



Mercenfeld Primary School

NEWSLETTER 5th January 2010

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www.mercenfeld.com

Mercenfeld

Welcome back to one and all.
We hope you had a wonderful
Christmas and wish you a happy
new year!



Emergency School Closure

It will always be our aim to keep the school open no matter what the weather. However, if it becomes necessary to close school for emergency reasons, e.g. a heating breakdown or due to insufficient staff being able to get into school (we do have teachers who live in more distant villages away from main roads), then we will provide as much notice as possible but it is possible that such a decision may only be made on the morning of such a closure. A sign will be placed outside the school and a notice will be issued to **BBC Radio Leicester (104.9 FM)** who will include it in its on-air bulletin and on the Station's Snow Closure website page that can be accessed from:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/leicester/hi>

Please note that this is now the only Radio Station with the official record of snow closures (no longer on Leicester Sound as well)



Weather Advice

Please ensure your child is suitably dressed for cold weather – a warm coat, hat and gloves (all name labelled please!) and stout shoes are important.

We will continue to grit paths but please take care as you move around the grounds. As the ground is frozen and not wet/muddy, the children will be playing on the field and grassed areas where it is less slippery, leading, hopefully, to fewer accidents.

TERM DATES

SPRING TERM

School Opens Tues 5th January 2010

Mid Term Break Mon 15th to Fri 19th February

School Closes Fri evening 26th March 2010

SUMMER TERM

School Opens Mon 12th April 2010

May Day Mon 3rd May

Mid Term Break Mon 31st May to Fri 4th June

School Closes Fri evening 16th July 2010

2010/11 ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINS

Thursday 2nd September 2010



Fundraising Thanks



Thank you for your generous donations when attending our Christmas Productions/Carol Services. Over £300 was raised for school funds and over £200 for the 'Tinkerbella's Wishes' fund to support the work of the hospital that is providing such good care for one of our younger pupils. Also, well done to the Foundation Stage for running such a popular home-made biscuit sale.



What a GREAT Bunch!

I would like to congratulate pupils for a fantastic first term of the year. Visitors to school & organisations that have hosted our school trips have commented on **OUTSTANDINGLY** good behaviour from Mercenfeld pupils. There were also incredibly positive comments from parents who supported our Christmas craft days – thank **you** for your support.

Supporting your Child to be successful

I am often asked by parents how they can best support their child to be successful academically. There are **3** simple things that ALL parents can do (and sorry if this seems obvious to some of you).

- 1. Read to/with your child regularly (every night if possible), or get him/her to retell a well known story or make up stories together**
- 2. Regularly share a meal around a table rather than in front of the television (talking is good)**
- 3. Play games and do activities that promote discussion and thinking (perhaps limit the time spent on the computer/games consoles or in front of the television).** Over the rest of the year we will include, in the newsletter, quick, easy and fun ideas that you could try at home.

Homework

I strongly believe that there is limited value in very closed homework tasks e.g. a page of maths sums, or a 'fill-in-the-blanks' worksheet. Sometimes such tasks may be appropriate but what we are aiming for is for pupils to be more creative and independent in completing work in their Learning Journeys/Logs. All tasks are well explained but if your child is struggling, please get him/her to request some help or see your child's teacher yourself. If your child is spending hours and hours completing homework then STOP – he/she is either doing too much or has not understood the task. Very often there may be an extension or challenge task – this is OPTIONAL but some children are encouraged to have a go. We will soon be displaying some examples of excellent homework to celebrate achievement as well as giving parents/pupils an idea of what can be achieved with a bit of creative effort and determination.

The most important thing you can do with your child is to discuss his/her homework and get him/her to explain what has to be done. This will then help you gauge what level of support is needed (if any). Then show some interest and get your child to explain the work completed.

School Uniform – Ordering

There is now a link on the school website (under 'Useful Links' on the Welcome Page) to our uniform provider, or visit: www.schoolwearforless.com. Use the 'Find Your School' drop down menus to select Leicestershire and Markfield, then hit 'Next' to then view the uniform for Mercefeld. Options for P.E. uniform are listed but this is not compulsory. Book bags and rucksacks can be purchased on-line or bought from the School Office as normal.

All uniform can be ordered on-line but you are of course welcome to buy appropriately coloured uniform at supermarkets etc, which will of course not include the school logo. Delivery costs are reasonable but to save money parents could club together to buy uniform in larger quantities to save on postage. All items will be delivered to your door.

If you do not have access to the internet, a manual order form is available in the school office. This method of ordering does not, however, save on postage. Ordering online means uniform can be ordered when the school is closed (evenings, holidays etc). I am assured by the Managing Director that it is a secure site and that your details are held very securely. The company offer a 'no quibble' replacement guarantee. There will be a full refund for plain items and a credit for embroidered items. Apart from paying on-line you can also raise an order on-line, print it off & then send a cheque or postal order directly to Schoolwear For Less.

Samples of uniform in order to gauge sizes and the quality, will be available each WEDNESDAY EVENING between 2.45pm and 3.45 p.m. in the school Foyer. School does not carry any stock of uniform and samples must be retained by the school.

We do have a few spare garments in stock, in a limited number of sizes, so you may wish to check with Mrs Flowiitt in the School Office before ordering.