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INFORM



Dear Parents and Carers,

A **Happy New Year to you all!** I hope that you enjoyed a relaxing break with your special people! It has been a busy first week back at school and we are looking forward to a positive term ahead.

By way of a staffing update, **Miss Roche remains absent from school** following her planned surgery in October. She is recovering well and is hoping to be back working with us at some point later this half term. During her continued absence, Mrs Wheeler will be teaching Penguins on a Monday and I will continue to oversee Years 3 and 4, supporting Miss Roynance and Mr Salmon in their leadership of their year group teams. This term we have welcomed **Mrs Pitcher back from her maternity leave**. Mrs Pitcher will be working as the Learning Mentor in Years 5 and 6. Miss Fraser will be based primarily in Year 3 and Miss Durrant will be in Year 4. Mrs Avola will continue to oversee the Learning Mentor team. We have also welcomed a new member of the team, **Mrs Rafeek, as a Midday Supervisor**.

Please can I remind Parents and Carers that children should not be coming into school with medication in their bags. **If your child needs any medication during the school day, this should be brought into the school office by an adult so that the relevant medical form can be completed.**

Next week, Year 5 classes will be visited by Hazard Alley for a Knife Crime workshop in school. These age-appropriate workshops are made up of practical activities and meaningful discussions. Children will work through a scenario-based activity, identifying the choices being made and the consequences of these choices. As the scenario escalates, the children learn about the risks of carrying knives and the laws around knife crime. These workshops are invaluable in helping our young people have the skills to understand the importance of making safe decisions for themselves about knives as they grow up.

This week, the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza has asked all Headteachers to share a handy resource to support Parents and Carers with the increasing challenges associated with the digital world. **More information can be found on page 3 of the newsletter.** The guide is very user friendly and aims to support families in navigating this with their children.

Mrs White
Executive Headteacher

This month's value is...

Understanding



Understanding as an adjective - "my family are the most understanding people I know".

Understanding as a noun - "He has a good understanding of Maths and Science".



Understanding as a noun - "we reached an understanding after our argument".

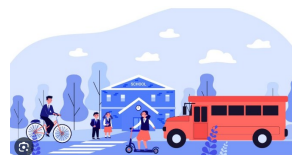


Understanding as an adjective - "my friend is an understanding person".

Understanding as an adjective - "thank you for being an understanding friend, it means a lot".



Understanding as a noun - "what is your understanding of what happened?"



Travel Survey

As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability, we are looking at how our

school community travels to and from school. Understanding transport choices will help us identify ways to reduce our environmental impact and promote greener travel options. We kindly ask you to take a few minutes to complete our Transport Survey by 31st January. Please click [here](#) to complete the survey.

GOLD AWARDS

Year 3: Luke (Snapdragons), Rumi (Sunflowers), Affan (Bluebells), Edward & Uzoma (Cherry Blossom)

Year 4: Bree (Penguins), Freya (Eagles), Stacy (Swifts), Max (Flamingos)

Year 5: Henry (Jellyfish), Kumayl (Axolotis), Kevin (Turtles), Ryan, Millie, Vinnie & Alice (Orcas)

Year 6: Bori (Parks), James (Darwin), Bastian (Attenborough), Aiden (Luther King)

Music Awards: Finley (Snapdragons), Harvi (Flamingos), Sophia (Axolotis), Ikleen (Attenborough)

PE Awards: Jenson & Reid (Cherry Blossom), Duchess (Flamingos), Imogen (Turtles), Lilla (Darwin)





Spring Term dates

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



13 th January 2026	Year 6 SATS information evening for parents 5:00pm Jellyfish Parks Trust trip
16 th January 2026	Turtles Parks Trust trip
19 th – 23 rd January 2026	Science Week
20 th January 2026	Starling class to Westcroft library
21 st January 2026	Finch class to Westcroft library
22 nd January 2026	Year 6 to Bletchley Park
23 rd January 2026	Axolotls Parks Trust trip
26 th January 2026	Young Voice choir to Birmingham Year 1 celebration of work at 2:40pm
28 th January 2026	Year 2 Biscuits with books parents invited from 2pm
29 th January 2026	Year 5 trip to Silverstone
2 nd February 2026	Year 3 celebration of work pm time to be confirmed
4 th February 2026	Year 4 celebration of work pm time to be confirmed
5 th February 2026	Year 6 celebration of work pm time to be confirmed
6 th February 2026	Year 3 Pizza and pyjama party 5:30-8:30pm
9 th February 2026	EYFS celebration of work pm time to be confirmed
3 rd March 2026	Snapdragons to Campbell Park NEW DATE EYFS celebration of work pm time to be confirmed
4 th March 2026	Cherry Blossoms to Campbell Park
5 th March 2026	World Book Day
6 th March 2026	Sunflowers to Campbell Park
10 th and 11 th March 2026	Parent Consultations from 3:40pm
13 th March 2026	Bluebells to Campbell Park
17 th March 2026	Robins to Westcroft library
18 th March 2026	Kestrels to Westcroft library
20 th March 2026	Red nose day: non-uniform day Year 5 pizza party and sleepover from 5:30pm
25 th March 2026	Year 5 performance to parents 2:30pm
27 th March 2026	Rocksteady concert to parents 2pm

'What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives



Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.

Parenting today can feel overwhelming — especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. This guide aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence. **Click [here](#) to access the guide and associated resources available online.** There is also an activity pack that you might like to share with your child.