshops](#)

[Tik Tok tips](#)

If you have any concerns, please contact Mrs Dormer/Mrs Aldridge at Bushy or Mrs Hooper/Mrs Jewson at Merrow.

Community News



Active Surrey will be running a free 'Help your child be their best' workshop in conjunction with YMCA East Surrey's Community Wellbeing Team, giving tips on how parents can help their children reach their potential physically and mentally. Parents will learn about the Tree of Wellbeing and the links to activity, nutrition, hydration and sleep.

'Help your child be their best' workshop:

Thursday 9 February 2023 | 18:30-19:30

Find out more about the workshop and how to book on the website: [Parent Workshops - YMCA East Surrey](#)
Booking form: [Helping your child be their best Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#).

Multiply

National Numeracy are working with Surrey County Council as part of the national 'Multiply' initiative to raise numeracy levels amongst adults in the UK. Multiply courses are free and available to anyone aged 19+ and without a GCSE at grade C (or equivalent) in maths. You can find out more about Multiply course in Surrey at [Multiply: Free numeracy courses for adults aged 19+ - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/multiply).

Parents/carers of primary-aged children (a 1-hour workshop): Help your child love maths. The session aims to support parents/carers to understand how to help their children develop positive attitudes towards maths. It explores the importance of maths in the real world, talking positively about maths, promoting a growth mindset and how to boost your own number skills as an adult. <https://nn.typeform.com/to/EzzjhE6S>.

[Speech and Language Magazine - focus on autism](#)

The UK's best parenting magazine is free for all carers, parents & grandparents! Click on the cover to access the magazine.

Thank you for your ongoing support.
Have a lovely weekend!

Dormer

Mrs L. Dormer
Executive Head Teacher

