

MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL



Growing Together To Build Our Future
Newsletter 2 – 18.09.26

MESSAGE from Mrs Baldwin

I would like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful parents who generously built and supplied materials for two new wooden stages, and do take a look at the lovely new fence outside Owl Class! Thank you so much, we are very grateful.

Please remember that Merley First is a nut-free school to protect pupils and staff with severe allergies and uphold Benedict's Law. Kindly double-check that all snacks and packed lunches are completely free of nut products. We will remove food items from pupils if we see them to avoid any emergencies.

We have now been back at school for 3 weeks and the children have settled brilliantly. We completely understand how worrying it can be if your child does arrive at school upset or dysregulated but please be reassured that staff will settle them into their routine and we will call you directly if we have any concerns.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

FOR YOUR AWARENESS



Starting and returning to school brings children into close contact, making head lice and threadworms (pinworms) very common. Neither is caused by poor hygiene, and both are an ordinary part of childhood that you can treat easily at home. NHS guidelines states that children do not need to stay home from school for either condition once treatment has started.

SAFEGUARDING

Drop-Off & Pick-Up: Always notify the office in advance if someone new or different is collecting your child. We will not dismiss children unless we are aware of a change or the person collecting is listed as a 'regular authorised' pick-up. Please contact the office to update us. Thank you for your understanding and support.



ATTENDANCE

We totally get it—mornings can be chaotic! Between a missed alarm or a last-minute hunt for a forgotten lunchbox, life happens and we completely understand.

However, when occasional delays turn into daily habits, those few missed minutes add up faster than you might think:

- 5 Minutes Late Daily = 3 full days of lost learning every year.
- 15 Minutes Late Daily = 2 full weeks of missed education over the school year.

Arriving on time helps our students start their day feeling calm, confident and ready to learn alongside their classmates. Thank you so much for your support in helping your child build strong, punctual routines!



THIS WEEK

- Reception have painted their self portraits.
- Year 1 have used paint to make secondary colours in art.
- Year 2 have been learning about using symbols on birds eye view map of Merley.
- Year 3 have been learning the name of some bones and got to put a broken skeleton back together.
- Year 4 have used sketching pencils to vary the shade of their observational drawing of items in the classroom environment.

RESPECTFUL, ENGAGED & READY

Congratulations to the following children who received celebration awards today:

Reception: Freya C, Lawson H, Owie RT, Mabel S, Delilah D, Hiba, Penn, Thea M, Ptolemy & Brody

Year 1: Bella S, Arthur E, Arthur N, Thea S, Luca D, Rosie, Finn, Jude, Florence & Ellodie

Year 2: Annika D, Oakley D, Jamie H, Joshua B, Tom W, Lando, Thomas R, Ava K, Oakley A & Darcie

Year 3: Leo G, Esme R, Arthur S, Freya H, Lexi B, Isla R, Emilia K, George, Rex & Delilah

Year 4: Fred, Arthur RR, Lottie P, Theo, Sarah, Faye, Eloise, Ellie, Finley G & Harper

KEY DATES

- 23rd, 24th & 25th September - Scholastic Book Fair - 3:25 - 3:50pm - via office
- **NEW** - 2nd October - wear a bright item of clothing or an accessory with your uniform for anaphylaxis awareness week.
- 7th October - Flu vaccinations
- 6th & 7th October - Prospective 2027/28 Reception stay and discover sessions (book through office)
- 12th - 16th October - Prospective 2027/28 Reception Open Mornings 9:15am - book through school office
- 19th & 20th October - Road Safety lessons for all year groups
- 23rd October - Celebration of Learning 2:45pm - classrooms - come in and see your child's books

SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS

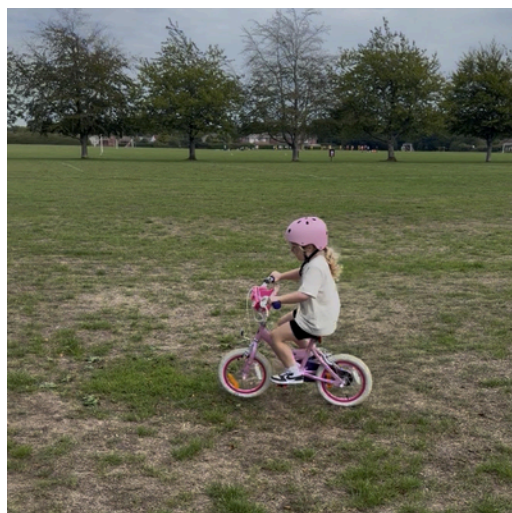
Our first Snapshots of the Autumn Term is for Alice in Year 1 and Harper in Year 4.

On Sunday 6th September, Alice practised really hard to learn to ride her bike with no stabilisers at the Corfe Mullen Recreation Grounds. She was super excited to return to school & share it with her new Teacher, Mrs.Austin and her class friends.

Harper's family are incredibly proud of Harper, who competed for Branksome Surf Lifesaving Club's Nippers team in the Wessex League this summer.

She took home medals in 5 of her 9 events, including sea swimming, a 2km beach run, sand sprints and board races in the sea, even more special being the youngest competitor in her age group.

Well done to both Harper and Alice, Merley First School is so proud of you!



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT - CAREERS

This week we have been extremely fortunate to welcome James Ketchell, an adventurer and inspirational speaker, to talk to our children.

James is the first and only person to have rowed across the Atlantic Ocean, successfully submitted Mount Everest and cycled 18,000 miles around the world. He inspired our children to pursue their own dreams and goals, while highlighting the importance of resilience, perseverance and teamwork. Most importantly, he showed that with determination and the right mindset you can achieve anything you put your mind to. Thank you James for visiting our school.



MERLEY PTA PRESENTS

Quiz Night

SATURDAY, 3RD OCT

DOORS 7:30 PM

QUIZ 8PM

MERLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

QUIZ . PRIZE GAMES . FUN

WITH LOCAL QUIZ MASTER

ASHLEY HOOPER!!

£7
PER PERSON

Max 6
Per Team

BYOB
& Snacks



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