



# Newsletter 23

8 March 2024



Growing together to build our future

## Message from the Headteacher

What a fabulous end to the week we had yesterday, celebrating World Book Day 2024 as a school! It was so lovely to see the children (and staff) dressed up, enjoying themselves and celebrating reading together. Everyone enjoyed a whole school assembly, guessing which fairy tale the staff were from. The children also spent time enjoying poems, stories and information books together in their classes. In addition, it was great to see the children sharing their favourite books with different classes across the school. At Merley, we place huge emphasis on developing our pupils as life long readers and I would like to take the opportunity to thank parents and carers for their continued support with this.

Also this week, Year 3 went for a walk in Delph Woods with a local nature warden. Despite the rain, they had a lovely time and will now use their new knowledge of our local area in Science and English lessons. At the other end of the school, our Reception children have been making a phone call home from the office. They have been brilliant and the staff are very proud of them.



This week a parent mail was sent out reminding parents and carers that we do not allow nuts, or nut based products in school for medical reasons. This includes, chocolate spread, peanut butter and some cereal bars. Please check products before sending them into school to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff. To further understand the reasons for this, please see the link below which has kindly been provided by a parent.

[What is a Food Allergy?](#)



Next week we will be welcoming the Mayor of Poole, Cllr Jo Clements, to Merley First School for an Assembly. She hopes to be accompanied by the Sheriff of Poole, Cllr Pete Miles. They will both be in robes and Chains of Office and will be Maced in by one of the Macebearers.

Have a fantastic weekend everyone.



*K Anstey*

**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	95.89%
Year 4	95.01%
Year 3	96.21%
Year 2	96.75%
Year 1	95.74%
Reception	95.67%

### 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.

### Red Nose Day

Our pupil voice champions have met with Miss Gover to discuss Red Nose Day at Merley First School. The children would like to raise money for the charity and do 'something funny for money'. Therefore on Friday 15th March children are invited to wear a funny accessory to school. We would like children to still be in school uniform but they may also wear something funny such as a funny wig, hairband, glasses, scarf, socks, belt or another accessory item that they can think of. If you would like to donate to the Red Nose Day appeal please follow this link [Merley First School](#)

### Staff Car Park

Please can all parents and carers be reminded that they should not be parking in the staff car park before or after school, or during the school day. This is to ensure everyone's safety. We are very fortunate in Merley to have a number of residential roads to use, the community centre car park and the Lantern Church car park. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Forthcoming Diary Dates

### SPRING TERM 2024



#### March 2024

**Friday 15th March** - Red Nose Day - wear a funny accessory (with school uniform)

**Tuesday 19th March** - Robins Class Parent Consultations (rescheduled)

**Wednesday 27th March** - Last day of term and PTA Easter Event and Cake Sale (2.30pm to 3pm)

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

#### June 2024

**Friday 14th June** - Sports Day - morning only

**Tuesday 18th June** - Reserve Sports Day

**Friday 21st June** - Staff training day (no children in school)

#### July 2024

**Monday 1st to Wednesday 3rd July** - Year 4 PGL Residential

**Friday 12th July** - PTA Summer Fair

**Tuesday 23rd July** - Last day of term. 3.15pm finish.

