

Mersey Vale Primary School

Summer I 2026 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

April

Monday 13th April

School opens

May

Monday 4th May

Thursday 7th May

May Day public holiday
Community room used as polling station
Class Photographs
Y6 Statutory Assessments week
'We are Writers' week
RSE Workshop for parents, 2:30 - 4pm
School closes

Wk. beginning 11th May

Wk. beginning 18th May

Thursday 14th May

Friday 22nd May

June

Monday 8th June

Tuesday 9th June

Wk. beginning 9th June

Teacher Training Day 5
School opens to children
Y1/Y2 Phonics Screening
Y4 Multiplication Tables Check

Term Dates (including INSET days) for 2026-2027 can also be found [here](#) on our school website.

Zones of Regulation

At Mersey Vale, we are using the Zones of Regulation to help children understand and manage their feelings. The four colour zones – blue, green, yellow and red – give children a simple language to describe how they are feeling and what they need. Through lessons and daily check-ins, children learn strategies such as movement breaks, breathing techniques and talking to a trusted adult. This supports positive behaviour, focus in class, as well as emotional wellbeing. Alongside this newsletter we have sent a parent's guide with lots more information, top-tips and ideas of how this can be used at home, helping build consistency and emotional awareness beyond the classroom for lifelong resilience and confident self regulation.

Spotlight on Safeguarding – Online Safety

Technology is hugely valuable for education, as well as a way to keep in touch with friends and family. However it's important we all consider how we can support children's online safety. Many of our children are spending increased time online and it is vital they have the skills and knowledge they need to keep themselves safe in the online world. We have an Internet Safety Workshop for parents planned in the second part of our Summer Term, however I would like to share with you www.net-aware.org.uk/

Net Aware is a website with a wealth of information and advice on how to keep safe online. It is a way that families can explore the latest apps and platforms together, ensuring everyone is safe. It is easy to navigate and updated regularly.

Attendance and Punctuality Update

At Mersey Vale, we believe that face-to-face education is important in helping pupils reach their full potential.

Mersey Vale strive for **every pupil to achieve 97% throughout the school year**, with special termly awards for pupils who achieve 98% or higher!

Being late also adds up to a loss of learning, at Mersey Vale, Mrs Cropper, our learning mentor, is available to support parents and carers getting children to school on time with a **Punctuality Push**. If you require support with this, please do not hesitate to contact her.

As of **27/03/26**, we achieved a whole school attendance of **93.28% slightly below national average**

19.29% or 27 of our children were persistently absent meaning they had an attendance of 90% or below.

As of **27/03/26** **2.79%** of children arrived to school late.
40.7% have 3 or more late marks.

Please see below how this is broken down into year groups:

Year Group	Attendance
Reception	93.7%
Year 1	93.1%
Year 2	91.4%
Year 3	94.6%
Year 4	94.4%
Year 5	92.6%
Year 6	92.1%

Year Group	Punctuality
Reception	95.5%
Year 1	96.9%
Year 2	96.6%
Year 3	96.9%
Year 4	98.8%
Year 5	95.9%
Year 6	98.0%

Assessments and Reports

During May/ June most children will be taking part in school based tests and national tests and tasks for the external reporting of statutory assessments this year. Please make sure that your child is in school and punctual every day unless they are ill. These tests, along with ongoing teacher assessment, help us to identify improvement targets for school, classes and individual children.

Our focus, as always, will continue to be on each individual child's learning journey. Teachers will continue to identify any gaps in learning and plan memorable learning opportunities to ensure your child continues to make good progress. The outcome of this process will be recorded on your child's end of year report and shared with you in July.

PSHE, Relationships and Sex Education

During our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings in September 2025, there was an opportunity for parents/carers to view schemes of work and resources that we use to teach the PSHE curriculum and Relationships and Sex Education. On **Thursday 14th May**, there will be another opportunity for parents/carers to view resources with Mr. Aspinall (PSHE Leader) and Ms. Whitehead available to discuss how we teach topics sensitively and answer any questions you may have. This event will take place in our school hall between 2:30pm - 4pm and our curriculum from Nursery to Y6 will be available for all parents/carers to view. For more information, please see [this letter](#).

As previously parents / carers do have the right to withdraw their child from specific elements of Sex Education sessions. Requests should be made in writing **after** considering the materials and activities being used. As always, if there is anything that you need to know or would like to discuss please speak with your child's class teacher or come to see us.

School Dinners – A Healthy Choice

There is lots of media coverage at the moment regarding the quality of school meals. At Mersey Vale, we are committed to maintaining high-quality school meals and use Totally Local Company as our supplier. Thanks to the new School Grid system, you should be able to see all the ingredients that are used in addition to the healthy, balanced diet children having school meals are offered.

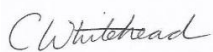
All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 continue to be offered a free school meal and if eligible, many children in Key Stage 2 are also entitled to a free meal each day. For more information and to check eligibility please follow this link: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Dinner money continues to be £2.75 per day/ £13.75 per week. Please order your child's meal and make payments using School Grid.

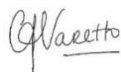
Trainee Teacher

At Mersey Vale we work in partnership with the University of Manchester to provide placements for trainee teachers. They work under the guidance of experienced staff and they are monitored by a mentor and a tutor. This term Ms. Bryan will be teaching in Y1, please do say "hello" to her.

Yours faithfully,



Catherine Whitehead
Headteacher



Claire Varetto
Deputy Headteacher

Summer Sun



We're sure that everyone is looking forward to some sunshine!

Please can we ask you to ensure that your child has a sun hat and is wearing sun screen when we have hot, sunny days? Children spend time outside every day at breaks, lunchtimes and during outdoor Physical Education sessions and Forest School - we don't want them to get sunburnt. Please also ensure your child brings in their water bottle, so that they can keep themselves hydrated and refreshed.

Nuts in School



At Mersey Vale, we have some children who are allergic to nuts. To help keep everyone safe, please could children avoid bringing in any food that contains nuts, this includes any treats that may be brought in for birthdays or other celebrations.

As a Healthy School, we encourage all children to make healthy food choices and would kindly request that any food to be shared with the whole class is in line with this school policy. Some parents/carers choose to donate a book to the class library to celebrate birthdays and this is greatly received by children and staff and can be enjoyed by many children for years to come!