



Newsletter 28

26 April 2024



Growing together to build our future

Message from the Headteacher

We had a super response to our parent information meeting on Tuesday evening focusing on Maths Fluency. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and I feel that a special oak leaf should be awarded to those who completed the Year 4 multiplication check! Parents who attended told us that they found it very helpful to know about the expectations of the maths curriculum in Year 4 with the statutory DFE Multiplication check and how we have mapped out maths fluency number skills and knowledge from Reception to Year 4 for each half term. If you were unable to attend the information has been placed on the website for everyone to access.

Last term we held an election process for a parent representative on our Local School Committee Governance body. I am delighted to inform you that we have successfully appointed Jennifer Tofts who was elected unopposed. Our Local School Committee is established to support and challenge the leadership of the school with a focus on being advocates for the school, safeguarding, inclusion, the educational standards and performance of the school and supporting the communication with community stakeholders. We hold formal meetings 4 times a year but members also visit the school to gain a greater understanding of school improvement priorities. We are also looking to appoint a community co-opted member. If you know anyone who may be interested in the role please let me know.

This afternoon a group of Year 4 children have taken part in a cross country running event. I will let you know how we got on in next week's newsletter!

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.

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	96.08%
Year 4	95.39%
Year 3	96.52%
Year 2	96.69%
Year 1	95.86%
Reception	95.89%

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.

Message from PTA - PE T-shirts and a Thank you

The PTA would appreciate any donations of Merley First School branded PE t-shirts (all sizes) for our second hand uniform supply, as we are very low on stock. If you have any, in good condition that you have grown out of, please consider donating them to us. We can undertake repairs. Thank you.

We are pleased to confirm that £131.78 was raised from the Easter cake sale. Thank you for all the continued support.

Broadstone Royal British Legion D-Day Competition

The 6th June this year will see the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. D-Day was obviously a very significant event in history and although with the passing of time there remains very few Veterans alive from then, we can still honour and remember their Service and Sacrifices. To this end Broadstone Royal British Legion is inviting Merley First School to take part in a Design a D Day medal drawing and colouring Competition. The template for the competition and further details have been sent by Parentmail this week. The closing date is **Tuesday 7th May**. We look forward to seeing the fantastic designs!

Forthcoming Diary Dates SPRING TERM 2024



May 2024

Monday 6th May - School closed Bank Holiday

Thursday 9th May - Cricket Enrichment day

June 2024

Tuesday 4th June - Year 2 Rabbit class trip to Russell Cotes Museum (details to follow)

Thursday 6th June - Year 2 Hedgehog class trip to Russell Cotes Museum (details to follow)

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 st to Wednesday 3rd July - Year 4 PGL Residential

Thursday 11th July - Year 3 trip to Winchester Science museum (details to follow)

Friday 12th July - PTA Summer Fair

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