



J1 Newsletter **Autumn 2 2025**

Nurture

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. We are looking forward to a busy few weeks, starting with Bonfire Night and Remembrance this week.

Independence

As the children have now settled into the Junior school, we are encouraging them to become increasingly more independent. The skills we are working on are:

- putting on and taking off our own blazers and coats.
- taking off our own school uniform and putting items of clothing the correct way around.
- putting on and taking off our own school shoes, wellington boots and plimsols.
- packing and unpacking our own book bags, school bags and swimming bags. (Including putting our own swimming bags into our school bag after our swimming lessons).
- opening and closing our own water bottles and snack boxes.
- writing our own names.
- knowing when to and being able to say sorry.
- asking for help from friends.
- knowing how to make oneself feel better when angry.
- thinking of ways to sort things out when there is a disagreement.
- understanding when other people are angry.
- walking into the school gate independently.
- carrying and being responsible for all of their own belongings to and from school.

Exercise

Uniform

As the weather turns cooler, please would you ensure that your child has a pair of mittens or gloves at school along with one extra layer of clothing such as an old fleece or jumper to go under their waterproofs for Forest School.

We would also request that (if they don't already) they have a red school ski hat to remain in their school bags. Any children's spare socks or gloves you may no longer need would be most welcome to keep at school as spares, even if they are odd!

Please would you ensure that all items of school uniform are clearly labelled, this can be done at home as an activity with your child so that they can find their own items of uniform more easily. A gentle reminder that many of the children are unable to tie their own shoelaces at this stage! Please, if possible, may your children wear Velcro shoes and trainers to school.

Stimulate

Letterland

Thank you to everyone who attended our Letterland evening — we hope you found it helpful.

We are continuing to revise initial sounds and blend them to make words. The children know the Letterland characters and their sounds but are at different stages in hearing, identifying, and blending them. This develops at each child's own pace, but regular practice and plenty of praise make a big difference!

Once your child has mastered some key words, try building new ones at home by changing the initial, middle, or final sounds. For example:

- Changing the **first sound** in *dad*: *bad, mad, sad, lad*
- Changing the **end sound**: *dad, dab, bag, bat, fan, hat*
- Changing the **middle sound**: *did, bed, bug, fun, hot, hug*

This helps children use familiar words to create new ones and strengthens their understanding of how sounds work together.

Talk

Reading

The children are making wonderful progress with their high-frequency (or 'tricky') words, and we will be sending a few more home as the term goes on. Some of these words are not easily decodable and will need to be learnt by sight. The more words the children recognise instantly, the more fluent and confident their reading will become.

At home, we encourage families to keep practising these words—perhaps by turning them into flashcards or displaying them around the house for regular review.

Alongside this, please continue to enjoy sharing books together. Encourage your child to talk about what they are reading: make predictions about what might happen next, describe the characters, and discuss the illustrations. These conversations help children develop deeper understanding and a love of reading.

Love

Snacks

Please provide two healthy, nut-free snacks for your child (e.g. fruit, vegetable sticks, plain biscuit) and clean and refill their water bottles daily.

A polite reminder that sweets should not be brought into school.

Junior Christmas Production

J1 have started their rehearsals for the Junior Christmas Production. We look forward to presenting this to you on Thursday 4th December at 9.15am and Friday 5th December at 9.15am & 2.00pm. Further details will follow closer to the time.

Tooled Up

Tooled Up is a helpful resource for answering tricky questions at home. We encourage you to register at www.tooledupeducation.com/register using the school pin: MCP0809.

Environment

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening will be held on Tuesday 11th November. An editable timetable to book appointments will go up on the J1 Google Drive on Monday 3rd November.

Driving & Parking

Please drive slowly and carefully on school premises. In the afternoons, children may well have games or clubs on the school fields, and we need to be mindful of their safety.

Our 'drop off lane' should be used to do just that; please do not block it by parking - however briefly. If your child is not old enough or able to exit the car by themselves, please drive into the carpark, find a space and then walk them to their appropriate gate.

Please remember to park considerately. The disabled parking bays should only be used by those with mobility issues or a blue badge.

Many thanks for your continued help with this.

Diary of Events

Thursday 6th – Wednesday 12th November: Book Fair

Friday 7th November: School Remembrance Service 10am (Senior School)

FOMC Bonfire Night 6pm

Tuesday 11th November: J1 Parents' Evening (Sign-Up Sheet on the Google Drive)

Wednesday 19th November: Prospective Parents Open Day 9.15am – 2pm

Monday 24th November: Flu Immunisation (Catch Up)

Friday 28th November: FOMC Christmas Bazaar (More info to follow)

Thursday 4th December: Junior Christmas Production 9.15am

Friday 5th December: Junior Christmas Production 9.15am & 2pm

Wednesday 10th December: Christmas Lunch (Remember - No Hat, No Lunch!)

Friday 12th December: Christmas Jumper Day, Santa Fun Run

Monday 15th December: Christmas Parties

Tuesday 16th December: School Carol Service @ St Johns Church 6pm – 7pm.

Wednesday 17th December:

Junior Prizegiving 9.15am

Senior Prizegiving 11am

Term Ends Please note that school ends at midday. (No hats, no caps, on the last day of term).

Kind regards

The J1 Team.



"Inspiring a passion for learning."

– Aims & Ethos, Merton Court School.