



MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 29 - 15th May 2026

While we've enjoyed some glimpses of sun, a few of our pupils have been caught out by sudden rainy downpours this week! Please ensure your child brings a coat to school every day and keeps it in their bag, ready for the unpredictable British weather as we head into next week. Miss Legge held an assembly this week to get the children excited about our upcoming "Bling Your Wheels" event! As an Eco School, we are encouraging everyone to use recycled materials to decorate their bicycles, scooters, or roller skates. Please ensure that any "bling" added to your child's wheels does not interfere with the moving parts or prevent the vehicle from being operated safely. We can't wait to see those creative designs! I have noticed a number of children, particularly younger siblings, running around the school site before the day begins. For the safety of everyone, please can I remind our school community that all pupils and siblings must remain with their parents until the doors officially open at 8:45am. As we approach the half-term break, I know many of you are thinking about the final term of the year and the upcoming transition to new year groups. Our staff are currently finalising these arrangements, we will share all the necessary information with you next term. Enjoy your weekend.

Rebecca Baldwin

This Week

Reception have created an Alma Thomas inspired painting using bright colours and dots in a pattern.

Year 1 have been observing and measuring how much their sunflowers have grown.

Year 2 have made beautiful clay tiles, using the skills of slip and score to create their designs.

Year 3 painted their stunning clay leaves.

Year 4 have researched the importance of the River Nile to secure a stable society for Egyptians.



Well Done Merley!

We are thrilled to share that our school has been officially congratulated for our outstanding whole-school effort in the Wimborne Birthday Card competition for Sir David Attenborough.



Taking Action for Mental Health

This week, we joined schools across the country to celebrate Mental Health Week. This year's theme was "Action," and at Merley First School, we did exactly that! Our year groups took diverse approaches to exploring mindfulness and connection.



For example, Reception focused on building trust, respect, and connection through a tactile drawing activity, "sketching" on a partner's back. Year 1 mastered the art of self-regulation by learning new breathing techniques, such as "Cactus Breathing," to help them find their centre when they need to calm down and Year 4 took advantage of the beautiful sunshine to head outdoors. They spent their time reflecting on possible designs for our upcoming Merley First School Calm Space, for which plans are underway. It has been a week of reflection and movement, proving that small actions can make a big difference in how we feel.

Dates for the Diary

- 18th - 22nd May - Walk to School Week
- 20th - Year 3&4 Heath Partnership workshops on site - letter sent
- 20th May PTA Disco
- NEW - 21st May - Bling your Wheels event - letter sent
- **UPDATED** - Friday 22nd Whole School Celebration of Learning in classrooms 2:45pm
- 25th - 29th May - Half Term Holiday
- 1st - 19th June - Year 4 Multiplication Assessments
- 2nd - 4th June - Life Education lessons for PSHE curriculum
- 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

Pupil Charter - Careers Assembly

This week we were very excited to welcome Kate into school to talk to the children about her job as a Global Category Director for kids snacks, this is part of our Personal Development curriculum, with a particular focus this year on careers and aspirations. Kate explained the journey a product takes before it reaches the shops, helping children to understand the creativity, teamwork and planning involved in the process. We were especially excited to learn that some of our ideas the Year 4 children gave Kate at the Careers Fair in March were taken back to Organix and helped inspire a new product. How exciting!



Congratulations

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

YR: Keeva B, Billy C, Monty R, William S, Margaux D & Luca D

Y1: Evie W, Oakley D, Ava K, Remy F, Daisy W & Hazel L

Y2: Rawdon R, Drummer HM, Thea A, Dylan A, Charlotte A & Ada G

Y3: Amira L, Malakai M, Evie R, Frazer S, Theo WJ &

Y4: Jared S, Ben W, Rosa W, Elsie J, Aurelia K & Ella H

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

YR: Maddie W & Finn B

Y1: Arlo W & Nya R

Y2: Kit F & Rosie P

Y3: Alfie A & Elliot D

Y4: Harvey S & Matilda C

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

YR: Mabel L & Erin S

Y1: Jaxon S & Mia B

Y2: Marley S & Thea B

Y3: Lottie C & Eloise K

Y4: Lydia D & Harvey WG

Fundraising Jurassic Coast Mighty Hike Marathon Walk

We are proud to share that Mrs Scotney, one of our HLTAs at Merley First School, is taking on the Macmillan Jurassic Coast Mighty Hike Full Marathon on 4th July 2026. Mrs Scotney will be challenging herself to complete this demanding event to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, helping people and families affected by cancer receive vital care and support. We would love our school community to get behind her and show support for this fantastic cause whether it be a word of encouragement, a high five or a sponsorship donation - large or small. It will all make a difference and help her reach her fundraising target. Thank you for supporting Mrs Scotney as she takes on this inspiring challenge.

Please click [here](#) if you are able to sponsor her.



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

