



MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 27 - 1st May 2026

It has been a truly glorious week here at school! Despite the tempting sunshine, the children have remained incredibly focused. Our Year 4 students started learning the ukulele and their enthusiasm has been infectious. Additionally, we have seen some fantastic writing across all year groups this week, the quality of work has been exceptional. We are so proud of the stamina and creativity the children are showing in their English sessions. Parents will have an opportunity to see this in books during our Celebration of Learning event on Friday 15th May at 2.45pm in the classrooms.

While the week has been overwhelmingly positive, I must take a moment to address a serious safety concern. We have received several reports of vehicles parking on the zigzag lines near the zebra crossing as well as the continued parking on the Harrier Drive double yellows. These markings are there for a vital reason: to ensure our pupils are safe and that there is a clear line of sight when crossing the road. There is nothing more important than the safety of our children so please ensure you are parking in a safe and appropriate place.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep our community safe.

Rebecca Baldwin

This Week

Reception made lovely shoe-box gardens

Year 1 have been brilliant scientists, observing the growth of their sunflowers.

Year 2 are developing their time telling skills.

Year 3 carried out a science experiment looking at how light reflects on different materials.

Year 4 have enjoyed fun in the sun, playing mini rounders games in PE. They have been working on their tactics when playing rounders thinking about where to hit the ball and where to stand whilst fielding.



Attendance

Whole School	96.9%
Reception	94.4%
Year 1	98.2%
Year 2	97.7%
Year 3	97.2%
Year 4	97.4%

Children with attendance of 96% or higher are more than twice as likely to pass their core subjects and achieve top grades compared to those with attendance below 90%.

Staffing Update

Next week we welcome back Miss Stone who has been recovering well after her recent knee operation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Hilling who has covered Miss Stone's absence in Fox Class.



Summer Sun



With the sunny weather finally here, we encourage all children to wear named sun hats during break and lunch times to stay protected.

Regarding sun protection, please note:

- Sun cream should be applied at home
- To protect students with severe allergies, children are not permitted to keep sunscreen in their school bags.
- Due to strict safeguarding protocols, staff are unable to apply sun cream to children. There are many "once-a-day" creams available.

Dates for the Diary

- 4th May - Bank Holiday - school closed
- **NEW** - 11th - 15th May - Mental Health Awareness Week
- 11th May Class Photographs - school uniform
- **NEW** - 15th May - Celebration of Learning - classrooms - 2.45 - 3.15pm
- 18th - 22nd May - Walk to School Week
- **NEW** - 21st May - Bling your Wheels event - details to follow
- 20th May PTA Disco - information to follow
- 25th - 29th May - Half Term Holiday
- 2nd - 4th June - Life Education lessons for PSHE curriculum - information to follow
- 12th June - Sports Day
- 19th June - RESERVE Sports Day (in case of poor weather)
- **NEW** - 26th June - Transfer Day - Year 4 to Middle schools
- 29th June - 1st July - Year 4 PGL Trip

Hayfever Season

As hay fever season arrives, please be reminded that school staff can only administer medication that is doctor-prescribed and required four or more times daily.

To support students, we will provide a non-grass play area throughout the season. Please speak to a health care professional about hayfever medication options to best support your child.

POLLEN TYPE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT
ASH									
BIRCH									
PLANE									
OAK									
GRASS									
NETTLE									

Congratulations

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

YR: Thea D, Alice C, Alfie H, Isla W, Junior S & Luis W

Y1: Millie M, Liberty P, Darcie G, Halli S, Tom W & Luis H

Y2: Charlie E, Connie H, Albie S, Courtney HC, River R & Isla T

Y3: Hollie C, Viba A, Harry A, Ellie E, Asher B & Pippa H

Y4: Isla L, Lily-May L, Levi L, Amelia C, Leo T & Charlie B

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

YR: Natalie I & Alyssa M

Y1: Mia S & Chuckie H

Y2: Rawdon R & Marley S

Y3: Lottie C & Colby M

Y4: Jack W & Dillon E

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

YR: Layla M, Lily R

Y1: Reggie L & Hazel L

Y2: Thea A & Marley W

Y3: Lottie P & Emilia E

Y4: Eddie S & Remy

Parental Whatsapp Groups

We have been made aware that some members of our parent/carer community have been expressing views about school matters on Year Group Whatsapp Groups. As a school, we value working in partnership and pride ourselves on being a very approachable team. We encourage parents/carers to speak to staff directly if there are concerns regarding any matters in school. We are keen to listen and find solutions to any issues but are unable to do so if they are not brought directly to our attention. Can we just remind parents about our Behaviour Agreement for Parents-Carers which can be found [here](#): As always, we appreciate your understanding and support in ensuring all communications regarding the school are open, honest and shared.

50th *Year*
celebrations



Fun afternoon

Saturday 23rd May

@The Lantern Church

**Join us for an afternoon of fun as we celebrate 50 years
since the start of The Lantern Church**

3–5:30pm

**Free car wash
Facepainting
Bouncy castle
Giant garden games
Drinks & cake
Craft
... and more**

6–9pm

**Ceilidh (led by Celtic
Confusion) & food
£3 per ticket**

sign up here

