



# NEWSLETTER

## **Happy New Year!**

Welcome back to a new term and a new year! It has been a really positive week - our inset day on Tuesday was focused on continuing our curriculum development, and we were joined by Michael Gorely from Historic England who has been working with us throughout the process to build meaningful local history into our new curriculum content. Then from Wednesday, the children have settled back brilliantly and the sun is finally shining!

## **Gift Thank You**

I wanted to start the year with a brief jump back to the last day of term when the PTA presented every member of staff with a gift on behalf of our parent/ carer community. On behalf of the staff team, thank you so much for the thought and for the donations that enabled this to happen, and thank you to Helen Beach who co-ordinated a frankly mind-boggling present distribution process!

## **Lunch Booking on Parentmail**

### **Merrywood – Universal Free School Meals**

We are continuing to see a big uptake in the school lunches being booked through the ParentMail App. Thank you all, this is really helping the kitchen cut down on food waste. To ensure the kitchen are notified of children who have allergies, please make sure you book their lunch so they have time to prepare their meals separately.

Please can you also check your child is happy with the lunch option you have chosen or happy with the hot option if you haven't had a chance to book their lunch? Children can get upset at lunchtime when faced with something unexpected that they don't like, this results in a change of mind which can lead to the kitchen running out of certain options and not being able to provide those to children who have booked them.

### **Preschool and Myrtle – Paid School Meals**

Please can we remind all parents that school meals must be booked and paid for in advance on Parentmail, including free school meals. Note, you can order meals for up to a term in advance to save you having to log in multiple times.

Thank you to all parents who have been paying for school meals on Parentmail. We really appreciate your continued support with this. Please note, children will not be provided with a school lunch unless it is paid for, except for those that are entitled to free school meals.

In a case when a school lunch has not been booked nor a packed lunch provided, the office will phone the parent to ask them to come to school with the money. Otherwise they must provide a packed lunch before lunch time.

If a parent genuinely forgets to pay in advance, the office will book the school meal but this must be paid for on the day. If the debt is not cleared, parents must provide a packed lunch until this is cleared. If payment of the debt is not received, we will ask you to attend a meeting to discuss the matter. Thank you!

## Southfest

It was my pleasure this week to tell the children about a unique event coming soon to Southville...Southfest! Inspired by the amazing street art we are surrounded by (and of course by Upfest!), Southfest will take place in school from March 4th. This will be a unique and exciting opportunity for the children (and staff!) to see professional artists in action up close as they create original artwork directly onto the walls in and around both school buildings.

I will provide you (and the children) with more information as we move closer, but excitement will be building from Monday when we welcome Andy Council in to talk to the children about his work and gather their ideas for the piece he is going to do in our Myrtle building. He will be doing an assembly on both sites so hopefully you will hear all about it!



Have a lovely weekend, Andy Bowman