

Merley First School

Spring 2018 Number 6

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year

I would firstly like to wish all of you a Happy New Year. Thank you from all the staff for their cards and presents at the end of last term. At the end of last term we saw all our children participate in end of term productions. Our reception children performed 'It's a Baby' which was a joy to watch. Year 2 performed Carols around the tree and retold the story of Jesus's birth. A wonderful performance from all the children. Year 3 sang carols and French songs they had been learning and Year 4 performed at The Lantern and Canford Church. A truly sparkling performance from all the children.

Leaving

It is with great sadness that I must inform you that Miss Lovett will be leaving our school at the end of the Spring Term. Miss Lovett has only been with our school for a year but has had a huge impact on the children she has taught. Miss Lovett is emigrating to America to live with her partner and we wish her all the best on this exciting chapter in her life. We are also pleased to say that Miss Stone will be covering Badger class from after Easter.

Mrs Walker will be leaving us on maternity leave from 24th January and we wish her and her family all the best. We will let you know when the baby is born. We are pleased to say that Mrs Shaw will be covering Mrs Walker's maternity leave in Kestrel class on a Monday.

Dates for your Diary

15th January - 17th January RSPB
Visitor to all classes

15th January Fireman Visiting Year
2

25th January Year 3 Roman and
Craft Day

6th February Safer Internet Day

6th & 8th February Parents Evening
3.30-5.00pm & 6.00-7.20pm

9th February Last day of term @
3.15pm

19th February School Reopens for
children

13th March Year 4 African
drumming lessons start

28th March Easter Hat Parade

29th March End of Term @ 1.15pm

16th April Staff Training Day

17th April School Reopens for
children

Attendance for December 2017

Ladybird 91.7%

Butterfly 93.6%

Robin 97.1 %

Sparrow 94.3%

Rabbit 99.4%

Hedgehog 97.1%

Owl 98.2%

Kestrel 98.7%

Fox 98%

Badger 95 %

Whole School 96.3%

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MSA

We are very excited to say that the MSA have purchased stage lighting and a new stage for the school. We would like to say a huge big thank you and are now excited about our next performance.

Attendance

Together with all of our partner schools in Wimborne Academy Trust, and in line with Department for Education / Ofsted requirements, we continue to regularly monitor the attendance of every child in the school. We aim for high overall attendance rates, i.e. 96% or above for the school as a whole. We are also required to write to parents / carers of all pupils whose attendance may give cause for concern. Ofsted now define persistent absence as attendance of 90% or below, i.e. 1 school day missed in every 10. It has been shown that pupils with this level of absence are at greatly increased risk of falling behind with their learning. Our policy for authorising term time leave only in exceptional circumstances has not altered. Thank you for your support in ensuring children attend school regularly and punctually. If you have any questions about attendance, please speak to a member of our Office Staff.

Weather

It is that time of year when the weather changes daily and we don't know what it will be doing from morning to night. I would like to stress that children **MUST** bring a warm coat to school every day as we do try to let our children go out to play in most weather conditions.

Term Dates

Below is a list of the term dates for the school year 2018-19. These are the same across all trust schools. As a Trust we also would like to welcome Emmanuel Middle School who have joined us this term.

Car Parking

Please remember that the school car park is not open to parents at drop off and pick up time (except a minority who have specific needs) so please refrain from parking in there. We have also received a request from one of our neighbours to ask you not to reverse on their drive way. Your help with this matter will be greatly appreciated. Children should not be dropped off and left in the playground or on the road to come in on their own.

A note about safeguarding....

If you ever have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of our children please contact the school to speak to Jane Phillips (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Carolyn Waldron and Dave Graves (Deputy DSLs). The safety of our young people is the responsibility of us all.



SCHOOL TERM DATES 2018/19

Autumn Term 2018

Staff Training Days	Monday 3 rd September Tuesday 4 th September
First Day of Term	Wednesday 5 th September
Half Term Holiday	Monday 22 nd – Friday 26 th October
Staff Training Day	Monday 29 th October
Pupils Return	Tuesday 30 th October
Last Day of Term	Friday 21 st December @ 1.15pm

Spring Term 2019

Staff Training Day	Monday 7 th January
First Day of Term	Tuesday 8 th January
Half Term Holiday	Monday 18 th – Friday 22 nd February
Pupils Return	Monday 25 th February
Last Day of Term	Thursday 4 th April @ 1.15pm
Staff Training Day	Friday 5 th April

Summer Term 2019

First Day of Term	Tuesday 23 rd April
May Day Holiday	Monday 6 th May
Half Term Holiday	Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May
Pupils Return	Monday 3 rd June
Last Day of Term	Tuesday 23 rd July @ 1.15pm