



Newsletter 15

5 January 2024



Growing together to build our future

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome back to the Spring Term 2024. I hope you have all had an enjoyable Christmas break and are ready for the busy year ahead!

Staff returned to school on Tuesday with an excellent training day working with staff from Pamphill and Witchampton First Schools. Our focus was ensuring that all children are engaged with learning. We used Rosenshine's Principles of teaching and Tom Sherrington's Walk Thru techniques to review and focus our teaching strategies and develop how we question and give time for children to think about and share their thinking. We also took time to review our behaviour guidance and learn from our analysis of monitoring from the autumn term.

We have loved having the children return to school on Wednesday. Thank you for your support with ensuring that they have the correct uniform and shoes, only school colour hair bands and arriving on time. I have been very impressed as I have moved around the school to see each class ready to learn, showing excellent learning behaviours and enjoying new learning topics. Next week we will send home curriculum information leaflets for families. Please save the date **Wednesday 7th February** for our next **Celebration of Learning** event. Parents and carers are invited into their child's class at 2.45 - 3.15 to allow your child to share their books and learning with you.

This week we have welcomed Mrs Lloyd and Ms Sealy as our new Butterfly class teachers. I am sure you will join me in wishing them a warm welcome to Merley.

Wishing you 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.

This week's attendance

Whole School	95.9%
Year 4	94.14%
Year 3	96.54%
Year 2	96.79%
Year 1	95.75%
Reception	96.32%

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.

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.

Get outdoors

As you know yourself, going outdoors can be a fantastic way to clear your head, even just for a quick walk. So try doing the same with your children.

Even indoor activities can be done outside, like painting, colouring, reading, writing, eating lunch or even playing board games. Whatever your child is in the mood for, why not try encouraging them to do it outdoors for some fresh air and see if it'll help clear their head?



Forthcoming Diary Dates SPRING TERM 2024

January 2024

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

Monday 22nd January - Year 1 Sparrows - Museum of East Dorset Trip

Tuesday 23d January - Year 1 Robins - Museum of East Dorset Trip

February 2024

Wednesday 7th February Celebration of Learning - Families invited to see their child's learning 2.45-3.15pm

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February - Half Term

Monday 19th February - Staff training day (no children in school)

Tuesday 27th February - Parents evening (information on booking to follow)

Tuesday 29th February - Parents evening (information on booking to follow)

March 2023

Wednesday 27th March - Last day of term

Thursday 28th March - Staff training day (no children in school)

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

