



23 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you are managing to enjoy some of the good weather we are having – at least we are able to get outside!

We are adjusting and adapting at school as we go along. You should now be receiving work for your child(ren) weekly. Whilst we originally intended to send it fortnightly, with feedback from parents, we have settled on weekly. Hopefully this will be easier for you to timetable at home.

It has been really good to hear from many of you – either via the class email system, by phone or when you have popped by to drop work in or pick resources up. Please remember that we are here to help, we are trying to judge a sensible amount of work for your children to do, but without overwhelming you. It is a fine balance and is different for each family. Don't forget, if you need any resources – paper, pencils, books etc we can help you with that too. We can also print packs if you're struggling with ink or a printer.

Please continue to contact your class teacher via the new class email addresses set up if you have any questions related to the work. Any general queries are welcome using the email address admin@mendleshamschool.org.uk or via phone.

The deadline for the Trust competition (attached) is looming – if you have any entries, you can put them through the letter box and I will ensure they get to HQ

Best wishes

Tessa Sait

Free School Meal Vouchers

If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals (Pupil Premium), you should have received a number of emails from Edenred. By now you should have been able to redeem 3 vouchers (1 per week). However as demand on the system was so great, it did not run smoothly from the beginning. Please let us know if you think you have missed any vouchers. The 1st one issued will expire on 7th May, so it's worth checking.

Term Dates

2020-2021

Autumn Term

Monday 7 September

Friday 18 December

Half term week 26 October

PD Day Friday 27 November

Spring Term

Tuesday 5 January

Thursday 26 March

Half term week 15 February

Summer Term

Monday 12 April

Wednesday 21 July

Half term week 31 May

Tips for extending your child's learning if they quickly finish their work

Maths – ask your child to write some calculations of their own to solve or to write a real life word problem using one of the calculations they have done.

Writing – ask your child to edit their own work, correct any mistakes and try to find some more ambitious language to use.

Tips for teaching early writing at home

It is worth remembering that children are likely to have very different learning behaviours at home than at school. You can always contact your class teacher if you are worried. But in the first instance:

1. Talk sentences through with your child before expecting them to write it. Sound words out.
2. Demonstrate (show an example of what they need to do). For example with writing a sentence, write a simple sentence for them, then ask them to write a similar one, but changing some words.
3. If they are still struggling, write it for your child to copy and talk about what you are doing.
4. Get them to read it back, then to copy it again but changing one word so that it still makes sense.

COMPETITION TIME



Design a Greetings Card!

We welcome many visitors into our schools and there are a number of occasions when we want to send them a card to say “thank you” or “we’re thinking about you”.

Our competition for learners across the Trust (Early Years through to Post-16) is to design a greetings card which is inspired either by your back garden or the view from your window.

You could choose absolutely anything: trees, animals, plants, flowers, skylines, buildings, a view of your street or your garden itself.

Your entries - black and white or colour - should be submitted on paper size A4 and include your name and the name of your school. Please send your design(s) to:

**JMAT Centre
Church Road
Stowupland
Stowmarket
IP14 4BQ**

Closing date: Thursday April 30th, 2020

There will be a prize for the winning entries and the designs selected will be professionally printed for use across the Trust.