Merebrook Newsletter

Issue 11: Friday 20th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we celebrated Antibullying Week at Merebrook and the theme this year was: 'Break the Silence'. We kicked off the week with an Antibullying Assembly on Monday and Odd Socks Day. It was wonderful to see so many children wearing unique, mismatched socks. In EYFS, children explored stories by author Lauren Ace as part of our Anti-Bullying Week activities whilst in KS1 children created anti-bullying slogans and posters and designed their own odd socks to celebrate individuality.

As we look towards the festive season, The Friends of Emerson Valley School will once again be running their popular **Christmas Shop**, giving children the opportunity to choose a special Christmas gift for an adult family member or friend. We are pleased to be able to invite our Merebrook children to visit the shop. Gifts cost **£5 each**, are purchased in advance via Arbor, and will be fully wrapped ready to take home. 🎁 **Important:** Orders **must be placed by Tuesday 1st December 2026**. Unfortunately, we are **unable to accept any late orders**, so please ensure purchases are completed before the deadline. The Christmas Shop will take place during the school day on **Tuesday 15th December 2026**. Please see page 3 for full details.

Have a good weekend!
Mrs White
Executive Headteacher

Children in Need Fundraising Success

A huge thank you to everyone in our school community for supporting our Children in Need fundraising efforts. **We are delighted to share that together across Merebrook and Emerson Valley schools we raised an amazing £518 for this fantastic cause.** Your generosity will help make a real difference to children and young people across the UK. Thank you to all the children, families and staff who donated and took part. We are incredibly proud of the kindness and community spirit shown by our school. 💛



On 5th November, we welcomed colleagues from the 5D Trust as part of their annual evaluation process. In addition to the many informal visits across each half term, formal visits take place several times throughout the year and provide an opportunity to review key aspects of school improvement, celebrate successes, and identify priorities for further development. **We have now received the final report from this visit and we are delighted that the report recognised the many strengths of our school, including the positive progress made towards our key priorities.** The evaluation highlighted the dedication of our staff, the achievements of our pupils, and the continued impact of the work taking place across the school. A summary of the report can be found attached to this newsletter. We would like to thank our children, staff, governors and families for their ongoing support as we continue working together to ensure the very best outcomes for every child.

Golden Book

Robins: **Levi and Casper**
Starlings: **Ariyan and Morgan**
Wagtails: **Ishvardhan and Anna**
Kestrels: **Ki and Daria**
Finch: **Carla and Jessica**





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



The Friends of Emerson Valley School

Christmas Shop!

A little Christmas shopping, a LOT of Christmas cheer!

Let your child choose a special Christmas surprise for someone they love!

How does it work?

1 Purchase your gifts in advance

Through your Arbor account for just **£5** per gift.

You can buy as many as you like!

2 Come to the Christmas Shop

On **Tuesday 15th December,** children will visit our Christmas Shop during the school day to choose their gifts.

3 Take home a surprise!

Every gift will be fully wrapped and ready to take home – perfect for popping under the Christmas tree!

Orders close:
Tuesday 1st December 2026

Christmas Shop:
Tuesday 15th December 2026

A few things to remember...

- Gifts are for adults only – no children's gifts will be available.
- We cannot accept any late orders, so please make sure you order before the deadline!

Thank you for supporting
Friends of Emerson Valley School PTA

It's that time of year...

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



MAIN COURSE

Turkey roast with all the trimmings
Roast turkey with all the trimmings

Vegetable wellington
Veggie wellington, with roast potatoes and festive vegetables

–

PUDDING

Iced Christmas tree shortbread
Christmas tree shortbread - iced

Winter forest berry yoghurt
Fruits of the forest berry yoghurt

Santas jelly
Strawberry jelly

Little elf's fruit salad
Fresh fruit salad

The team are looking forward to welcoming you...

BOOK ONLINE NOW!
USING YOUR PAYMENT SYSTEM

culinera
feeding the future

Learn
Belong
Be Amazing

Brighter
Together

KEY DATES

Autumn Term 2026

Kind People Bright Futures

Our School

NOVEMBER

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: 6:00–7:00pm

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 Year 3 parents and carers

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

10 December
- Year 3 Nativity — 2pm, for Year 3 parents and carers
- Years 5 & 6 Carols in the Playground — 3:35pm

11 December
- Rock Steady Concert for Parents — 2pm

15 December
- Christmas Shop
- MB & EVS Christmas Dinner

16 December
- Pantomime for both schools: The Wizard of Oz
- Christmas Jumper Day
- Merebrook School Council Christmas Disco
  EY & Year 1: 3–4pm
  Year 2: 4:15–5:15pm

Don't Forget!

Check the newsletter each week for updates.
We look forward to seeing you at our festive celebrations!

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