

Spring Term Number 10  
 Week ending  
 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024



Dear Parents and Governors

**Learn – Achieve – Enjoy**  
**“Exceptional Pastoral Care” (Ofsted, September 2018)**

**KEY DATES**

DATE	EVENT
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Bonnet parade 9am (Parents welcome weather permitting)
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 at Wimbledon Bookfest (after Easter Bonnet parade)
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of Nursery
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Easter themed Film Night 3.15-5pm ( <i>sold out</i> )
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> March	WINNING HUMMINGBIRD TEAM NON-UNIFORM DAY - <b>XANTUS</b>
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> March	End of Spring term- school finishes at 1.30pm
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> March	INSET DAY FOR STAFF
<b>28<sup>th</sup> March – 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</b>
<b>Mon 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Summer Term starts back</b>
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> April	St Giles Workshops for Y3-Y6
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Y1 at Chessington World of Adventures
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> -Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATS Week

**HEADTEACHER’S MESSAGE**

I would like to share some exciting promotion news with you this week. Mrs Freeman has been promoted to Office & Extended Services Manager from after the Spring holiday break. You may have read in the news that schools will soon be providing wrap around care from 8am-6pm. We are very excited to announce that Morden will be exploring our options to offer after school care until 6pm each day and Mrs Freeman will be integral in developing this future business plan for our school. In addition, Mrs Cockett has been promoted to Administration Officer (Admissions/Attendance) and will be the front of house face you will be greeted with each morning. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating these fabulous office team members!



**BLIND FOOTBALL DUAL PARALYMPIAN VISIT & ENGLISH FOOTBALL PLAYER – DARREN HARRIS**

What a brilliant morning for the children at Morden on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March. We were lucky enough to have a former Paralympian and England’s most capped blind footballer, Darren Harris, who talked to the children about his journey whilst losing his sight and how he overcame challenges to achieve his success. The children then faced the challenge of playing football blindfolded of which they showed their resilience and teamwork but having lots of fun along the way. **Mrs Hume, PE Learning Leader**  
<https://darrenharrisgb.com/>



**Do you have a 2 year old child who is due to turn 3 in the Summer term? If so, you will be pleased to know that we are able to accept applications for a Rising 3 place in our Nursery.**

### **What are Rising 3s?**

Rising 3s are children who join a nursery following their third birthday but earlier than their standard point of entry. Most children will start nursery the term after they turn three. A child joining a nursery **during the term that they turn three** is known as a Rising 3.

### **How can families access nursery provision before the term their child turns three?**

If you have accepted a place in our school nursery for your child, you can request that they join our school as soon as they turn three years of age - without having to wait until the start of the new term. *For example, if your child turns three on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024, and you have been offered, and accepted, a place at our school nursery to start in September 2024, if places are available, your child could join us from 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024.*

### **Currently at Morden Primary's Nursery, from April 2024, Rising 3's will have three options (space dependent for full time):**

- 1. Rising 3's – 15 hours - with a DERN code (free – see below)**
- 2. Rising 3's – 35 hours - with a DERN code + 20 hours extra paid per week**
- 3. Rising 3's - 35 hours without a DERN code (35 hours paid per week)**

Further information about childcare options can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

[Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with Costs | GOV.UK](#)

If you are interested in enquiring about your options, please do speak with Mrs Cockett in the office to ask for further information. Spaces are limited.

### **LOOKING FOR D-DATE SURVIVING VETERANS**

One of our long-serving Governors, Cllr Dennis Pearce, is leading a committee who are organising a special 80 year anniversary for our D-Day Veterans on 6<sup>th</sup> June in Merton. As part of this historic and important remembrance event, the committee are looking for surviving D-Day Veterans who can be invited as special guests. Cllr Pearce has made connections with Haig Housing, but they are specifically looking for those veterans who may be in the area and not known to Haig. Do you know anyone? If so, please do get in touch with the office so we can connect you with Cllr Pearce. Thank you

### **ASK AN "OLOGIST" WEBINAR**

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, Year 4 were part of 'Ask an Ologist' webinar. There were 4 different experts that the children had submit questions to prior to the event. This was a worldwide event. So, we were excited when one of our questions was chosen. The question was for Sam Hardy, a meteorologist, focussing on weather and climate change. Our question was: How can you predict the weather? His reply was: 'We use a computer to divide the earth into a 3D model, then we take millions of predictions per second'. He also told us that it takes 6 hours to make a 7-day weather report.

We also learnt that the Vikings didn't really have horns on their helmet (Gareth Williams a Vikingologist) and that most times the smallest gemstone is the most valuable, (Cally Oldershaw (Gemmologist/Geologist)). Hopefully some of our Year 4 children will be an 'ologist' of the future! **Mrs Barbour, Science Learning**

**Leader**



Sam Hardy (Meteorologist)

## TESCO VOUCHERS

If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium, look out for Tesco vouchers that have been sent to you this week. Please note that the Local Authority have hinted that after Easter, these may no longer be issued. We will keep you updated on this as we receive information.

## NON-UNIFORM DAY

Moving forward, the term Mufti will not be used at Morden Primary and we will use the terminology "Non-Uniform" day with our families.

## HUMMINGBIRD WINNERS – Well done!

Hummingbird Winners for this week:

**SILVER: Elsie**

**GOLD: Saoirse**

**PLATINUM: Boe, Lyla**

**BRONZE 2: Amy-Grace**

**GOLD 2: Cleo, Vihaan**



## SPRING 2 WINNERS ARE XANTUS WHO WILL HAVE A FREE-DRESS DAY NEXT WEDNESDAY

<b>Comet</b> <b>553</b>		<b>Firecrown</b> <b>595</b>		<b>Rufous</b> <b>628</b>		<b>Xantus</b> <b>631</b>		<b>Zafiro</b> <b>558</b>	
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## 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 – Jawad**
- **Y3 & Y4 – Freddie**
- **Y5 & Y6 – Jumaymah**



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

## 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 <sup>st</sup>	Davina
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Alec
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Joel

Improved Accuracy	Name
1 <sup>st</sup>	Yuliia
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yusra
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Freddie

Most Correct Answers:	Name
1 <sup>st</sup>	Alession
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gabriell
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sviatoslav



Our top 10 Overall leaderboard for the Spring 2 Term are:

1. Alessio
2. Aurora
3. Nomana
4. Zara
5. Vihaan
6. Rhiley
7. Matthew

- 8. Faraz
- 9. Devonaie
- 10. Shyremia

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

### LEARNERS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations this week's Learners of the Week

w/e 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Week 10

CLASS	LEARNER OF THE WEEK		HIGH 5 – VALUE WINNER	
	NAME	REASON	NAME	REASON
<b>Yellow</b>	Teyana	Working so hard in all her learning this week. Well done!	Charlie	Teamwork-when playing team games with his friends.
<b>Red</b>	Aureen	For doing her best during Maths and answering all the questions.	Dyanne	Challenge – will happily complete the challenges set in class. Well done, Dyanne.
<b>Green</b>	Layla	For her excellent interview of a classmate in PSHE.	Eli	Responsibility – for always being ready to learn.
<b>Blue</b>	Ivan	For his excellent effort during our reading activities.	Ares	Teamwork. For consistently being prepared to help others out.
<b>Purple</b>	Gracie	For writing a detailed explanation of the water cycle in Science	Gabriell	Teamwork – showing good teamwork skills in all PE lessons.
<b>Silver</b>	Reyhan	For working hard at including a range of skills in his writing.	Jaheim	Responsibility – For excellent listening and concentration in all subjects.
<b>Gold</b>	Hazel	For great ideas and positive team encouragement when building a bridge in DT	Hareni	Teamwork & Respect – making sure that no-one is left out

### WORLD AUTISM ACCEPTANCE WEEK

Merton Mencap will be celebrating World Autism Acceptance Week on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April, from 11am - 1pm with a social stroll around Morden Hall Park, followed by refreshments.



**WORLD AUTISM ACCEPTANCE WEEK!**

**FRIDAY 5TH APRIL**

**11AM - 1PM**

**MORDEN HALL PARK**

**MEET AT GARDEN CENTRE CAFE**

Join us for a walk, a chat and refreshments  
 and meet other parent / carers of people with autism

To book your place contact Niki  
 office.manager@mertonmencap.org.uk  
 or 020 3963 0599

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# AFTERSCHOOL SPORTS CLUB

We have new sports clubs starting next term. All clubs are run by Multisports4U. Please contact them direct to book. 🗣️ 🏀 🏈



**After School Basketball Club**  
**KS1 Pupils**

**FREE**

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM:  
Weds 24th April - Weds 10th July  
\*10 SESSIONS\*  
3:30pm - 4:30pm

**What to expect**

- Dribbling drills
- Passing Practice
- Tactical Team Play
- Shooting

Half Term 27th May - 2nd June (No sessions)  
No Session on 5th June



Enquiries: Msports4all@outlook.com      Scan QR to book



**After School Basketball Club**  
**KS2 Pupils**

**FREE**

EVERY THURSDAY FROM:  
Thurs 25th April - Thurs 11th July  
\*10 SESSIONS\*  
3:30pm - 4:30pm

**What to expect**

- Dribbling drills
- Passing Practice
- Tactical Team Play
- Shooting

Half Term 27th May - 2nd June (No sessions)  
No Session on 6th June



Enquiries: Msports4all@outlook.com      Scan QR to book



**After School Tennis Club**  
**ALL PUPILS**

**£45.00 + FREE T-SHIRT**

EVERY TUESDAY FROM:  
Tues 23rd April - Tues 11th July  
\*10 SESSIONS\*  
3:30pm - 4:30pm

**What to expect**

- Rallying drills
- Tennis games
- Technique work
- Tactical Play

Half Term 27th May - 2nd June (No sessions)





Enquiries: Msports4all@outlook.com      Scan QR to book



**After School Football Club**  
**YEARS 3 - 6**

**10 SESSIONS**

**£45.00 + FREE T-SHIRT**

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM:  
Weds 24th April - Weds 10th July  
4:15pm - 5:15pm

**What to expect**

- Dribbling drills
- Passing Practice
- Tactical Team Play
- Matches

Half Term 27th May - 2nd June (No sessions)





Enquiries: Msports4all@outlook.com      Scan QR to book



**After School Multisports Club**  
**Reception - Year 2**

**10 SESSIONS**

**£45.00 + FREE T-SHIRT**

EVERY FRIDAY FROM:  
FRI 26th April - FRI 12th July  
3:15PM - 4:00PM

**What to expect**

- DODGEBALL
- BASKETBALL
- TENNIS
- FOOTBALL
- FUN & GAMES

Half Term 27th May - 2nd June (No sessions)





Enquiries: Msports4all@outlook.com      Scan QR to book

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/>

# GYMNASTICS

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**Morden Primary School,  
London Road,  
Morden, SM4 5PX**

Session delivery time is  
5.15pm - 6.15pm



Email: [info@ca-sportscoaching.co.uk](mailto:info@ca-sportscoaching.co.uk)  
to book a **FREE TASTER SESSION**,  
or to make any other enquiries.

**COMMUNITY ADVANTAGES**


## Hands On Day – Try a Musical Instrument!

Merton Music Foundation will be hosting its popular 'Hands On' event where children aged 7+ can try a range of brass, woodwind, guitar, singing, accordion and string instruments in a fun and relaxed environment, to help decide which one is right for them.

Saturday 20 April, 9:45am – 11am and 10:45am – 12pm at Merton Music Centre, South Wimbledon (Merton Abbey Primary School, High Path, SW19 2JY).

£8 per child, booking is essential.

To find out more, visit: [www.mmf.org.uk/handson](http://www.mmf.org.uk/handson)





What's next for your musical child?  
**HANDS ON DAY**  
A CHANCE FOR YOUR CHILD TO TRY A RANGE OF INSTRUMENTS TO SEE WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR THEM.

- ACCORDION - BRASS - GUITARS -  
- SINGING - STRINGS - WOODWIND -

SAT 20 APRIL  
£8 PER CHILD  
SUITABLE FOR AGES 7+


MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION  
MERTON ABBEY PRIMARY SCHOOL  
HIGH PATH, SOUTH WIMBLEDON, SW19 2JY

BOOKING ESSENTIAL!  
[WWW.MMF.ORG.UK/HANDSON](http://WWW.MMF.ORG.UK/HANDSON)







# PARENTING SUPPORT

[Top Tips for Parents: Encouraging Open Conversations at Home \(nationalcollege.com\)](http://nationalcollege.com)




Keeping children safe online

## A Parent's Guide to Cyberbullying







Many young people who are victims of cyberbullying suffer in silence.

They feel they can't turn to parents or a trusted adult for support as they fear they may get in trouble or have their devices taken away from them. It can carry on all day, all evening and all weekend for the world to see, causing a lot of emotional stress to the victim and their family.



It can very quickly lead to the victim feeling trapped, scared and vulnerable to grooming and blackmail.






Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: [info@skipsed.com](mailto:info@skipsed.com) Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with

**Skips** [www.skipssafetynet.org](http://www.skipssafetynet.org)

At The National College, our #WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formally delivered by Prevent Crime Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust - making it easier to unpick even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

- 1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE**  
Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe. While showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what excites them to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a safe judgemental environment in which to discuss them - especially if their opinions differ from your own.
- 2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS**  
Some children may find it easier to talk with their friends or participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, working or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together gives you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up to their own secret.
- 3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS**  
Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into every day conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"
- 4 LISTEN ACTIVELY**  
When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or "teenage angst" or to reassure them they'll simply "just over" whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience. Their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.
- 5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS**  
Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "who did you spend time with at break?" or "who did you sit with at lunchtime?"
- 6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES**  
If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries. This reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.
- 7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**  
Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. It's demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgemental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat the behaviour themselves as they grow.
- 8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS**  
Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here; you could consider regular trips to a carter shop or a cafe, or just a walk.
- 9 PROVIDE RESOURCES**  
It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist. If necessary, we're normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as youth or teenagers.
- 10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION**  
It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly - emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially powerful for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking openly about their feelings and their mental health - a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

Meet Our Expert



With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anne Bottomley has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also delivered the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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**P. Blow, Headteacher**