



Merrow Schools Federation Bulletin - Spring 5 2023

17th March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Will Spring ever arrive! What a mixed day it has been today! At least we had all the children in red brightening the schools! Only two more weeks until Easter, and things are super busy. Remember to keep up with the Dates for the Diary so you don't miss anything.

In Collective Worship at Merrow this morning, not only did we learn about why we were wearing red, we found out that today is also St. Patrick's Day. St Patrick was the patron saint of Ireland and he showed great courage and inspired us to always try to do the right things - closely linked to our value of Integrity.

The infants enjoyed their bedtime story last night and had great success at the Book Fair - thank you to all the staff who organised these. Funds raised will go towards more resources to develop our children's reading.



This week we have 'celebrated' Science Week and Neurodiversity week. The Bushy children really enjoyed learning about different types of neurodiversity and the many talents and advantages of being neurodivergent. They also have an increased awareness of some of the challenges of being neurodiverse and the importance of always being understanding and kind towards each other. Following the online sign language lesson on Wednesday, it was fantastic to see a group of year 6 boys who insisted on not speaking, and communicating in sign language as part of the challenge.

These were some of the comments from the children:

I really enjoyed learning about different neurodiverse superpowers and learning more about the ones I have and ones other people have.

It is nice to know that all my friends have neurodiverse powers but it is also nice to know that everyone around the world has neurodiverse powers.

The sign language lesson was fun because I have learnt to sign colours and letters

I really loved doing the sign language lesson and now know some of the letters of the alphabet.

If you would like to find out more, please see the Mindworks website: <https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/>



Next Tuesday, 21st March, is World Down Syndrome Day 2023. The children are invited to wear odd socks for the day to help raise awareness of Down syndrome.

For more information see: <https://www.worlddownsyndromeday.org/>

Consultations - open classroom date

The teachers very much appreciated meeting/speaking with you over the past couple of weeks to talk about the progress your children are making. We very much view their education as a partnership between home and school and appreciate your support.

We have arranged for another 'Open Classroom' this term which will give you the opportunity to view your children's work. Merrow Infants - Monday 27th March at 3pm, and Bushy Hill on Tuesday 28th March from 3.15pm.

Email correspondence

Key email addresses for your reference:

infant@merrowfederation.school - Merrow Infant School Office

junior@merrowfederation.school - Bushy Hill School Office

yearr@merrowfederation.school, year1@merrowfederation.school etc - year group emails if you need to send a message to your child's class teacher.

Hockey tournament



On Monday 13th March, fourteen Year 5s went to a hockey tournament at Charterhouse school. We played against lots of other schools who were really good. We didn't expect them to be that good! We might have only come in 6th place but it was really fun and we were happy to be invited to take part in our first hockey tournament.

Nathan L and the team

Lunch

A reminder for all Bushy parents/carers, the school office must have one week's notice if your child is moving from school dinner to packed lunch or vice versa. Thank you for your understanding.



Pond update (from the PTA)

Work has started on the pond at Merrow! Thank you so much to all of those that came out to help start clearing last Sunday!

Our contractor has now started work and is making good progress as you will probably have seen. We are so excited that this area is getting its long overdue makeover, and it will become a wonderful resource for our children - as well as being a happy home for lots of bugs, birds, frogs and toads!

Part of the work will involve some new planting - in the garden area, the new raised bed, and also in the pond. A 'wish list' of plants is below - if you are able to and would like to help us get these plants together, we would be very grateful for any donations - have a look at the list and if you are willing to buy and donate a new plant, it would be hugely appreciated. Please put any donations next to the pond fence.

Parking and Driving

I am constantly told about inconsiderate driving and parking around our schools. I appreciate there is a lack of space, however the safety of our children and members of the community is paramount.

Please remember not to park on the yellow markings, drive carefully down Merrow Street and do not park across residents' driveways.

PTA

Our joint Summer Fair will be held on June 23rd from 6 - 7.30pm and we are already starting to plan for what will be a fantastic event for the federation! If you have a small business and would like to have a stall at the fair, please let the school office know. We will be looking for lots of helpers for this event, so please look out for the pleas!!

Spring Concert



What an inspirational evening! The children who performed were truly amazing. We heard some exceptional piano and violin pieces, singing, drama and one of the highlights ... 'Jump' on the drums! Thank you to all those who participated and to Mrs Friend-Smith for coordinating the evening.

Staff news

I am very sorry to announce that Mr Pariera will be leaving us at Easter. He is moving into a role with Surrey, something I know he will excel in and many children will benefit from. A huge loss from our schools, but we wish him the very best.

Surrey Half



Thank you to all our inspirational runners from Reception to Year 6 (and lots of ex-pupils) who participated in last Sunday's 2K race. It was such a busy but fun event and to see the determination and supportive attitude of these children was great to see. Well done to all the parents/carers and staff who also ran.



Congratulations to our Year 6s who (also!) ran on the Saturday at Reigate - some getting through to represent Surrey!



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter: @MerrowSchools

Safeguarding, Child Protection and Wellbeing

[Your Guide to Twitch](#)

[Youtube Go Live](#)

[Protecting your children online](#)

[Male Domestic Violence](#)



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

Community

[Free guides: understanding your baby, child or teenager :: Children and Family Health Surrey \(childrenshealthissurrey.nhs.uk\)](#)

Surrey families can get free access to the online guides by using the code ACORN

Good luck to our Year 5s as they go off on their residential to the Isle of Wight PGL next week - I know they will have a fantastic time! Don't forget to pack your toothbrush and a teddy!

Have a lovely weekend and for all those celebrating, enjoy Mother's Day!

Dormer

Mrs L. Dormer
Executive Head Teacher

