

Upcoming Events

This is the first newsletter of 2026 and we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy new year and all the very best for the coming year.

January

Monday 5 th January	School opens
Tuesday 6 th January	Swimming lessons start for Y4
Thursday 8 th January	Oracy Workshop for parents and carers
Wednesday 21 st January	Y3 & Y4 Chester Zoo trip
Thursday 29 th January	Vision Screening – Reception children

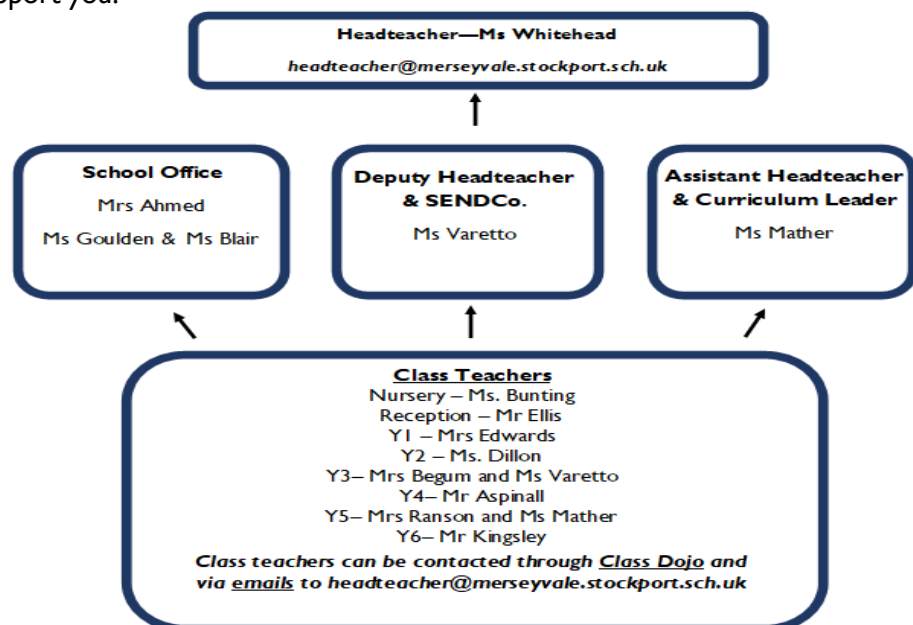
February

Wk. beg. 9 th February	'We are Geographers' week
Tuesday 10 th February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 12 th February	Young Voices choir trip
Friday 13 th February	School closes
Monday 23 rd February	School opens

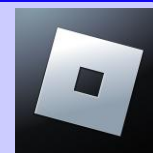
The Autumn Term was filled with lots of exciting learning opportunities for all children across the curriculum and through festive activities as well as our inclusive and ambitious curriculum. 'Everybody Speaks' week was an opportunity for all pupils to develop their oral communication. The children in our Reception Y1 and Y2 performed an amazing winter production of 'Snowman at Sunset' and all our children sang Christmas carols beautifully during our Awards Assemblies.

Lines of Communication

We have many different ways we are able to facilitate good communication between home and school, however we thought it might be useful to share with you the lines of communication available. As you know, the class teacher is always the first point of call, however we also have senior leaders that may be able to support you.



Spotlight on Safeguarding



Roblox

Roblox is enjoyed by 25 million children globally; however, an increasing number are reporting encounters with harmful, distressing and inappropriate content on the site. Here are some reasons for their concerns:

- The platform features user-generated content, meaning the games are crafted by other users. Some of these games may include elements of violence, horror and sexual content.
- Roblox incorporates social features like chat and private messaging, which can expose children to interactions with potentially unsafe strangers, increasing the risk of grooming and exploitation.
- The platform uses a virtual currency called Robux that can be purchased with real money, leading to children unintentionally spending significant amounts on in-game purchases without realizing the real-life cost.

5 ways to keep your child safe whilst using Roblox:

1. Monitor playtime: check what they are playing and who they are playing with/against.
2. Understand the games they play, take some time to play them yourself.
3. Discuss online safety: explain the risks of strangers online and how they may not be who they say they are.
4. Set boundaries on game times and how much they can spend on in-game purchases.
5. Use the parental controls on the platform. You can do this through the settings once logged in.

Website

As well as the half-termly newsletters, you will find lots of other information about our school on the website and it can help to keep up to date with what's happening. <http://www.merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk/> Our website also includes a copy of our school [prospectus](#) which is updated regularly.

Admission to Reception Class September 2026

The closing date to apply for a Reception place is 15th January 2026. If you have a child born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 it is very important that you apply for a place. Please apply online on Stockport Council's website before this deadline. You can find more information [here](#).

Attendance Matters

We all want the best for our children and for them to get on well in life. Having a good education is important to ensure that they have the best opportunities in their adult life. A child's future may be affected by not attending school regularly. If children do not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with school work; this will affect their learning and progress
- Miss out on the social side of school life; poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships, a vital part of growing up.

Attendance at primary school continues to be a statutory requirement and there are very few instances that result in an authorised absence. An **Educational Penalty Notice** may be issued for an unauthorised leave of absence, including holidays, taken during term time. For more information please see this [link](#).

If you are finding it difficult to ensure that your child attends school regularly, please speak to our Learning Mentor, Mrs Cropper, as soon as possible so that she can support you.



Respect Charter + Parent & Visitors Behaviour Policy

At Mersey Vale Primary School we believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to learn, work or visit. We strive to ensure that our school offers a warm and nurturing environment for everyone where all members of the school community and visitors demonstrate mutual respect. Please see our [Respect Policy](#) on our website for further information.



Dinner Money

We are excited to announce that starting from 5th January 2026, we will be implementing a new way for you to view, order and pay for your child's school meal. You should have received a welcome email from SchoolGrid with instructions on how to activate your account and create your password. You can order on a daily, weekly, monthly or even termly basis. The system will allow you to place as many orders in advance as you like, up to the point the menu has been opened for. You can also make a same-day order up to 8:55am. As always, if you require any support with this new system, please contact the school office where a member of our team will be happy to assist you.

Emergency Contact Numbers

If you had a new mobile phone for Christmas or have changed your contact numbers please ensure the school office has your new details. It is important to inform us of any changes so that you can be contacted in case of an emergency and also so that you can receive information texts and emails. We will send messages via School Spider and put information on the school website and Class Dojo if it is ever necessary for school to close.

Finally we would like to thank all the parents who sent in biscuits, chocolates and other gifts for the staff at the end of last term. We really appreciate your kindness and generosity.

Yours faithfully,

Catherine Whitehead
Headteacher

Claire Varetto
Deputy Headteacher

