Merebrook Newsletter

Issue 10: Friday 13th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head further into this half term, there is lots happening. Our **Christmas Dinner this year is on Tuesday 15th December**. Please see the menu for this attached to this newsletter. Bookings can be made online via the Bytewise app. This week, you should have also received communication about our **Friends of EVS Christmas shop**, which our Merebrook children are invited to take part in. This takes place in school time on the same day. Orders for any gifts must be placed via Arbor by 1st December. **We are excited to announce that our School Council are planning a Christmas Disco after school on 16th December. Booking is now open on Arbor, so save the date for this exciting opportunity!**

The **Winter Holidays and Food initiative** will be running during the school holidays on **21st to 23rd December and on 30th December 2026**, offering eligible children the opportunity to enjoy enriching activities, a hot meal and opportunities to stay active. Bookings open at **7:30am on Sunday 22nd November 2026**. Please see **Page 2** for full details of eligibility criteria, including information about **Targeted Free School Meals**, and how to make a booking. We encourage all eligible families to take advantage of this fantastic holiday provision. **If you are unsure whether your child is eligible or need any support with booking this, please speak to our office team.**

Have a good weekend!

Mrs White

Executive Headteacher

Applying for a School place

Parents and carers of children due to start Early Years (Reception) or transfer to Emerson Valley School in Year 3 in September 2027 should ensure they apply for a school place through the Milton Keynes Council admissions process. **Applications can be made by clicking here .** The application window is now open, and the closing date for applications is 15th January 2027. We strongly encourage families to submit their applications on time, as late applications may affect the chances of securing a preferred school place. Further information can be found on the Milton Keynes Council website.

Milton Keynes City Council

Anti-Bullying Week

On Monday 16th November, we will be celebrating **Odd Socks Day** to mark the start of **Anti-Bullying Week 2026**. Children and staff are encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique. This year's theme, **'Break the Silence'**, encourages everyone to speak up, listen to others and take positive action to create a kinder and more inclusive community where bullying is never ignored. We look forward to seeing everyone's colourful and creative socks!



🚗 Please Switch Off Your Engine 🚗

As we all work together to keep our school environment safe and healthy, we kindly ask parents and carers to **switch off their engines when dropping off or collecting children**. Idling vehicles create unnecessary air pollution around the school gates, affecting the health and wellbeing of our pupils, families and local residents. Turning off your engine, even for a short wait, helps to reduce emissions, improve air quality and create a cleaner environment for everyone. Thank you for your support in making our school community a healthier place.

📱 Mobile Phones on Site

To help keep our school community safe and welcoming, we ask all parents and carers to **avoid using mobile phones while on the school site**. If you need to make or take a call, please do so once you have left the school grounds. The few minutes spent walking to and from school provide a valuable opportunity to chat with your child about the day ahead, hear about their learning, celebrate successes or simply enjoy some uninterrupted conversation together. Thank you for helping us create a positive and family-focused environment at the start and end of each day.

Golden Book

Robins: Lewis and Zarwa
Starlings: Aadhira and Jaya
Wagtails: Max and Zola
Kestrels: Millie and Oliver
Finch: Lydia and Dominik



Winter Holiday Activities & Food programme (HAF) 2026

Free enriching experiences, physical activity and hot meals from 21-23 and 30 December!

Milton Keynes City Council is pleased to offer the Winter HAF programme for children and young people in receipt of Targeted Free School Meals.

- ★ Climbing and Outdoor Adventures
- ★ Music, Film and Science clubs
- ★ Meal Boxes
- ★ Athletics, Football and Gymnastics Camps

Bookings open for eligible families on **Sunday 22 November at 07:30!**

eequ.org/hafmiltonkeynes

Milton Keynes City Council

Your child not in receipt of **Targeted** Free School Meals?
Apply here: **https://cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims**

Targeted FSM

Equivalent to benefits-related Free School Meals

Who qualifies

- Children and young people in families receiving Universal Credit with annual household income under £7,400 (£616.67/month)
- Families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) – subject to separate criteria

This gives access to

- Free school meals at school during term-time
- Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme
- Other support that may be available at school (e.g. free school milk, where provided)
- Free board and lodging on residential trips

Brighter Futures Together

KEY DATES

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2026

NOVEMBER

13 November
Children in Need – non-uniform day

16 November
Odd Socks Day – Anti-Bullying Week

18 November
Year 3 Stone Age Day
Year 3 movie night until 5pm

19 November
Year 4 movie night until 5pm

20 November
Prospective Parents' Tours
Merebrook 9:30am
Emerson Valley 10:15am

25 November
Year 5 movie night until 5pm
Flu vaccinations at Merebrook

26 November
Year 6 movie night until 5pm

30 November
Flu vaccinations at Emerson Valley

DECEMBER

1 December
Christmas discos
Years 3 & 4: 4:30–5:30pm
Years 5 & 6: 6–7pm

3 December
Year 6 coding workshop

7 December
Year 3 Nativity
For parents and carers with pre-school aged children only

8 December
EYFS Christmas performance: 9am
Year 3 Nativity: 2pm
For parents of Sunflowers & Cherry Blossoms

9 December
Years 1 & 2 Carols in the Playground: 2:30pm

10 December
Year 3 Nativity: 2pm
For parents and carers of Snapdragons & Bluebells
Years 5 & 6 Carols in the Playground: 3:35pm

11 December
Rock Steady concert for parents: 2pm

15 December
Christmas Shop
Christmas Dinner – Merebrook & EVS

16 December
Christmas jumper day
Pantomime for both schools – The Wizard of Oz
Merebrook School Council Christmas Disco
EYFS & Year 1: 3–4pm
Year 2: 4:15–5:15pm

Don't Forget!

- Check the newsletter each week for updates.
- Make sure school uniform is named.

WE HAVE SO MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO THIS TERM!

LEARN
BELONG
ACHIEVE
THRIVE

MEREBROOK

EMERSON VALLEY

KIND
BRAVE
CURIOUS
TOGETHER