

Merley First School

Summer 2018 Number 9

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the summer term and what a lovely start it has been. Long may this weather continue. Last term the children worked extremely hard and achieved so much. I know already this term we have a lot of exciting events taking place. Our Year 4 children are completing their cycle training and Kestrel class are learning to swim at St Michaels Pool. Please look at your child class blog to see the work they have been doing.

During the Easter Holidays we have had our school hall painted and I have to say what a difference it makes, it now looks bright and clean.



I know as soon as I type this I will be tempting fate and the sun will disappear! Please can you ensure that your child has a hat in school and a separate drinking bottle from their lunch drink? We do talk to the children about sun safety, using the phrase "Slip, Slop, Slap" - Slip on a shirt, slop on sunscreen and slap on a hat. The children are strongly encouraged to wear hats at school during break and lunchtimes. Can I remind you that it is school policy that school staff **do not apply** sunscreen to the children for Health and Safety reasons. We suggest that you apply sunscreen before school in the morning. However, if you wish to send sunscreen in to school, please can you ensure that the bottle is clearly labelled with your child's name, their class and ensure that your child is happy to apply it themselves.

Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent and children questionnaire. We are collating the results and a separate letter will be sent out shortly.

Dropping Children off in the Morning

Please can I remind everyone that there is no one on duty in the morning and children should not be dropped off and left before 8.45 am.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 27th April

Year 4 Tag Rugby Competition

Friday 4th May

Class Photographs

Year 3 Cake Sale

Thursday 10th May

Return your Bag2 Schools Bag

Monday 14th - Wednesday 16th May

Year 4 PGL trip

Friday 25th May

Sponsored Run/Walk for Julia's House

Year 2 Cake Sale

Half Term @ 3.15pm

Monday 4th June

Return to School

Friday 15th June

Non Uniform Day for the Summer

Sizzler

Thursday 21st June

Theatre Production for the whole school

Friday 22nd June

Summer Sizzler

Tuesday 26th June

Sports Day Y1-4 am, Reception pm

Wednesday 27th June

Reserve sports day

Thursday 5th July

Year 3 Intech Trip Science Museum

Friday 6th July

Transfer Day

Tuesday 24th July

End of Term @ 1.15pm

Attendance for March 2018

Ladybird 95.7%

Butterfly 95.7%

Robin 96.1%

Sparrow 95.8%

Rabbit 97.5%

Hedgehog 96.8%

Owl 96.3%

Kestrel 96.8%

Fox 96.5%

Badaer 96.9 %

Whole School 96.4%

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Bag2School

We are pleased to announce that Merley First School has organised a clothes & shoe collection with Bag2School in order to raise funds for the school.

Bag2School is the UK's leading textile recycler and fundraiser working with schools and since its inception in 2001 it has now paid out over £27 million.

As well as raising vitally needed funds for our school, it also helps the environment by helping to divert unwanted textiles away from landfill. A recent DEFRA report has shown that textile collection schemes are helping to reduce the volume of textiles discarded as municipal solid waste. However it is a fact that as a nation we still send 350,000 tonnes of textiles to landfill every year.

By getting involved in our **Bag2School** collection, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted textiles in the bag provided - this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags and soft toys, (please refer to <http://uk.bag2school.com/> for full details). In addition to raising much needed funds it will also raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reuse.

If you fill the donation bag and still have more than you can use any other bag to donate your items and don't forget to ask grandparents, friends and neighbours to have a sort out as well

Bag2School will be collecting from Merley First on Thursday 10th May. Please bring your bag (or bags!) to the school office and help us have a really good collection.

Many thanks indeed for helping us with this unique fundraising opportunity.



**GREEN TRAINER –'Walk and Wheel' To School
For 1 week –5 Fantastic Fit days
Result**



Thank you to everyone who participated. The winner of the green trainer award is Rabbit class with 79% of their class walking to school that week. In second place was Fox class and third place was Kestrel class. Please do continue especially as the weather is getting better to try and walk to school. In response to your request we now have a scooter pod (rack) at the front of the building next to Rabbit class.

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.



Borough of Poole, Dolphin Centre, Poole BH15 1SA

Text Relay: 18001 01202 (enter Direct Dial Number)

Email: childrenyoungpeople&learning@poole.gov.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

Following a review of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for unauthorised leave in term time, it is important to inform you that parents in Poole are now facing considerably higher fines in Court than previously seen. For example, between September 2017-December 2017, fines were as high as £824, to be paid in full within 14 days.

Should a parent take their child on holiday as 'unauthorised leave in term time', Head Teachers may request that the Local Authority issues a Fixed Penalty Notice of £60, which if unpaid, increases to £120. Failure to pay this will result in prosecution and be required to attend court. If convicted, this will also result in a criminal record. Parents are therefore strongly advised of the following in order to minimise the potential impact on families:

To keep all family holidays during the 13 school holiday weeks available each year to ensure your child's regular attendance at school and avoid a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to you. These dates can be found on your child's school website.

In the rare event that you still intend to book leave during term time, please ensure that you make a written request to your child's Head Teacher including any reasons as far in advance as possible, **not** once a Fixed Penalty Notice has been issued.

If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued to you, you are advised to pay this promptly to avoid a substantial fine and a criminal record.

The Borough of Poole is committed to providing support and guidance to children, young people and families in Poole. While we appreciate that a holiday is often a positive experience, this should also be kept to school holidays so that young people are able to enjoy and experience uninterrupted valuable learning time and key events at school such as starting a new academic year or exams. Regular school attendance is essential not only for academic progress and success, but in forming and maintaining friendships and feeling settled in school.

If you have any further questions regarding this, please speak to your child's school in the first instance.

5-19 Services

Borough of Poole