



Newsletter 24

15 March 2024



Growing together to build our future

Message from the Headteacher

There has been a lot happening at Merley this week! Everyone has looked absolutely brilliant today supporting Red Nose Day. Thank you for doing something funny for money.



On Monday we started with a visit from Councillor Jo Clements, Mayor of Poole with her macebearer. In assembly, the whole school listened to her explain her role and the type of work she does in the community. The macebearer explained the history of the mace and the gold chains that the mayor wears. The children were superbly behaved and asked brilliant questions that really made the Mayor think! It helped us reflect on our British values of democracy and about the roles we have in school of children representing different groups.

Year 3 visited Wimborne Minster on Monday afternoon as part of the community event 'The Easter Experience'. The children experienced the different activities linked to the stations of the cross and Easter story.

For over a year we have been working with the charity My Time, who support children who are carers in their family. This week Miss Legge took a group of children on a brilliant day out to the Pirate Adventure in Poole all funded by the charity. They had a fantastic time, thank you to My Time for organising the trip.

Year 1 enjoyed a visit from Creature Teachers on Tuesday as part of their science learning about amazing animals. They have been classifying animals into their groups; mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles. To support their learning they had a visit from a range of animals including a snake, ferret and lizard! This was a great opportunity for the children to see animals up close, spotting different body parts such as claws and feathers. The children were able to touch and smell them; it was a superb morning!



At the end of this term Mrs Wheeler, Year 1 class teacher in Robin's will be starting her Maternity leave. We wish her and her family all the best during this exciting time and very much look forward to a visit when no. 2 comes along. Next term we are delighted to announce that Mrs Jess Green will be teaching in Year 1 Robin's class Wednesday - Friday. Mrs Green is a very experienced teacher who is very excited to be joining us at Merley and will be visiting before we break up for Easter to work with the year 1 team and meet the class.

Have a lovely 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	95.91%
Year 4	95.08%
Year 3	96.25%
Year 2	96.68%
Year 1	95.79%
Reception	95.7%

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.

Forthcoming Diary Dates SPRING TERM 2024



March 2024

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.



MERLEY FIRST PTA



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

Easter Cake Sale

WEDNESDAY 27th MARCH

2.30-3.45pm

Soft drinks and sweet treats available to buy
and celebrate the end of term!



MERLEY FIRST PTA



Easter Cake Sale

ALL DONATIONS WELCOME!

HOMEMADE OR SHOP BOUGHT

**Please bring your sweet treats to drop off
on Wednesday 27th March**



