



MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 20 - 27th February 2026

Welcome back everyone! We hope you all had a refreshing and restful half-term break. While this may be a shorter stretch of the academic year we have a lot of exciting learning packed into the coming weeks! As we dive back into our routines, we want to share a gentle reminder about the importance of consistent attendance and promptness. Arriving on time ensures your child doesn't miss the vital transition period and the initial lesson introductions. Every day in school builds on the last. High attendance directly correlates with student confidence and academic progress.

It has been an absolute joy to watch our Reception children out on the cycle track this week! They have been developing their coordination and confidence using the balance bikes, and the smiles on their faces say it all. It's a fantastic way to see our youngest learners building their physical skills and independence in the fresh air. A quick reminder that World Book Day is next Thursday. It is always a highlight of the year as we celebrate the magic of reading across the entire school. For full details on the day's activities, please refer back to Mrs. Green's previous update, which can be found [here](#). Have a super weekend everyone.

Rebecca Baldwin

This Week

Reception have made porridge as their super start for their bears topic.

Year 1 have started thinking about different features of animals in science.

Year 2 have been looking at the life of Florence Nightingale.

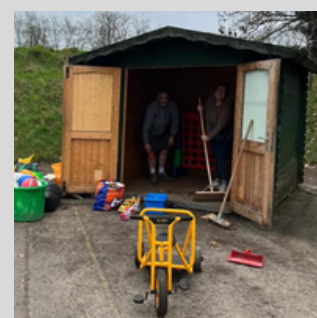
Year 3 have been reading The Tin Forest and are writing 'free' poems based on what has been read.

Year 4 have been exploring the structure of non-chronological reports.



Community Support

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the community volunteers from Ageas who spent time helping Mr Watts on Monday. They painted the school gates, cleared out the shed and tidied lots of shared areas. They felt proud to support the community and we are exceptionally grateful.

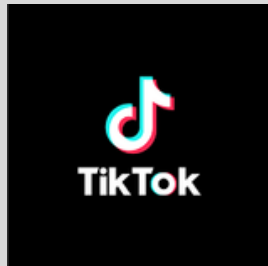


Growing Together To Build Our Future

Safeguarding

Tik tok has a minimum age restriction of 13 yet, despite this, we have seen an increase in children talking about Tik Tok in school.

We would like to highlight the impact that Tik Tok can have on children's mental health and wellbeing alongside the online safety concerns surrounding the platform.



Attendance

Whole School	98.2%
Reception	97.6%
Year 1	99%
Year 2	97.7%
Year 3	98.1%
Year 4	95.9%

Dates for the Diary

- 2nd & 3rd March Year 1 Trip to Priest House Museum
- 3rd & 5th March - Parent Consultations - school hall - book via Arbor
- 5th March - World Book Day
- 19th March - Year 3 Birds of Poole Harbour trip
- **NEW** - 20th March - Non uniform day for Red Nose Day
- 27th March 2:45pm - PTA Easter Event cakes/drink sale and Merley pupils singing
- 30th March - 10th April - School Holidays
- 13th April - INSET Day - school closed to pupils
- 14th April - Back to school for all pupils\
- **NEW** - 11th May Class Photographs

Merley Values

At Merley First School, our core values of being Respectful, Engaged and Ready are integral to everything we do. This term, our primary focus is on **Respect**.

In Tuesday's assembly, we reflected on what respect looks like in action—specifically on the playground. We discussed how we interact with our friends and how we show kindness to children from across different year groups.

In the Classroom, we will be exploring:

- Emotional Awareness: Acknowledging that strong emotions can sometimes lead to choices that are not respectful.
- Conflict Resolution: Learning practical steps to take when we are frustrated including strategies to keep the value of respect at the forefront of our minds, even in challenging situations.

Congratulations

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

YR: Orlagh B, Freddie M, Aria B, Olivia B, Maddie W & Layla M

Y1: Thomas B, Mia B, Nicky N, Tommy C, Arlo W & Thomas R

Y2: Leo G, Meredith H, Freya H, Ada G, Reece M & Milo M

Y3: Elliot D, Jensen E, Faye S, Ronnie J, Arthur RR & Cooper T

Y4: Xander BS, Lucas G, Carter J, Thea B, Rosa W & John D

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

YR: Lilana H Olivia S

Y1: Cooper D & Ava K

Y2: Emil T & Marley W

Y3: Asher B & Ruby K

Y4: Leo T & Thea P

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

YR: Freya T & Tommy P

Y1: Luca B & River H

Y2: Lenny & Isla T

Y3: Frankie - Lee D & Fletcher V

Y4: Niamh G & Harvey S

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2026

RED NOSE DAY

NON-UNIFORM DAY WITH
SOMETHING RED!

HELP MERLEY FIRST RAISE MONEY
FOR COMIC RELIEF. FOLLOW THE
LINK OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO
DONATE.

[HTTPS://WWW.JUSTGIVING.COM/FUNDRAISING/R](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ND26-MERLEY-FIRST-SCHOOL)
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT