



Newsletter 29

03 May 2024



Growing together to build our future

Message from the Headteacher

Transition to next classes

At Merley we believe that transition is a process not an event. Therefore, we are planning a range of opportunities to support the process of children being ready for their next class. Some of these events have started for our Year 4 children as they move to middle school with staff meeting middle school teachers. Events for our new Reception children starting in September are being shared today.

For our current children staying at Merley, we will be mixing the children within the year group. The goal is to create a class composition that allows for the best teaching and learning to take place. The process of organising classes is initiated by class teachers, in conjunction with the senior leadership team. I thought it would be helpful to share with you the following criteria which we use when organising classes:

- a. Placement of children with an EHCP and/or those needing or requiring 1:1 adult support
- b. Consideration of numbers of children with SEND, Children in Care and children in receipt of the Pupil Premium
- c. Consideration of twins, siblings and other relatives (in consultation with relevant parents)
- d. Initial partition of classes based on number of boys and girls, age groups and ability
- e. Consideration of known and evidenced historical issues (e.g. splitting up groups of children who negatively affect one another)
- f. Attention paid to existing friendship groups
- g. Any other relevant factors

The criteria listed aims to make the process of organising classes both fair and transparent. In some cases, parents, carers or children themselves may be consulted as part of the process. When the view of parent, carer or child is sought, this is in the spirit of seeking greater information and is not intended to create a specific right of veto or choice of which class, or with whom individual children should be placed with or away from. In previous years we have asked for you to email teachers with friendship groups. This year we will not be requesting this information as it makes the process of mixing the classes additionally difficult when considering the above criteria.

I will share with parents/carers the staffing list for classes in September at the beginning of June and the name of your child's class teacher for September will be shared just before transfer day at the end of June.

On **Tuesday 12th June 9am** the Inclusion coffee morning will have a focus on Transition, so please do come along to meet with Mrs Waldron (Deputy Head and Inclusion Lead) and Miss Leftwich (SENCO) if you have any questions.

It looks as if the sun may shine a bit more this weekend, so I hope we will be able to make most of better weather over the long 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	96.08%
Year 4	95.53%
Year 3	96.6%
Year 2	96.64%
Year 1	95.65%
Reception	95.96%

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.

Class/Leavers photographs

Fraser Portraits will be taking class and leavers photographs on Tuesday 7th May. A reminder to please send children to school in their uniform on this day.

Forthcoming Diary Dates SPRING TERM 2024



May 2024

Monday 6th May - School closed Bank Holiday

Tuesday 7th May - Class/leavers photographs (children to wear school uniform)

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.