MERTON COURT
PREP • SIDCUP
CO-EDUCATIONAL DAY PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-11
WHERE OPPORTUNITIES MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

J1 Newsletter
Spring 1 2026

Nurture

Welcome back, Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break.

Clubs Registration

This will take place on Friday 9th January. If your child would like to sign up for a club, please send the correct registration fee in a clearly labelled envelope with your child's name and the club name on it, no earlier than Friday. If you are registering for more than one club, kindly provide separate envelopes.

We promote the use of cash for club registration, as this gives the children an opportunity to handle money themselves. It's a small but valuable way to build their independence and help them develop an early sense of economic awareness.

A gentle reminder that our J1 children have very full school days, and it's important to find a healthy balance between clubs and time to rest and play. The clubs often fill up quickly, so your child may not get a place in every club they're hoping for, and it may be helpful to choose one or two that they will genuinely enjoy and manage comfortably.

Exercise

Uniform

The Uniform requirements remain the same as last term:

Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs: PE Kit (Swimming kits will be needed for Mondays).

Fri: Full School Uniform.

Please remember that hats and blazers are part of our school uniform and should be worn to school every day. Girl's hair should be tied up using red hair bands and small bows only.

So that any lost items may be returned quickly, please would you ensure that all items of uniform including shoes are visibly labelled. If preloved or handed down from siblings, please ensure that the previous name is removed/covered and that the correct name is visible.

Due to the colder weather, children should bring a school coat everyday as well as a blazer. Scarves must be the school scarf and gloves.

Merit badges should be removed from blazers as we start afresh this term.

If it is a 'Formal Uniform' day and the weather is particularly cold, your child is able to come to school wearing their tracksuit bottoms over the top of their formal uniform and will remove these when inside the building and put them back on for playtimes and outside activities. Please note that tights or sports leggings are not part of the boy's school uniform and boys will be asked to remove them when entering the classroom.

Waterproof jackets, trousers and wellies: Please send these in by Thursday 8th January and they will be kept in school. Please also supply an old fleece or jumper to provide an extra layer during colder Forest School sessions.

Plimsolls: These will be kept in school for dance lessons. Please remember to check sizes and provide a bigger size when needed.

Stimulate

Science Term

This term's topic 'The Science of Sound' gives us an opportunity to combine Science with Music and Computer technology creating wonderful, yet unexplored areas in the field of Primary Science.

J1 will be taking part in a 'Graphic Scores/Sound Drawing' this term introducing children to the core principles of sound through interactive experiments and engaging demonstrations.

This term J1 will also be adding discreet Science lessons to the timetable and will be

partaking in various Science investigations throughout the term.

As part of our CLPE topic this term, we will be reading "On Sudden Hill". For this, we will need boxes for science modelling – any shapes or size - so if you have any, rather than recycle them, please bring them in.

We are looking forward to exploring the world of science!

Handwriting

We are working on anticlockwise turns in letters c, o, a, d, g, q and s. Children are becoming more confident and we do lots of pre-writing activities to aide their pencil control. Please continue to practise letter formation at home.

Maths

This term, we will be introducing the children to teen numbers using the Ten Town characters as well as consolidating the numbers 0-10 including number bonds. Children should be able to count objects and recognise the numbers out of sequence. We will introduce addition and undertake practical activities that explore shape, patterns, direction and measurement.

Talk

Reading/Letterland

Please continue to learn and revise the high frequency words sent home and encourage and hear your child read daily.

We will be revising the letter sounds this term and introducing the 'Best Friends' (double consonants ss ll ff zz ck) – these are two letters but they only make one sound together, for example: 'miss' or 'well'.

Love

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. 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.

Tooled Up

Tooled Up is a very useful resource that may help you answer some of those tricky questions that pop up while you are at home. We encourage you to become familiar with the website: www.tooledupeducation.com/register
School pin number: MCP0809

Charities:

This term, we will be supporting Soccer Aid, a charity co-founded by Robbie Williams in 2006. Soccer Aid for UNICEF unites the nation to protect play for every child. The fundraiser supports UNICEF in providing safe spaces, vital vaccinations and nutrition, and opportunities to learn.

Teacher e-mails

Should you need to contact us, our email addresses are as follows:
Miss Hall –
h.hall@mertoncourtprep.co.uk
Miss Thatcher –
LJ.Thatcher@mertoncourtprep.co.uk

Diary of Events

Wednesday 7th January – New Parents Induction morning 9am
Thursday 8th January – Graphic Scores/Sound Drawing Workshop
Friday 9th January – Clubs Registration
Saturday 17th January – Perspective Parents Open Day 9-12pm
Friday 30th January – FOMC Family Disco 5 -7pm
Thursday 12th February – Valentines Breakfast 9am & 11.15am
Friday 13th February – Valentines Breakfast 9am
HALF TERM: 14th – 22nd February

Please continue to check the Merton Court website, Parent Mail and Google Drive regularly for updates and more information. A J1 Google Drive link will be sent via Parent Mail.

Kind regards
The J1 Team.

"A unique family ethos with the highest quality of pastoral care."
– Aims & Ethos, Merton Court School.