Mesne Lea Primary School
Working together for individual excellence

Headteacher: Ms Unsworth
Walkden Road, Worsley, Manchester M28 7FG
Tel: 0161 566 2993
e-mail: mesnelea@prestoleetrust.org
website: www.mesnelea.salford.sch.uk

Monday 2nd November 2026,

Welcome back letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the final half term of 2026! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break and had the opportunity to spend some quality time with family and friends.

We are now looking ahead to what is always one of the busiest, most exciting and memorable times of the school year. The run-up to Christmas in a primary school is truly special — full of excitement, anticipation, creativity and, of course, a little bit of festive chaos!

There is lots happening over the coming weeks, so please keep a close eye on our school communications and calendar to make sure you don't miss any important information, events or opportunities to get involved. We want all of our families to feel informed and included throughout this special time of year.

Uniform

A reminder that small circle stud earrings are permitted in school. To ensure that children can take part safely and fully in all PE activities, earrings must be removed on PE days.

However, children who are wearing earrings that cannot be removed will be given an alternative role during PE lessons and will not be able to fully participate. They will be asked to remove them on PE days so they can join in. Please see Uniform policy here.

School Lunches

We kindly ask all parents and carers to pre-order their child's lunch using ParentPay. Please ensure there is money on your Parent Pay account first as the system won't let you order if your balance is negative. You can order meals for the whole half term in advance or every Sunday for the week ahead if you prefer. If you miss the 8am deadline to order meal for your child for that day, please bring a packed lunch for your child. Alternatively, your child will be offered a default sandwich and you will be charged.

Ordering meals in advance helps our kitchen team to:

- Prepare the correct number of meals each day.
- Reduce food waste.
- Ensure that your child receives the meal they have chosen.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to provide an efficient and well-organised lunchtime service.

If your child is on packed lunches, please make sure you send in healthy food and no nut products.

Communication

We are committed to maintaining strong and positive relationships between home and school. To keep parents and carers informed, we use the following communication platforms:

Class Dojo
Class Dojo is used for key school updates, photographs and communication between school and families. Please check Class Dojo regularly to ensure you don't miss any important messages.

Facebook
Our school Facebook page is used to share class events, activities and learning highlights. Please like and follow Mesne Lea Primary School on Facebook to keep up to date with what is happening across school.

Communication Guidance

For general queries or updates relating to your child, please use Class Dojo to contact your child's class teacher directly.

If you have an ongoing concern, we kindly ask that you speak with your child's class teacher in the first instance. They are best placed to address concerns promptly and effectively and will always be happy to work with you to find a solution.

If you require further support following this, you are welcome to contact the appropriate Phase Leader:

- Nursery and Reception – Miss Alexander, Phase Leader.
- Key Stage 1 – Mrs Stott, Phase Leader and Assistant Head Teacher.
- Lower Key Stage 2 – Miss Gibson, Phase Leader.
- Upper Key Stage 2 – Mr Evans, Phase Leader and Assistant Head Teacher.

We greatly value open, respectful and positive communication and are committed to working in partnership with you to support every child's success.

Mrs Dougill is our SENDCo, you can contact her by emailing mesnelea.senco@prestoleetrust.org. For any attendance related queries, please email the school office, for the attention of Miss Fisher.

Attendance

At Mesne Lea Primary School, we recognise the importance of regular attendance in supporting children's learning, wellbeing and overall development.

Consistent attendance plays an important role in raising achievement, developing positive routines and helping children to build strong relationships with their peers and teachers. Every day of learning matters and contributes towards a child's progress and success, both in school and beyond.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to support us by ensuring that children:

- Attend school every day wherever possible.
- Arrive on time.
- Are ready to learn at the start of the school day.

If your child is unable to attend school, it is essential that you inform us as soon as possible by calling 0161 566 2993 or emailing mesnelea@prestoleetrust.org to report their absence.

Punctuality

We are very proud of how well the vast majority of our pupils arrive at school each morning. Arriving on time helps children to establish positive routines and ensures they have a calm, settled and focused start to their day.

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As a reminder, the school day starts at 8:50am and the school gates will be locked promptly at 8:55am.

If you arrive after the gates have been locked, please report to the main office and sign your child in using the electronic signing-in system.

Children who arrive after the register closes will be recorded as late. If a child arrives after 9:30am, this will be recorded as a 'U' code, which is classed as an unauthorised absence.

Arriving late can mean that your child misses important teaching, instructions and the start-of-day routines before joining a lesson that is already underway. This can affect their confidence, learning and progress.

Punctuality is important not only for your child's learning but also for minimising disruption to the rest of the class.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that all children arrive at school on time and ready to learn every day.

Mobile Phones for Primary School Children

We understand that mobile phones can be useful for children who need to stay in contact with family members when travelling to and from school.

However, to help children remain focused and get the most from their learning, mobile phones must not be used during the school day.

If your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school, please remind them to hand it to their class teacher at the start of the school day. Phones will be kept safely and returned to children at home time.

Please only allow your child to bring a phone to school if it is necessary, for example, if they are walking home independently or travelling to another location after school.

At home, we also encourage parents and carers to set clear boundaries around when and how mobile phones can be used. This can help children to stay safe online, develop healthy digital habits and maintain a good balance between screen time and other activities.

Fidget Toys

We have noticed an increasing number of fidget toys being brought into school. While some children find sensory resources helpful, toys brought from home can often become distracting during learning time and may be lost or cause disagreements between children.

We therefore ask that fidget toys/chew toys are not brought into school unless they form part of an agreed support plan with the class teacher and the SEND team. This includes breakfast and after school club.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a calm and focused learning environment.

Looking Ahead

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We are looking forward to a fun, festive, meaningful and memorable half term with our pupils and families.

There is lots to look forward to, and we can't wait to share the excitement of the Christmas season with you all!

Yours sincerely,
Ms V Unsworth
Head Teacher

Please see below all our important dates and events for the next couple of weeks/months.

Monday 2nd November 2026	Whole School	First Day of term	School opens at 8:50am as normal.
Monday 2nd November 2026	Reception	Messy Play	All Reception parents/carers welcome to attend. Reception Bees: 9:30am-10:15am. Reception Butterflies: 1:30pm-2:15pm
Monday 2nd November 2026	Year 5	Swimming	Last swimming lesson at Worsley Baths.
Monday 2nd November 2026	Year 2 Wrens	Library Visit	The children will be visiting Walkden Library. Please return your consent form to the class teacher.
Friday 6th November 2026	Whole School	Non-Uniform Day	Non-uniform Day. Please bring a donation of "Chocolate" only to school (no nuts) which will be raffled during our school Christmas Fair. PE will still be going ahead, so please make sure, if your child has PE, they are wearing trainers.
Monday 9th November 2026	Year 2 Starlings	Library Visit	The children will be visiting Walkden Library. Please return your consent form to the class teacher by Wednesday 4th November 2026.
Monday 9th November 2026	Year 6	Maths Workshop	9:00am–10:00am in the school hall. All Year 6 parents and carers are warmly encouraged to attend. A sausage barm will be provided for parents and carers, with a vegetarian option available.
Tuesday 10th November 2026	Whole School	Parents Evening	Parents Evening will take place in school from 3.35pm to 5:00pm. Please return your letter to your child's class teacher with your preferred slot.
Tuesday 10th November 2026	Whole School	Book Fair	The Book Fair will take place in the school hall during Parent Evening 3:35pm-5:00pm. Please note this event is cashless.

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Wednesday 11th November 2026	Year 1	Remembrance Day	Year 1 will be walking to the cenotaph to join the community in observing Remembrance Day. Parents/carers are welcome to join. Please message Miss Reeve or Miss Collier via ClassDojo if you would like to join.
Wednesday 11th November 2026	Year 4 Giraffes	Parents Evening	Parents Evening for Year 4 Giraffes will take place in school from 3.35pm to 5:00pm. Please return your letter to your child's class teacher with your preferred slot.
Friday 13th November 2026	Whole School	Children In Need Day	Non-uniform Day. For "non-fiction November", please dress up as a word. PE will still be going ahead, so please make sure, if your child has PE, they are wearing trainers.
Monday 16th November 2026	Year 1 Canaries	Library Visit	The children will be visiting Walkden Library. Please return your consent form to the class teacher by Wednesday 11th November 2026.
Monday 16th November 2026	Prospective Nursery and Reception parents/carers	EYFS Open Day	EYFS Open Day for prospective Nursery and Reception parents/carers for September 2027. 9:30am-10:00am Please book your place via email mesnelea@prestoleetrust.org
Tuesday 17th November 2026	Whole School	Parents Evening	Parents Evening will take place in school from 3.35pm to 5:30pm. Please return your letter to your child's class teacher with your preferred slot.
Tuesday 17th November 2026	Whole School	Book Fair	The Book Fair will take place in the school hall during Parent Evening 3:35pm-5:30pm. Please note this event is cashless.
Wednesday 18th November 2026	Year 4 Giraffes	Parents Evening	Parents Evening for Year 4 Giraffes will take place in school from 3.35pm to 5:30pm. Please return your letter to your child's class teacher with your preferred slot.
Thursday 19th November 2026	Selected Key Stage 2 children	Cross Country competition	Selected Key Stage 2 children – Cross-Country competition at Barton Moss Primary school. 10:00am-12:00pm.
Thursday 19th November 2026	Year 5	Maths Workshop	9:00am–10:00am in the school hall. All Year 5 parents and carers are warmly encouraged to attend. A sausage barm will be provided for parents and carers,

			with a vegetarian option available.
Friday 20th November 2025	Whole School	Non Uniform Day	Non-uniform Day. Please bring a donation of "Toiletries and Bottles" to school which will be raffled during our school Christmas Fair. PE will still be going ahead, so please make sure, if your child has PE, they are wearing trainers.
Saturday 21st November 2026	Year 3 to Year 6	Cross Country	Cross Country Races at Buile Hill Park, 9:00am-10:00am All Y3-Y6 children welcome to take part.
Monday 23rd November 2026	Year 1 Robins	Library Visit	The children will be visiting Walkden Library. Please return your consent form to the class teacher by Wednesday 18th November 2026.
Thursday 26th November 2026	Year 4	Maths Workshop	9:00am–10:00am in the school hall. All Year 4 parents and carers are warmly encouraged to attend. A sausage barm will be provided for parents and carers, with a vegetarian option available.
Tuesday 1st December 2026	Nursery	Christmas Songs	Nursery Christmas Songs Performance 2.30pm -3.30pm. £1.00 ticket paid on Parent Pay, Nursery parents/carers welcome to attend, limited to 2 tickets.
Tuesday 1st December 2026	Choir	Singing at St Peter's Church in Swinton	More Information to follow. 5:00pm-7:15pm Children to be transported to and from by parents/carers.
Friday 4th December 2026	Whole School	Non-Uniform Day	Non-uniform Day. Please bring a "Mystery gift" to school which will be raffled during our School Christmas Fair. PE will still be going ahead, so please make sure, if your child has PE, they are wearing trainers.
Saturday 5th December 2026	Year 3 to Year 6	Cross Country	Cross Country Races at Buile Hill Park, 9:00am-10:00am All Y3-Y6 children welcome to take part.
Saturday 5th December 2026	Whole School	Christmas Fair	Christmas Fair organised by Kickstart and school. Cash only. No card payments available. If you would like a stall, please email Kickstart info@wearekickstart.com 10am – 2pm
Monday 7th December 2026	Choir	Singing at Walkden Manor	The Choir club will be singing Christmas Carols at Walkden Manor, retirement home. 2:00pm-3:00pm

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Thursday 10th December 2026	Whole School	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas activities in school.	Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper with non-uniform. Use the link below to donate. https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/
Thursday 10th December 2026	Reception	Nativity	Reception Nativity Performance 2.30pm -3.30pm. £1.00 ticket paid on Parent Pay, Reception parents/carers welcome to attend, limited to 2 tickets.
Friday 11th December 2026	Reception to Year 2	Pantomime	Christmas Pantomime in school at 9:30am – 10:30am (children only) Please pay £3.00 on Parent Pay.
Tuesday 15th December 2026	Whole School	Christmas Dinner	If your child would like a Christmas dinner and is normally on packed lunches, please pay for this dinner **(£2.10)** on Parent Pay by 4th December.
Wednesday 16th December 2026	Year 1	Christmas Songs	Year 1 Christmas Songs Performance 2.30pm -3.30pm. £1.00 ticket paid on Parent Pay, Year 1 parents/carers welcome to attend, limited to 2 tickets.
Thursday 17th December 2026	Year 3 to Year 6	Pantomime	Christmas Pantomime in school at 9:30am – 10:30am (children only) Please pay £3.00 on Parent Pay.
Friday 18th December 2026	Whole School	Special Dinner	Special dinner today: Christmas buffet food. Please order in advance via Parent Pay.
Friday 18th December 2026	Whole School	Last day of term	School will be closing at 3:25pm, as normal.
Monday 21st December Tuesday 22nd December 2026	Selected Pupils	Kickstart Holiday Club	Kickstart will be operating a holiday club for Free School Meals children (10:00am-2:00pm). You can also book a paying session 8:00am-3:00pm. We Are Kickstart - Kickstart Schools Clubs and Childcare

Monday 4th January 2027	Whole School	First Day of term	School opens at 8:50am as normal.
Wednesday 6th January 2027	Current Nursery parents/carers	Drop-In	Reception School Application Support Drop in with Miss Alexander 3:30pm-4:00pm
Saturday 9th January 2027	Year 3 to Year 6	Cross Country	Cross Country Races at Buile Hill Park, 9:00am-10:00am All Y3-Y6 children welcome to take part.
Wednesday 13th January 2027	Year 2	Writing Workshop	9:00am–10:00am in the school hall. All Year 2 parents and carers are warmly encouraged to attend. A sausage barm will be provided for parents and carers, with a vegetarian option available.
Thursday 21st January 2027	Year 3	Writing Workshop	9:00am–10:00am in the school hall. All Year 3 parents and carers are warmly encouraged to attend. A sausage barm will be provided for parents and carers, with a vegetarian option available.
Monday 25th January 2027	Choir club	Young Voices	Letter to follow
Wednesday 27th January 2027	Year 1	Writing Workshop	9:00am–10:00am in the school hall. All Year 1 parents and carers are warmly encouraged to attend. A sausage barm will be provided for parents and carers, with a vegetarian option available.