Issue 37 3rd July 2026

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Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday some of our Year 2 children made us incredibly proud by representing Merebrook at a Sports Festival hosted by the Sports Leaders at Shenley Brook End School alongside pupils from other local schools. Whilst back at school, Wagtail and Woodpecker Classes enjoyed their very first Sports Day, with fantastic support from parents, excellent leadership from our Year 2 pupils and a wonderful sense of community! The children were amazing ambassadors for our school and demonstrated our values of **Community, Pride and Aspire**.

As we head towards the final 2 weeks of this school year, we are looking forward to our Annual Awards Ceremony on Monday afternoon. If your child is receiving an award you will have already been notified. Please make sure that you arrive with your ticket ready for a 2:45pm start.

Our Teachers have been busily writing children's annual school reports. These will be sent to Parents and Carers via Arbor next Friday, 10th July. Alongside this, you will be sent a letter explaining the content. If you have any questions about these, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please note that next week our school office will be closed from 10am onwards on Tuesday.

Have an enjoyable weekend!
Mrs White
Executive Headteacher

Changes to Free School Meals Eligibility Checks – Action Needed

As an infant school, all children currently receive a free school meal through the Government's **Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)** scheme. This means that every child can enjoy a free school lunch, regardless of family income. However, we are asking all families who think they may be eligible to apply for **benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM)**, as this provides important additional funding for the school through the **Pupil Premium**.

There is also an important change coming from the start of the 2026/27 academic year. Current protections for benefits-related Free School Meals will end, meaning families will need to meet the eligibility criteria at that time and may need to reapply to continue receiving this entitlement.



We are pleased to share that there is now a new, quick and easy online application system.

👉 **Apply here (Milton Keynes Local Authority):** https://fsm.lgfl.net/app

👉 **Further information for parents and carers:** https://fsm.lgfl.net/info-parent.html

Why should I apply if my child already gets free school meals?

Although your child already receives a free lunch as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme, completing an FSM application could:

- Help the school access additional funding through the **Pupil Premium**.
- Enable us to provide extra support, resources and opportunities for children.
- Ensure that your family's entitlement is recorded ahead of future changes to Free School Meals eligibility.

The application process is quick, secure and completely confidential.

Even if you are unsure whether you qualify, we strongly encourage you to apply. It only takes a few minutes and could make a significant difference to both your child and the school. Any parent or carer who completes an application before **9:00am on Friday 17th July** will be entered into a prize draw to win a **£100 Amazon voucher**. You do **not** need to be eligible for Free School Meals to be entered into the draw – simply complete the application form. A winner will be selected at random after the closing date. If you would like support completing the application, please come along to our **Food Tasting Event** with our new catering provider, **Culinera**, after school on **Thursday 16th July**. Members of staff will be available to help parents and carers complete the form. This event will take place for all families in the EVS school hall from 3:30-4:00pm. Thank you for your support in helping us secure the best possible outcomes and opportunities for all our children.

Golden Book

Wagtails: Casper and Moiz

Woodpeckers: Ivy, Marleigh & Izzy

Robins: Bethel and Eleanor

Kestrels: Afnaan and Miraal

Starlings: Nancy and Chukwudum

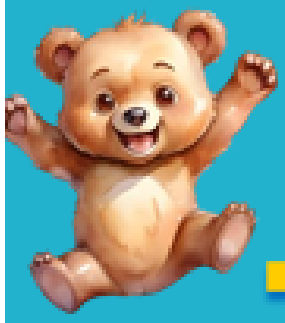
Finches: Amelia and Tia

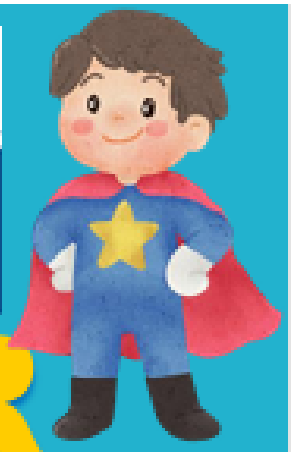


Summer Term dates

These dates are for both Merebrook and Emerson Valley unless otherwise indicated. NEW EVENTS IN RED.

6th July 2026	**EYFS, Year 1 and year 2 Awards at 2:45pm** (invite only if your child is receiving award) **Year 6 Residential meeting for current Year 5 Parents and Carers at 3:35pm**
7th July 2026	**EYFS trip to Woburn Safari Park** **Year 3 and 4 Awards at 1:30pm** (invite only if your child is receiving award) **Year 5 and 6 Awards at 2:15pm** (invite only if your child is receiving award)
9th July 2026	**Year 5 and 6 Sports Day**
10th July 2026	**Year 3 and 4 Sports Day**
13th July 2026	**Year 6 Production to Parents at 2pm** (Parks and Luther King parents invited)
14th July 2026	**Year 2 Leavers assembly at 9am** **Year 6 Production to Parents at 2pm** (Attenborough and Darwin parents invited)
15th July 2026	**Year 6 End of Term Party 4:30-6:00pm** **Merebrook School Council Disco: Early Years and Year 1: 3-4pm, Year 2:4:15-5:15pm**
16th July 2026	**Culinera food tasting event for all MB and EVS families— 3:30-4:00pm in the EVS hall**
17th July 2026	**Last day of the school year.**





Merebrook

TODDLER TUESDAYS

In collaboration with SUNSHINE FAMILY CENTRE



9:45 – 10:45am • Free of charge

Ideal for 2–4-year-olds

***Booking recommended but not essential**

Led by School staff



Date	Session	Content
Tuesday 22 September 2026	**Wiggle, Jiggle & Jam!**	Songs, instruments and lots of dancing fun to promote coordination, listening skills and confidence.
Tuesday 29 September 2026	**Little Chefs Café** Booking needed for this event	Hands-on cooking fun where children mix, pour and explore simple ingredients.
Tuesday 13 October 2026	**Autumn Explorers**	Forest School–style play using natural materials to encourage curiosity and sensory exploration.
Tuesday 3 November 2026	**Once Upon a Tuesday**	A storytelling session with short stories, rhymes and songs.
Tuesday 17 November 2026	**Superhero School!**	Action-packed obstacle courses and movement challenges.
Tuesday 1 December 2026	**Twinkle, Tinsel & Tunes**	Christmas songs, lights and simple crafts.

Contact us: office@mb5d.com 01908522876

Community, Pride, Aspire

Milton Keynes City Council



Wraparound Care AT EVS



Our wraparound care takes place at Emerson Valley School and is open to children from both EVS & Merebrook. It is the ideal setting for children to have a purposeful start to the day or a fun-filled end to their school day whilst establishing lasting friendships and having a great time together!

SEPTEMBER 2026 PRICES
£5- BREAKFAST CLUB
£12-AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

- Homework Club (a dedicated, quiet room)
- Film Nights/ Art & Crafts/ Disco Nights
- Healthy breakfast/ healthy snacks
- Outdoor activities

7:45-8:40A.M.
3:25-6:00P.M.

01908 507914

PARENTS@EVS5D.COM

Merebrook and Emerson Valley Schools

Term Dates 2026/2027

Autumn Term 2026	
INSET day – school closed	**Tuesday 1st September 2026**
INSET day – school closed	**Wednesday 2nd September 2026**
Open on the morning of:	Thursday 3rd September 2026
Closed at the end of the afternoon of:	Friday 23rd October 2026
Half term	Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2026
INSET day – school closed	**Monday 2nd November 2026**
Open on the morning of:	Tuesday 3rd November 2026
Closed at the end of the afternoon of:	Friday 18th December 2026
Spring Term 2027	
Open on the morning of:	Monday 4th January 2027
Closed at the end of the afternoon of:	Friday 12th February 2027
Half term	Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2027
Open on the morning of:	Monday 22nd February 2027
Closed at the end of the afternoon of:	Thursday 25th March 2027
Summer Term 2027	
Open on the morning of:	Monday 12th April 2027
Closed at the end of the afternoon of:	Friday 28th May 2027
Half term	Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2027
INSET day – school closed	**Monday 7th June 2027**
Open on the morning of:	Tuesday 8th June 2027
Closed at the end of the afternoon of:	Tuesday 20th July 2027
INSET day – school closed	**Wednesday 21st July 2027**

***In addition, the school will be closed on Monday 3rd May 2027 for the Early May Bank Holiday.**