



Merrydale Infant School Prospectus

2025- 2026

‘One School Many Strengths’



Welcome from the Headteacher

Welcome to Merrydale Infant School. We are a warm, inclusive community committed to providing a *stimulating and caring learning environment* where every child reaches their highest potential. We believe in excellence in learning, supported by strong moral values, respect, and a diverse range of experiences that extend beyond the local community.



Key School Information

- **School name:** Merrydale Infant School
- **Address:** Claydon Road, Leicester, LE5 0PL
- **Telephone:** 0116 276 7593
- **Email:** office@merrydale-inf.leicester.sch.uk
- **Headteacher:** Mr Mark Tipple-Johnson
- **Type of school:** Community (Local Authority maintained)
- **Age range:** 3–7 (Nursery & Infant)
- **Gender of entry:** Mixed
- **School capacity:** 270 and 90 place nursery (currently 353 pupils on roll)
- **Ofsted status:** <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50237950>

Area of Judgement	Grade
Quality of Education	Good
Behaviour and Attitudes	Good
Personal Development	Good
Leadership and Management	Good
Early Years Provision	Good



Session/term dates:

<u>Term</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Schools Open</u>	<u>Schools Close</u>	<u>Holiday</u>
Term 1	39 days (7 weeks 4 days)	Tuesday 26 August 2025	Friday 17 October 2025	Autumn Half Term: 20-24 Oct 2025
Term 2	40 days (8 weeks)	Monday 27 October 2025	Friday 19 December 2025	Christmas & New Year: 22 Dec 2025 - 2 Jan 2026
Term 3	30 days (6 weeks)	Monday 5 January 2026	Friday 13 February 2026	Spring Half Term: 16-20 Feb 2026
Term 4	25 days (5 weeks)	Monday 23 February 2026	Friday 27 March 2026	Easter Holidays: 30 Mar - 10 Apr 2026
Term 5	29 days (5 weeks 4 days)	Monday 13 April 2026	Friday 22 May 2026	May Bank Holiday: 4 May 2026
Term 6		Monday 1 June 2026	Tuesday 8 July 2026	Summer Holiday begins: 9 July 2026

Ethos

“At Merrydale Infant School we are committed to provide a stimulating and caring learning environment to ensure our children achieve their highest potential... developing moral values and respect through a variety of experiences beyond the local school community.”



Admissions Information

- **Published Admission Number (Reception):** 90 places; not oversubscribed for 2025 entry.
- **Visits to the school:** Arranged through the school office.
- **Admissions are organised by Leicester City Council** 0116 454 1009 (option 1) Monday to Friday - 9.30am till 3pm. Or Email admissions.online@leicester.gov.uk

Curriculum Overview

Merrydale Infant School offers a nurturing Early-Years and Key Stage 1 curriculum with:

- A strong emphasis on early reading, writing, and maths.
- Well-maintained facilities and committed staff offering excellent teaching and support.
- A range of extracurricular activities to enhance learning experiences.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

- The school has an Alternative Provision.
- SEND provision is also delivered within the mainstream setting

At Merrydale Infant School we aim to provide a high-quality education for all our children that will enable them to learn at a pace appropriate to their ability and development. We recognise that some children may require a different provision from that which we offer generally and will strive to meet the needs of these children within our school setting wherever possible. Teaching children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) is a responsibility for the whole school and we expect everyone within the school community to fully accept differences in others and work together to promote success for all.

The school will always aim to:

- ✓ enable teachers to identify and provide for those children who have SEND;
- ✓ allow children with SEND to participate in school activities, so far as is reasonably practical and compatible with the child's provision and the efficient education of other children.
- ✓ develop partnerships with parents/carers, external agencies and the LEA to raise achievement of our children with SEN.



Pastoral Care & Support

Merrydale Infant School is known for its nurturing environment and strong community ethos, fostering positive relationships between pupils, parents, and staff. The welcoming atmosphere supports children's wellbeing as well as academic growth.

Ofsted 2023 "Merrydale Infant School is a welcoming and friendly school. Pupils are happy to be part of this school. One pupil, echoing the views of many, said, 'I love coming to school. I miss it when I am not here.' Pupils say that they feel safe, and that staff care for them well. Pupils learn to act kindly towards others. Staff are great role models. They show care for every pupil. The pastoral support is a real strength of the school."

Religious Education & Collective Worship

- **Religious character:** Non-Faith Community school

At Merrydale Infant School, Collective Worship is a valued part of each school day and an important expression of our identity as a community school. It provides a meaningful opportunity for pupils to come together, reflect, and develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. Our worship supports emotional wellbeing, reinforces our shared values, and encourages children to think about significant questions and experiences in life. Through inclusive and nurturing sessions, we celebrate achievements within our school and wider communities, mark key festivals, promote care for others locally and beyond, and offer space for calm, stillness and reflection. Worship may include celebration, quiet thought, symbolic actions or simple moments of gratitude. It helps children begin to understand the purpose of worship while laying foundations for thoughtful and respectful engagement with the beliefs and practices of others.

Behaviour, Attendance & Expectations

The school promotes moral values, respect, and positive behaviour as core parts of its ethos.

Attendance, punctuality, and readiness to learn are communicated through newsletters and parent information.

Ofsted 2023 "Pupils behave well in class and during social times. They are respectful and kind to each other. In lessons, pupils are engaged in their learning and can learn without distraction. The school has worked tirelessly to improve pupils' attendance."



Extra-Curricular & Enrichment

The school provides a variety of extracurricular activities to enrich children's experiences and support wider development.

Ofsted 2023 "The school provides pupils with a well-considered programme of opportunities and activities to enrich their wider development. For example, pupils enjoy visits to the theatre and love celebrating different festivals, such as Diwali."

Assessment & Performance Information

As an infant school, key performance information includes:

- Early Years Foundation Stage progress
- Phonics screening results

Across the school, pupils continue to make strong progress as we work towards ambitious 2026 targets. By July 2025, Year 2 outcomes showed solid foundations, with reading at 60%, writing at 63% and maths at 50% achieving Age Expected Expectations, alongside an excellent phonics pass rate of 89%. Year 1 pupils are developing well, achieving 44% in reading, 57% in writing and 60% in maths, with phonics targeted to rise to 65%. In Early Years, 60% of children achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD), with strong performance across the Prime Areas and good early progress in literacy and numeracy. These outcomes demonstrate our continued commitment to raising attainment, supporting every learner, and ensuring all pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education.

Parental Engagement & Communication

- Regular newsletters (including Gujarati translations) keep families informed about learning and events. <https://www.merrydale-inf.leicester.sch.uk/stream/newsletters/full/1/-/>
- Latest updates are communicated through our **Weduc app**.
- Parents may contact the school office for policies, curriculum information, and reports.



Charges & Remissions

As a Local Authority community school, charges follow LA guidance for activities, trips, and optional extras.

At Merrydale Infant School, we are committed to ensuring that education remains accessible to all families. We do not charge for admission applications, for any education provided during school hours, or for learning that takes place outside school hours when it forms part of the National Curriculum, preparation for prescribed public examinations, or religious education. However, the school may request payment for items that parents wish their child to own—such as personal materials, books or equipment—and for any school books or equipment that are damaged at home through neglect. This approach ensures fairness while supporting the sustainability of school resources.

Practical Information

Uniform:

At Merrydale Infant School, our Governors believe that wearing a school uniform helps every child feel a strong sense of belonging, pride and readiness for learning. Our uniform is simple, affordable, and designed to ensure children are dressed comfortably and appropriately for school activities.

Our school uniform consists of:

- ✓ Black or grey skirt or trousers (jogging bottoms are acceptable)
- ✓ White shirt or blouse
- ✓ Royal blue sweatshirt or jumper
- ✓ Blue and white summer dress (optional in warmer weather)
- ✓ Black sensible shoes for all pupils

School uniform items can be purchased locally from Matalan, or major supermarkets such as Asda and Tesco.

PE Kit:

To ensure children can take part safely and comfortably in physical activity, we ask that pupils wear:

- ✓ Black plimsolls
- ✓ White T-shirt
- ✓ Black shorts
- ✓ A drawstring bag for easy storage



Please ensure all clothing and belongings are clearly named so that lost items can be returned quickly.

- **Meals:** School meals including an halal option is available and are free. They are provided by Dolce Catering
- **Travel:** Located in the North Evington ward of Leicester