

LEARNING

MAKING LEARNING REAL

Our new curriculum at Melton is designed to make the learning relevant for the children and to make them more aware of the history and geography of the local area. Teachers have used an increased range of local visitors and visits to implement this intent. Some fantastic examples of this have been:

- Robins visit by PC Dan
- Puffins & Parrots 'My Melton' walk, visit to Tide Mill and a visit by The Bakehouse, Woodbridge.



The children got to try different types of bread. Tiger bread was their favourite! They also got to decorate freshly baked gingerbread men from the bakery.

- Woodpeckers and Eagles visits to Sutton Hoo and Minsmere
- Penguins & Owls visit to Debach airfield museum and a visit by a World War 2 evacuee. 94 year old,



Walli visited year 5 and 6 last Friday to speak about her experiences living through World War 2, including; being evacuated, working on a farm helping with the 'Dig for Victory', experiencing bombing in London and surviving bomb attacks. The children were fascinated by her stories.

Other examples of how we have made learning fun this term include:



'Engineering week'. All the children had a fun week completing a range of practical engineering and technology challenges, including making a Melton of the future out of Lego.

Children from Woodpeckers and Owls have visited BT Adastral Park this term to participate in Computing challenges.

Owls class attended the Crucial Crew PSHE roadshow. Owls and Penguins participated in a Cambridge University Science Fair at Farlingaye High School.

Owls and Penguins children have completed the Bikeability cycle training programme. The training helps the children gain practical skills and an understanding how to cycle on today's roads.



A group of Year 6 children have been participating in a six week Forest School programme. They have completed a range of challenges in the outside environment. To



encourage families to explore the outdoors together, the course has included involvement from their parents. The sessions will be repeated next term with a group from Year 4.

Today, twenty of our Learning Ambassadors are visiting the Palace of Westminster in London to learn about how the UK government works. They will have a tour of the Houses of Parliament followed by visits to Downing Street and Buckingham Palace.

The improvement in the children's engagement in their learning is being reflected through the homework projects they are completing. We introduced a more 'open' approach to homework this term to allow children to engage in way which appealed to them. Some of their responses have been outstanding...



WW2 garden by Year 6



Hedgehog house by Reception

Remember to keep up to date with each class' learning experiences via the class See Saw site or the school twitter account @MeltonPrimary

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

STAY AND SHARE

Thank you to everyone who attended the class 'Stay and Share' sessions at the beginning of this half term. We hope it gave you more understanding of the children's learning.

In the next two weeks you will be invited to the class 'Celebration Events' when the children will share their topic learning from this term. These started yesterday with the Puffins and Parrots 'My Melton' celebration. It was fantastic to see so many parents enjoying a learning activity with the children.

Also, thank you for the lovely feedback comments you gave the staff. We can't list them all but this is a flavour...

"You're all doing a great job, thank you!"

"He has enjoyed being able to have hands on experience with the subject."

"I have loved to hear how much you have involved the local community."

"My child has enjoyed thinking about his local area."

"Great activities for parents to join in with their children."

FOMS CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Friends of Melton School have organised a Christmas Fair on **Friday 6th December from 3.30pm**. There will be a selection of stalls and games for the whole family to enjoy. FOMS are still seeking donations for the sweetie jar tombola, parents gifts and class hampers. We hope as many of you as possible will support this fund raising event. Volunteers to help set-up and run the event are also urgently required. If you can spare a couple of hours next Friday, you would be very welcomed!



CHRISTMAS CHAT

We would like to invite parents to join the Leadership Team for a hot chocolate and mince pie on **Wednesday 11th December at 2.30pm** in school. This will be a chance to talk about recent developments in school, plans for the future and your chance to share any thoughts and ideas you have. There will also be a fun Christmas Quiz (with festive prizes!).

THANK YOU

Thank you to all parents, grandparents and Friends of Melton, Andrew Capell, Matt Dorey, Rob and Emma Needs, Michael Davis, Cindy Price and Janet Perry who helped to build the fence for our new allotment. We are also grateful to Nelson Potter for supplying the quality fencing and Coastal Supplies who very kindly donated the sleepers.



The project is being led by our new Volunteer Coordinator, Nicole Barr.

Nicole has been very busy and has now recruited ten new volunteers to help in school. The main focus of our volunteer programme is to support children reading by providing them with a 'Reading Buddy'. If you would like to volunteer as a 'Reading Buddy', or know someone who would, please contact Nicole via the school office.

RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN

We are hosting a workshop for parents on **Thursday 5th December from 1.15 to 3.15pm**. All parents are welcome to register and the workshop is completely free.

The three Ps 'Positive Parenting Programme' helps you understand the way your family works, and uses the things you already think, feel, say and do in new ways that nurture relationships, parenting skills and confidence, as well as supporting your wellbeing

Triple P helps you:

- Create a stable, supportive, harmonious family environment.
- Teach your children the skills they need to get along with others.
- Deal positively, consistently and decisively with problem behaviour should it arise.
- Encourage behaviour you like.
- Develop realistic expectations of your children and yourself.
- Take care of yourself as a parent.

For more information contact Mrs Whinney
nicola.whinney@melton.suffolk.sch.uk or 01394 382506

EVENTS & SCHOOL NEWS

WELCOME

I am sure many of you will already have met our new Business Manager, Sam Gooch. Mrs Gooch will be working in the school office every day and will manage the school's finances, HR and property. I am sure you will make her feel very welcome. Mrs Booth will be the office administrator on Mondays and Tuesdays and Mrs Price will cover the same role for the second part of the week.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

We would like to give advance notice that After School Club will finish early (5pm) on **Friday 13th December**.

There will be no after school provision on **Friday 20th December**.

Some parents have found it difficult to contact the Before & After School Club mobile phone. To make this simpler, there is now a direct link via the school phone system. Call 01394382506 and select Option 3.

SCHOOL STARTERS 2019

A reminder that applications for new school places in 2020 (Reception class) need to be submitted by **Wednesday 15th January 2019**. Applications should be completed online via the Suffolk County Council website. If you need any support applying, please contact the school office. **All children who need a school place in 2020 must apply.** Having a sibling in school will not mean they automatically receive a place at Melton.

[Apply online](#)

FUNDING SUPPORT

Over the past couple of years, school has offered support to some families by allocating a proportion of funds to give families a virtual voucher to spend. This year the voucher (with a value of £100) has been allocated to families who are entitled to Free School Meals. This does not mean all children who receive Pupil Premium Funding. If you need to check your eligibility, contact the school office.

CHRISTMAS DAY

We will celebrate Christmas Day in school on **Friday 20th December**. The children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper or t-shirt on the day (£1 donations will be collected for Ipswich Hospital Children's Appeal). The celebrations will start with our Carol Service at St Andrew's church at 10am (families are very welcome to join us for this). The children will then return to school for Christmas lunch followed by class parties and a visit to see Santa. Details for ordering a Christmas lunch will be sent home soon.



SCHOOL MEALS

Edwards and Blake would like to promote their new winter menu. The menu has been created with recommendations from the children, who have tried to theme the days...

Monday Favourites
Italian Tuesday
Traditional Wednesday
Thursday Pie Day
Fish & Chips Friday



A copy of the full menu is available on the school website.

There is now very little use of processed or frozen products with most of the dishes made from fresh ingredients in the kitchen.



Freshly made bread

Remember, all children in Robins, Puffins & Parrots are entitled to a free school meal, perfect for these cold winter months.

SEVERE WEATHER PLAN

Although I am hoping this is very premature, I would like to remind you about the procedures for informing parents about school closures as a result of severe weather conditions.

School will only be closed in extreme circumstances based on a health and safety assessment. It may also be necessary on some occasions to delay the opening time to ensure we have sufficient staffing to supervise the children. For both occurrences, information will be posted on the Suffolk County Council school closures website: <https://schoolclosures.suffolk.gov.uk/> Notices will also be shared via local radio stations, class See Saw pages, the school Twitter account and the school website. If no information is broadcast, school is open as normal.

Remember to contact me at any time if you have something you would like to discuss. I am outside most days or can be contacted via email:

head@melton.suffolk.sch.uk

Alun Davies
Headteacher

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 6th December	FOMS Christmas Fair (3.30pm)
Wednesday 11th December	Mince Pies & Hot Chocolate (2.30pm)
Friday 13th December	After School Club closes at 5pm
Tuesday 17th December	Key Stage 1 Christmas performance (2pm)
Wednesday 18th December	Key Stage 1 Christmas performance (10am)
Friday 20th December	Carol Service at St Andrew's Church (10am) Christmas Lunch Santa School closes for Christmas holiday No After School Club
 <u>2020</u>	
Monday 6th January	School re-opens for Spring Term

TERM DATES 2020/21

TERM	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Start Date	Tuesday 1 st September	Monday 4 th January	Monday 12 th April
End Date	Friday 18 th December	Friday 26 th March	Tuesday 20 th July
PD Days	Tuesday 1 st September Friday 9 th October	Friday 5 th February	Monday 19 th July Tuesday 20 th July
Half term	Monday 28 th October	Monday 15 th February	Monday 31 st May