MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Growing Together To Build Our Future

Newsletter 7 –23.10.26

MESSAGE from Mrs Baldwin

What a half term it has been! The children have worked incredibly hard and are definitely ready for a break, so please take time to rest and recover so Autumn 2 can be amazing.

Today we will be celebrating the children's learning over the course of the half term. The children are proud of their achievements and I know you, as parents and carers, will be too.

In staffing news, today we bid farewell, best wishes and thank you to Mrs Keynes our wonderful Key Stage 2 Teaching Assistant. Mrs Keynes has found a new role closer to her home and children's school with an opportunity to broaden her skill set. We wish Mrs Keynes all the best. She will be hugely missed but we know she will be brilliant in her new role.

We are excited to announce that the Wheels Playground will open up after the break; Year 1 and 2 can use it on Mondays and Tuesdays, Year 3 and 4 on Wednesdays and Thursdays and Reception on Fridays. If your child would like to use the school's scooters and ride-ons, please ensure they bring their helmet to school so they can enjoy supervised 'wheeling'.

Have a lovely half term everyone. Please note that school opens back up on Tuesday 3rd November.

SAFEGUARDING – ROAD SAFETY

We were delighted to welcome the BCP Road Safety Education Team to school this week for road safety workshops across all year groups.
The safety of our pupils on their daily journeys to and from school is a top priority, and these interactive sessions gave everyone the chance to build essential pedestrian safety awareness and skills.



ATTENDANCE

Attendance at school counts. It really matters. We understand that children get ill and therefore may need a day away from school. But we also recognise the importance of school attendance. I would like to use this space today to show you how busy your children are and how much they learn in just 1 day.
Let's look at our youngest pupils.

In Reception, in 1 day children: spend time developing the social and emotional skills through discovery sessions, learn a new sound everyday and consolidate the ones they have previously learnt, have a maths and handwriting input building on their prior knowledge and learning something new, develop their language and oracy skills and have a topic input to develop their understanding of the world, not to mention lots of gross and fine motor work to stregthen their bodies.
Wow! Imagine catching up on all of that when you unnecessarily miss a day from school. For more guidance on on illness and attendance click here.



THIS WEEK

- Reception have had real life superhero's in to talk to the children about how they help people, including a paramedic and an ambulance!
- Year 1 have created Road Safety posters after the BCP workshop.
- Year 2 have designed & painted their crayons changing the tint & shade.
- Year 3 have learnt to use column method to add 2 three digit numbers together.
- Year 4 have created tessellating patterns with things we could find in nature.

PTA DISCO FUN

The Halloween Disco was an out-of-this-world success! The children brought incredible energy to the dance floor, showed off their best moves and had a fantastic time. The total raised is an unbelievable £540.01. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a memorable event.



KEY DATES

- 4th November - Individual and sibling photographs
- 9th November - Reception Parent Consultation Evening
- 10th & 12th November - Parent Consultation Evenings (all year groups 10th/Y1-4 12th) (Clubs will take place as normal. Karate will be dismissed through Fox Class Door)
- **NEW** 12th & 13th November - Year 1 & 2 Christmas Nativity Tickets available on the front playground.
- **NEW** 11th, 18th and 25th November - Year 1 & 4 BCP Road Safety Training on the crossing

SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS

Congratulations to Team Kestrels (Meredith, Reece and Emma) who completed a1.5km run showing beautiful team work and crossing the line together. In total they raised £1,197 for Meredith's Mission!

Alex (Year 2) received the 'Trainer of the Week' trophy at his football Club (Broadstone FC) - well done Alex!

Olivia, Olivia & Jessica all earned their first Rainbows' badges last week and

Willow took part in the Kids Kilometre at Run Bournemouth! This was her second race for Run Bournemouth, running 1km in 6mins 23 secs.









If your child would like to celebrate a snapshot of their success - anything they have achieved, big or small - then please send a picture and a few sentences to office@merleyfirstschool.org



Hello!

This week you will be receiving a letter home in your book bags from XMAS4SCHOOLS.

The PTA have joined forces with them to bring you something a bit different - whilst raising money for the school!

What do you need to do?
Fill in the back form! This allows them to generate a personalised code just for you.
Let your child spend half term decorating the back of the form! Their best Christmas art work!
Return to school, after half term, **no later than 6th November**

What happens then?
We will get these sent off and you will receive your personal code which allows you to purchase a variety of different gifts from the portal with your child's art work printed!
Think Christmas cards, mugs, calendars,
tea towels and gifts tags!

You receive your items in the post & the school receives £1 for every item sold!



Merry Christmas!!
The Merley PTA

YOU LORD, ARE MY LAMP; YOU TURN MY DARKNESS INTO LIGHT!

2 Samuel 22:29

SATURDAY, 31ST OCTOBER 2026

From 5pm - 7pm FREE!

CELBRATE THE LIGHT AND PRAISE Party



5:00pm Make-your-own lantern workshop.
5:30pm All-age Bible story then sing, dance, & celebrate together as we praise God & celebrate His light!
5:55pm LIGHT UP The Lantern Church
6:00pm LANTERN LIGHT WALK
6:30pm Post-walk fire pit, games, hot dogs, marshmallows, hot chocolate & sparklers

COME DRESSED AS BRIGHT AS YOU CAN OR AS SUPERHEROES
NO HALLOWEEN OR SCARY COSTUMES PLEASE

Intergenerational fun for the Lantern church family

Together, let's shine His Love this Halloween night!



Half Term activities in BCP Libraries



Drop in during opening hours*

Boscombe Library: Dancing spiders craft

Branksome Library: Pumpkin craft and Halloween treasure hunt

Broadstone Library: Game time! Make your own board game and get a star for Library Legends

Castlepoint Library: Gruffalo craft, treasure hunt and activity sheets

Christchurch Library: Halloween badge maker, pumpkin suncatchers, cobwebs and spiders, and treasure hunt

Creekmoor Library: Gruffalo treasure hunt and craft activities

Ensbury Park Library: Rocking Fox Craft

Hamworthy Library: Drop-in Gruffalo activities all week

Highcliffe Library: Halloween hunt and takeaway activity sheets

Kinson Library: Torch craft and treasure hunt

Oakdale Library: Make a jellyfish!

Parkstone Library: Halloween-themed children's craft activities and colouring

Rossmore Library: Treasure hunt

Southbourne Library: Halloween treasure hunt, colouring and craft

Springbourne Library: Halloween crowns and spooky character craft

Westbourne Library: Paper plate Gruffalo craft, autumn leaf craft and treasure hunt

West Howe Library: Autumn treasure hunt and Halloween decoration colouring

Winton Library: Make a monster headband, learn to draw a spider web, hunt for Halloween characters

***Check individual library opening times before visitng**

Friday 23rd October

Winton Library: **Gruffalo pumpkin carving demonstration** 15:00 - 16:00

Monday 26th October

Broadstone Library: **Welcome Gruffalo Granny!** Listen to a reading of the new book followed by Gruffalo activities. 14:00

Canford Heath Library: **Pat's French for all the family!** 14:15 - 15:15 **booking required**

Highcliffe Library: **Junk model monster** 12:00- 16:00

Tuckton Library: **Meet children's author, Rachel Bright.** Games, drawings and Rachel will be chatting about her books. (Ages 3-8)

Tuesday 27th October:

Rossmore Library: **Gruffalo stories and colouring** 10:30

Canford Cliffs Library: **Gruffalo story time** followed by activities 14:30

Creekmoor Library: **Gruffalo Granny story time** 11:00

Oakdale Library: **Explore Learning - A Knight's Journey workshop** 11:00 - 12:00 (ages 5-9) **booking required**





Wednesday 28th October

- **Broadstone Library:** Drop-in microscopy session. Lots of interactive microscope actvities to have a go at.
- **Canford Cliffs Library**: Gruffalo story time followed by activities 14:30
- **Rossmore Library**: Halloween crafts 11:00 - 17:00

Thursday 29th October

- **Boscombe Library:** Bat Craft with Upon County Park **11:00- 12:00**
- **Canford Heath Library:** Gruffalo Granny story time , treasure hunt and craft 10:30 start
- **Tuckton Library:** Free street dance workshop by by Mad4Dance 15:00 - 16:00 (ages 5 - 10) **booking required**
- **West Howe Library**: Spooky Stories and scavenger hunt 10:00 - 11:00
- **Winton Library:** Gruffalo Granny Toddler Time 14:15

Friday 30th October

- **Canford Cliffs Library:** Gruffalo story time followed by activities 14:30
- **Canford Heath Library:** Brilliant bats with Upton Country Park. Join in for bat facts and make your own flapping bat. 11:30 - 12:30
- **Castlepoint Library:** Gruffalo story time 14:30
- **Highcliffe Library:** Decorate your own Halloween wreath 12:00- 16:00
- **Westbourne Library:** Gruffalo Granny story time 10:00

Saturday 31st October

- **Canford Heath Library:** Halloween drop-in craft 10:00- 12:00
- **Highcliffe Library:** Monster mask making 10:00- 12:00



All activities are FREE!

