



MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 13 - 12th December 2025

The staff and I have been so proud of the children this week. Reception sang so beautifully to their families and Year 1 and 2 performed wonderfully to three packed audiences! I know our Year 3 children will sing wonderfully this afternoon and next week, Year 4 will inevitably make their families and members of the Mixed Blessings community group smile as they perform at the Lantern Church.

I must also take a moment to say well done and thank you to the Year 3 children who sang for the Lantern Church Carols in the Precinct (in the church) last Sunday and to their families for bringing them along and for joining in. You did so well and so many members of the community commented on how much they enjoyed your singing. Click [here](#) to watch a 'Haribo' style nativity that was produced by the Lantern and shared at the event.

As the end of term approaches, can I remind all families that children should not be collected early from school for any reason other than a medical appointment for which we will require evidence.

Next Thursday, we finish for the Christmas holidays at 3:15pm and I would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday and a wonderful New Year.

We will be here, ready for you all, on Tuesday 6th January 2026! Happy holidays everyone once they arrive.

Rebecca Baldwin

This Week

Reception demonstrated that they are ready for anything, performing for the first time in front of their families.

Year 1 have thought about their important people in PSHE.

Year 2 tested different materials when designing their own buckets in Science.

Year 3 have been enjoying DT - they are making Christmas decorations.

Year 4 have been sharing their knowledge on teeth by making informative presentations using Google slides.

Safeguarding

Over the Christmas holidays, please be aware that to contact the [BCP Children's First Response](#) Hub for concerns about a child's welfare, call 01202 123 334 or email childrensfirstresponse@bcpcouncil.gov.uk during office hours (Mon-Thurs 8:30-5:15, Fri 8:30-4:45), or use the Out of Hours number 01202 738256 (evenings/weekends) for urgent help; if a child is in immediate danger, call 999.



Community Fair

Huge congratulations to everyone involved on a successful community fair held on Saturday 6th December at the community centre. The Merley PTA ran Santa's grotto - the elves looked amazing! Please reach out to the PTA if you can support any future events.



I would also like to thank Mrs Read and all her amazing elves for running Elfridges today for the children. They really did bring 'Christmas cheer' and the children had a brilliant time.

Attendance

Whole School	96.2%
Reception	95%
Year 1	96.7%
Year 2	99.1%
Year 3	96.2%
Year 4	94.4%

Dates for the Diary

- 15th December - Year 4 Lantern Church Carols - 1.45pm for a 2pm start
- 16th DEcember - 3.15pm - Back playground - PTA selling hot choc and mulled wine
- 17th December - whole school party day - wear party clothes to school
- 15th - 17th - bring an orange into school for Christingle
- 18th - Last Day of Term
- 5th January 2026 - INSET Day - school closed to pupils
- 6th January - First day of the Spring term - pupils return to school
- 16th February - 20th February - Half Term holiday
- 23rd February - INSET Day - school closed to pupils

Christmas Jumper Day for Meredith's Mission

Today, we wore Christmas jumpers to support Meredith's Mission! Thank you for all your donations. Click [here](#) to access out Just Giving page.



Congratulations

The following pupils have been awarded Oak Leaves for demonstrating our values: **Respectful, Engaged and Ready**

YR: Olivia S, Erin S, Charlotte B, Oscar P, Freya T & Maddie W

Y1: Mia B, Hazel L, Eddie T, Arlo W, Evie W & Mia S

Y2: Arthur S, Skylar M, Louis D, Lucas W, Freya H & Thea A

Y3: Elvis H, Arthur P, Charlie B, Ireliia H, Nathan W & Robbie W

Y4: Cici R, Harvey S, Ethan N, Matilda C, Leo W & Jackson C

These children have a Headteacher's Award because they have been recognised for being engaged:

YR: Thea D & Tommy M

Y1: Josie Y & Josh B

Y2: Emma I & Thamarai P

Y3: Lottie P & Finley A

Y4: Albie G & Elizabeth G

These pupils have been recognised for fantastic effort in a particular lesson or subject and are Star Learners:

YR: Alice C & Luis W

Y1: Arlo K & Archie A

Y2: Lincoln B & Arlo H

Y3: Henry S & Devyn M

Y4: Jared S & Elsie J

Can you help us please?

We have a brand new 9ft by 6ft metal shed which we desperately need help putting together. It also needs a concrete base to sit on. If you are able to donate your time and help us by completing this job, please contact the school office. We plan to use the shed for EPIC playtime equipment.



Winter drinks

Tuesday 16th December 2025

3.15pm - Greenplayground!

The PTA will be selling mulled wine and hot chocolate with all the trimmings in the rear Green playground to raise money for the school and celebrate the end of term!

See you there!

