



Newsletter 12

1 December 2023



Growing together to build our future

Message from the Headteacher

You will know that this week we have been inspected by Ofsted. This was a 2 day rigorous process, involving 3 inspectors and was extremely thorough. Merley was last inspected in 2011 so this has been a visit we have been waiting for for a long time! I would like to say an enormous thank you to all of our wonderful families for your kind words of support. We have certainly felt the full support of the community. I am incredibly proud of how all the staff pulled together to ensure we showed the inspectors why Merley is such a special and happy school. But really it was the children who were the stars in sharing with our visitors the fantastic learning that takes place every day as well as all the extra aspects of school life. Well done everyone, we will look forward to sharing the report with you in the New Year.

Today there is a fabulous Christmas buzz in the school as we start December. The children have loved having the PTA 'Elfridges' experience and choosing a gift to give someone else. Thank you for all your contributions and to the PTA for running the event and I hope you enjoy your gifts at Christmas.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

Katharine Anstey
Headteacher

This is a school for everyone. Everyone is welcome.



Safeguarding and Online Safety

Through partnership working with BCP Council, Dorset Police and the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group the Partnership has put together a briefing document with key information for parents/carers with more information about risks linked to county lines and exploitation.

If you have any serious concerns about a child, particularly if you think they may be suffering or at risk of suffering harm, please share this information promptly with the Designated Safeguarding Lead Team. If you are unable to contact a member of the school team and you wish to pass on serious concern, please call the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01202 735046 We are an Operation Encompass school, to find out more please follow the link [here](#).

Open conversation is best when negotiating online safety with children and young people. Find guidance on these conversations here from the NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

Privacy Notice

Initio Learning Trust is committed to protecting the privacy and security of personal information. The privacy notice describes how we collect and use personal information about pupils, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), section 537A of the Education Act 1996 and section 83 of the Children Act 1989. Please find the document [here](#) on the school website.

Policies can be found on our school website and contact the school office if you require documents in different formats.

Attendance

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child's attendance in school and being on time every day. Good attendance in school is a top priority and our expectation is that pupils attend school every day for every session. We believe that regular, uninterrupted attendance secures the best possible learning achievement for all our children and we are committed to working in partnership with families to achieve this. Schools are expected to monitor all pupils' attendance records closely and to pass these on to the receiving school when pupils transfer.

When will absences not be authorised?

The school will not authorise absence for any of the following reasons: holidays, shopping, looking after other members of the family, minding the house, birthdays or similar events. Children will be marked in as late after 8.55 am and children arriving after 9.15 am are recorded as an unauthorised absence. We carefully monitor pupils who arrive late for school and work with parents and carers to improve punctuality.

This week's attendance

Whole School	96.02%
Year 4	95.9%
Year 3	96.17%
Year 2	96.75%
Year 1	95.4%
Reception	95.81%

Do you have a comment, thought or question you would like to share with the school?

Please use the link [here](#) to access our communication form.

Is your child eligible for Pupil Premium funding?

You may be entitled to financial support towards uniform, trips, an extracurricular activity, milk and school meals. Use the link [here](#) to check.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL WELLBEING

It's never too early to talk to your children about mental health, as starting off with good habits can help them manage their wellbeing better as they grow up. Teaching them healthy coping mechanisms early on will mean they understand how to cope with periods of low mood and not great mental health.

Each week we will include a different suggestion to help connect with your child and support the development of their mental health.

Emotional check-ins

Regularly checking in on their emotions is a good way to keep on top of your kid's mental health. Just like you, they'll have lots of complicated feelings to deal with each day and might sometimes struggle to express them without prompting.

You might notice your child acting out or having tantrums from time to time, which is usually a good sign that they might need to talk about something. So calmly ask your child to try to explain what they're feeling and why they think it might be making them act that way. Encourage them to be honest about what might have caused that feeling.

Helping your child identify and name their emotions early on can really help them get a sense of their feelings, and how to cope with them.

Forthcoming Diary Dates AUTUMN TERM 2023



December 2023

Wednesday 6th December - Christmas performance (YR, 1,2) 9.15 am

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Thursday 7th December - Christmas performance (YR, 1,2) 2 pm

Friday 8th December - Christmas performance (YR, 1,2) 9.15 am

Monday 11th December Year 4 Christmas service Lantern Church 2pm- Year 4 families welcome

Tuesday 12th December - Year 3 Carols around the Christmas Tree 2.30pm - Year 3 families welcome in the Hall

Tuesday 12th December - Christmas Jumper day - please come to school in uniform but with a festive jumper

Wednesday 13th December - Christmas party day - non school uniform - party clothes but appropriate shoes to go out to play.

Thursday 14th December - Christingle service at the Lantern Church. School only.

Thursday 14th December Last day of term 3.15pm finish.

January 2024

Tuesday 2nd January - Staff training day - No pupils

Wednesday 3rd January - Term starts children return.

Saturday 13th January - Merley PTA Quiz Night, Merley Community Centre

MERLEY PTA PRESENTS....

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 13th JANUARY,
7PM

Merley Community
Centre, Harrier Drive

£7 Standard Entry or
£15 including Fish &
Chip dinner

Bring your own
drinks and snacks!

Book tickets online at
<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/merleypta>
or scan here:

Parentkind
Member Association

