MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Growing Together To Build Our Future

Newsletter 8 -06.11.26

MESSAGE from Mrs Baldwin

The children have transitioned smoothly back into school following the half-term break and staff are looking forward to welcoming parents next week for Parents' Evening. These appointments provide a valuable opportunity to meet with class teachers to discuss your child's progress and attainment, with all meetings taking place in the main hall (please enter via the front door).

To help keep everything running smoothly, parents are kindly reminded that while the school makes every effort to communicate news and updates in a timely manner, it is ultimately parents' responsibility to note down important dates and information when it is shared. The office team is always on hand to assist if needed, but standard updates, events and key details can easily be accessed through the communication sent to you via your Arbor account or on the main school website.

I am very happy to share with you that Miss Leftwich and her husband have welcomed a beautiful baby girl into the world. They have named her Iris and the whole family is doing well. I know you will join me in congratulating her.

This week we also say goodbye to one of our TAs Miss Merrison. I would like to thank her for all her hard work and commitment to Merley over her time here. Mrs Johnson will replace Miss Merrison as a Key Stage 2 teaching assistant and we have a new member of staff starting in the new year.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone.

CONGRATULATIONS!



We are thrilled to share the successes of Esme R in Year 3 and Liberty in Year 2 with our school community.

Esme entered the Wimborne Christmas card competition and her fantastic design won! She has received a £20 book voucher and will be turning on the Christmas lights with the Mayor on 28th November at 5pm.

We are proud that a number of our pupils entered the Young Writers competition and have had their work published in a book which is an incredible achievement. I am also thrilled to share that Liberty in Year 2 won the writing competition and her image is on the front cover of the published book which also contains work from schools across the country. Mrs Green, our English Lead, is also very proud of her!



ATTENDANCE & SAFEGUARDING

Did you know?

Under the law, schools are legally required to keep accurate daily attendance records and know the whereabouts of every enrolled child for safeguarding reasons.

If a child is missing without a reason, the school must investigate and unexcused or persistent absences must be reported to the local authority.

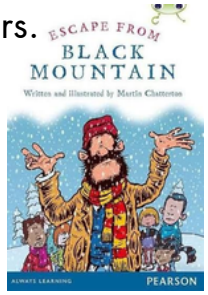


At Merley we:

carry out welfare phone calls and visits
send attendance letters
make attendance phone calls
arrange meetings to discuss your child's attendance
celebrate improvements and success
liase and work with BCP to support parents with attendance

THIS WEEK

- Reception have used the splatter technique to paint firework pictures.
- Year 1 have been using the 'Paint' programme to draw pictures on the computers.
- Year 2 have started finding out information about the Great Fire of London.
- Year 3 have started reading their new class text Escape from Black Mountain.
- Year 4 have been looking at different cakes to build a design criteria for their Roman Honey Cakes.



RESPECTFUL, ENGAGED & READY

Congratulations to the following children who have demonstarted our core values this week:

Reception: Sylvia, Leon, Freddie V, Evelyn S, Otto, Jesse, Ella, George L, Freya C, Rory K
Year 1: Alice, Billy, Maddie, Benji, Freya, Orlagh, Bella S, Lily R, Rai & Mason
Year 2: Archie, Josie, William, Remy, Jamie, Arlo W, Mia B, Tobias, Eliza & Thomas R
Year 3: Thea BL, Jacks R, Isla R, Charlie E, Delilah, Adelaide W, Lincoln B, Charlotte A, Anahi S & Lucas W
Year 4:Ruben, Evie, Henry, Ronnie, Theo, Finley G, Devyn, Arlo, Ava & Faye

KEY DATES

- 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** 13th November Children in Need: make a donation, wear a spotty accessory and bring your wellingtons to school! (Poster below)
- 12th & 13th November - Year 1 & 2 Christmas Nativity Tickets available on the front playground.
- 11th November Year 1 & 18th and 25th November - Year 4 BCP Road Safety Training on the crossing
- **NEW** 11th November Remembrance Day - Children are welcome to wear their scouting/guiding/cadet uniform to school in recognition of Remembrance Day.
- **NEW** 16th November - wear odd socks to school for anti-bullying week



SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS

Congratulations to Josie in Rabbits, who performed at Thorpe Park with her Dance School - what an amazing opportunity and achievement - we are so proud of you!
Blake in Hedgehogs has donated presents to the "Delivering Joy" campaign which connects local people with vulnerable people in our community to ensure everyone gets a Christmas gift. He absolutely loved knowing he had helped other people get Christmas gifts that may not have otherwise. Well done Blake!
Owie in Reception has celebrated doing his promise with Broadstone Squirrels this week and getting his first badge. Amazing!







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

Merley First School

RAISING MONEY

What are we doing?

Asitis theyear 2026, we decided to challenge ourselves to do 26 things for the RunPudsey26 Challenge!
As a school we will complete 26 laps of the upper field. We will also complete smaller challenges in our classes, like 26 star jumps, throughout the day.

If you follow the QR code, sign up and donate through the Children in Need page- all children that are signed up get sent a medal after completing.

When is it happening?

On Friday 13th November, children are invited to wearaspotty accessory alongside their schooluniform. This may be a headband, socks,face paint or any other spottyaccessory.

Throughout the daywe will then complete our RunPudsey26 Challenge!



You will need our Unique Code: 48A7

SCAN ME!



Elfridges

4th Dec 2026

Howitworks!

Thanks to all the incredible donations we have received, all classes will come into our “shop” in the hall and each child can choose a gift for a loved one for FREE!

They’ll be helped by our fabulous elves who will be filling the hall with festive joy!

They’ll be given a bag and a piece of wrapping paper, so they can wrap their gift at home and hide it away to gift at Christmas!

Although the first gift is free, there is an option of adding extra gifts. These are £1 each and can be purchased through the below link. A maximum of 2 extra gifts can be purchased (3 gifts in total!) If you have multiple children at the school, you will need to do separate orders for each child.

To buy extra gifts, scan the QR code or go to https://pta.events/elf26

Final date to buy extra gifts is 27/11/26




ELFRIDGES
The elves are back for another year and are in need of any unwanted gifts you may be able to donate!
We need your
~ Unwanted giftsets
~ Toiletries
~ Sports accessories
~ Anything you think would make a nice gift!
All items in a clean, unused giftable condition!
Please drop into the School Office
4th November - 18th November
Thank you!!
(NO ALCOHOL PLEASE!)