

Spring Term Number 01
Week ending
10th January 2025



Dear Parents and Governors

Learn – Achieve – Enjoy

“High levels of pastoral support at the heart of the school community” (Ofsted, April 2024)

KEY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Mon 13 th Jan	Y6 Class trip to the British Museum
Mon 20 th Jan	School Nursing in school to conduct height & weight checks for Rec & Y6
Thurs 23 rd Jan	School Nursing in school to conduct vision screening for Rec.
Thurs 6 th Feb	Y1 Class Trip to the London Eye
Fri 7 th Feb	Non-Uniform day in return for Mothers Day gifts.
Fri 14 th Feb	Winning Hummingbird Team non-uniform day

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year and welcome back to the start of the Spring Term! I hope you all had a wonderful festive break and managed to enjoy some quality time with loved ones. As we step into 2025, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and partnership in making our school such a special place for our children to learn and grow.

The Spring Term is always an exciting time, full of new opportunities and fresh challenges. Over the coming weeks, we've got plenty to look forward to, including Book week, Winterfest Mary Poppins performances, Creative writing workshops (Y4 and Y6), our first Holi celebration (more info to follow at a later date!) and not forgetting the mammoth Easter raffle!

Please keep an eye on the calendar for important dates, and as always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions or ideas to share. Communication and collaboration are at the heart of everything we do, and we truly value your input.

As part of the school's and local authorities continued commitment to safety, next week the black arched fencing across the front of the school is being removed - the brickwork base will remain. In it's place will be graduated height of green mesh wire. (like what is already along the ball court). We have been assured that disruption will be minimal and won't impact drop off or collection times. As with any building works, there is always an element of unpredictability so I would ask for your patience and understanding whilst this improvement is being undertaken.

Here's to a fantastic term ahead, full of learning, growth, and success for every child in our school community. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us!

READING KINDLE WINNERS

Every child in Y1-Y6 who has 5 adult signatures Wednesday to Wednesday, has their name entered into a raffle. Three winners are selected in assembly to win our Kindles for a week. This week's winners are:

- Y1 & Y2 – Kija
- Y3 & Y4 – Ria
- Y5 & Y6 – Jaishan

Well done everyone and keep reading! **Mrs Danaher, Literacy Leader**





High 5 of the Week

Learner of the week

Class	Name	Reason
Yellow	Anaya Yousaf	for trying so hard with her writing this week. Well Done Anaya!
Red	Thasvin Pulavar	for talking about his holidays during the Literacy lesson. Well done, Thasvin!
Green	Brian Cheng	For an excellent drawing of a turtle and making a great prediction.
Blue	Aleksandra Zajkowska	For working hard at learning independently in Mathematics this week.
Purple	Ethan Busby	For working hard in all lessons - a fantastic start!
Silver	Aaban Basharat	For making a very big effort to participate in teaching inputs.
Gold	Fawad Ahmed	for a consistently high effort and standard of work in all subjects!

Class	Name	Reason
Yellow Class	Leja Petrulionyte	Resilience-when building the Little Pigs House. Well Done Leja.
Red Class	Jack Ridsdale	Teamwork - always answering questions during lessons. Well done, Jack!
Green Class	James Brooks	Resilience- For being very brave and returning to school and being excited and ready to learn.
Blue Class	Kyra Henderson	For her brave return to school after a long break.
Purple Class	Amy-Grace Collins	Challenge - aiming high in all lessons. Well Done!
Silver Class	Aayan Basharat	Respect - for asking questions to adults about their holidays.
Gold Class	Faraz Babar	Challenge - shown in French when learning and practising new vocabulary.

MATHS TIMES TABLE ROCK STARS CHAMPIONS

Each week in assembly, we celebrate children on the TT Rockstars leaders' board. Children in Year 2-6 compete in this competition. **All children In Y2-6 are expected to complete a minimum of 30 minuter PER week and this is checked every Wednesday ready for our celebration assembly on Thursday.** This week's winners are:

Improved Speed	Name
1 st	Jay-Sean
2 nd	Joel
3 rd	Jaishan

Improved Accuracy	Name
1 st	Betsy
2 nd	Alexa
3 rd	Andrew

Most Correct Answers:	Name
1 st	Aurora
2 nd	Vihaan
3 rd	Anayah



Well done everyone! **Mrs Green, Maths Learning Leader**

CHRISTIAN CARE AND CHARITY SINGING WITH OUR ST HELIER CLUSTER SCHOOLS

Before Christmas, Mrs Blow took some Year 6 children to the Merton civic centre to participate in carol singing with other schools in our St Helier cluster. Through a combined effort, we raised £50 for the Mayor's Charity – Christian Care – who help fund local foodbanks. Well done to all involved.

COLD WEATHER

As the weather turns colder and wetter, our playground and field can get quite muddy but outdoor play remains an important part of the day for our children. All children must come to school with a warm coat – **NO COAT NO PLAY!**

We also recommend that children bring a pair of wellies or a change of shoes to keep on their peg. These should be brought in a clearly labeled carrier bag, as we don't have space to store loose items.

Thank you for your support in keeping our children ready for all-weather play!



MORDEN MARVELS



**BOARD
GAMES**



Morden
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Learn - Achieve - Enjoy



TOYS

JOIN THE MORDEN MARVELS AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Looking for a fun way to spend your afternoons?

Join **Morden Marvels**, where every day brings new adventures!

- **Creative Activities:** Dive into arts, crafts, and hands-on projects.
- **Games and Sports:** Enjoy a variety of fun games and activities.
- **Outdoor Fun:** Get active with exciting outdoor play.
- **Hot snack and fruit provided.**

Extra time for you!

While your kids have a great time, you can take a moment for yourself or help with work commitments.

Payment Options are:

- **£15.50 per session until 6pm.**
- **£17.00 per session for all ad-hoc bookings (subject to availability)**

Please email mordenmarvels@morden.merton.sch.uk for more information or to book.



SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

Join our school lottery and help raise funds for our school while getting the chance to win **£25,000!** It's quick and easy to sign up, and you can opt out at any time.

For more information, please contact **Mrs. Freeman.**



WE'VE LAUNCHED A LOTTERY

Buy your tickets now to
help our fundraising

- Tickets cost just £1
- All profits go to our school and our children
- Local cash prize every week
- Chance to win the £25,000 jackpot!



To start supporting, visit:

yourschoollottery.co.uk

and search for: **Morden Primary**

GambleAware 

MESSAGES TO THE OFFICE

We would like to remind parents that if there are ANY changes to your child's collection arrangements, these need to be communicated with the office as early as possible. Often there is only one admin staff member in the office after lunchtime. **After 3pm, any messages cannot be guaranteed to be with the class teacher before 3.10pm.**

SCOOTERS

Please do not let your child scooter at high speed outside the school gates or on the footpath. Our school is located near a busy main road, and the area is crowded with children and families during drop-off and pick-up times. Unfortunately, there have been instances of children falling off their scooters or colliding with others and parked cars, which poses a serious safety risk. Please help us ensure everyone's safety. Thank you for your cooperation!

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones should not be used on school grounds. This especially includes taking photos and filming as it is a safeguarding concern. Please ensure your phone is kept out of sight while you are on the premises.

APPOINTMENTS

If your child has a medical appointment, or has any other commitment during school hours, please provide evidence of this **before** the event. Please do not inform us or send in the letter on the day of the event. We need time to update the register, notify staff, and adjust school meal plans accordingly.

All routine GP and Dental appointments will not be authorised and need to be made out of school hours.

Thank you for your understanding.

NO DOGS IN SCHOOL

No dogs, even carried ones, are allowed on school premises or near any entrances.

TISSUES

As the weather gets colder and runny noses make their way into school, we are in need of extra tissues. If you are able to donate a box for your child's class, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support!



CLUBS IN SCHOOL

CLUBS AFTER SCHOOL

MONDAY

- **Sketchbook Club** with Mrs. Barbour (Y3–Y6)

TUESDAY

- **Tuesday Club** with Mr. Smith (Y1–Y2)
- **Tennis Club** (Rec–Y6) – Run by Multisports4U.
Contact directly: www.multisports4all.co.uk

WEDNESDAY

- **Boccia** with Mr. Smith (Y3–Y4)
- **Gymnastics Club** – Run by Community Advantages. Contact directly: info@ca-sportscoaching.co.uk

THURSDAY

- **Basketball** with Mr. Smith (Y1–Y6) – **FULL**
- **Dance Club** with Nuffield Health (Y3–Y6)

FRIDAY

- **Comet Drama Club** (Rec–Y6) – Contact directly:
www.cometdrama.co.uk/sign-up

We Have Been Recognised As The Best Children's Sports Coaching Provider in Surrey
<https://www.sme-news.co.uk/winners/community-advantages-sports-coaching/>



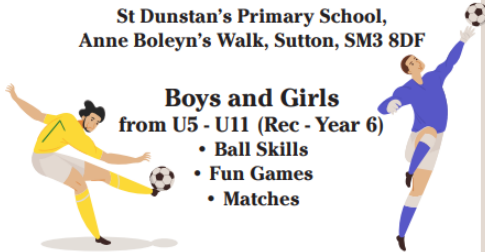
Providing football coaching for over 15 years

EVERY SATURDAY MORNING
10.30AM - 12.00PM

St Dunstan's Primary School,
 Anne Boleyn's Walk, Sutton, SM3 8DF

Boys and Girls
 from U5 - U11 (Rec - Year 6)

- Ball Skills
- Fun Games
- Matches



Qualified Football Coaching
 All Coaches have a DBS Disclosure and are First Aid Trained

We offer every child a **free taster session**.
 To reserve a place for your child, please call

Naz (Head Coach) on 07793 815 752
 or email: info@ca-sportscoaching.co.uk

COMMUNITY ADVANTAGES



Does your child have a flare for the Performing Arts?
 After much success and feedback for her work during the HAF programme during the half terms, Lucy wants to continue to encourage the passion for drama and acting right here in our very own Morden Primary School.

If you have been for the taster and haven't signed up, what are you waiting for!? If not, why not sign up your child for the course and maybe it might be their name in lights performing in the next Wimbledon Theatre Panto!

Join Lucy from Comet Drama at her afterschool club held here at Morden Primary School starting Friday 17th Jan 2025!

Click the link to find out more and book a place now! <https://www.cometdrama.co.uk/sign-up>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

JustTalk Kids is a child's version of the JustTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JustTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS
 While JustTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a paid premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, the feature allows children to have access to more features such as games they can play with others in a chat, with adults, a badge indicating them as a premium subscriber, and exclusive avatars and themes.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS
 JustTalk and JustTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developer themselves won't access your data. However, in security tests at 2022 highlighted here, messages were not as well encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the developer's team.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS
 JustTalk is an endorsement to allow children the access of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls. Unlike the app or their own adult JustTalk account, the kids' version is a positive, however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JustTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions to date.

CYBERBULLYING
 Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things about their mental health and to parents. Combined with the option of group chats, there is a risk that young people might use it with this kind of behaviour, including if further on-line bullying, being what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE
 After downloading JustTalk Kids, parents need a passcode which users must enter to set controls. The parent controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can chat with. It's important that children are clear with the controls and understand how to use the app. However, some children do know a specific passcode. In theory, someone could type in a passcode and use the app. Here as a threat.

TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME
 A report by the UK Parliament's Education Committee highlighted that 25% of children used their smartphones to maintain contact with someone online, including children to have networking apps when they're too young to have to use digital tools and a reliance by technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS
 If parents allow their child to use JustTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and don't use a picture of themselves or their public picture. The type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING
 Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the range of digital content. Children need to be aware that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS
 Young children might be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in group chats, it's important to talk to others publicly and not out any unapproved behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION
 Apps like JustTalk can sometimes lead themselves to bullying behaviour. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to show their feelings. Both positive and negative if there. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them unrespectfully.

Meet Our Expert
 Dr Claire Bradshaw is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and worked on research for the Australian government comparing internet use and setting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

See full reference list on guide page at <https://thenationalcollege.com/guides/parents>

Get in touch: www.wakeupwednesday.com @wakeupwednesday @wakeupweds



Talk Autism is a forum for parents and carers of children, young people and adults with autism

Next event
 Monday 13 January 2025 10am – 12pm

Location
 In-person at the Chaucer Centre, Canterbury Road, Morden SM4 6PX

Life experiences of young adults with autism

PLUS

Experiences of an employer making adjustments in the workplace to support employees with autism

We will be joined by young adults who will be sharing their life journey so far, describing their experience as a person with autism, living life independently, searching for employment and leading a happy and fulfilled life.

We will also be joined by an employer who will be describing their approach to ensuring equal opportunity in the workplace.

The workshop will comprise:

- ✓ The young people sharing their experiences & perspective
- ✓ The importance of equal opportunity employment
- ✓ How an employer approaches making reasonable adjustments in an audio-visual stimulating environment
- ✓ Questions and answer session
- ✓ Refreshments and opportunities for parents and carers to meet

The session is appropriate to parents and carers of children, young people & adults with autism.

Register now to attend this free session by contacting Maria Solari:

By email: meps.coordinator@mertonmencap.org.uk
 Phone: 07709 715206

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P. Blow, Headteacher