



Newsletter 13

8 December 2023



Growing together to build our future

Message from the Headteacher

Everyone loves a baby! Well, everyone loved the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas performance this week! The children were absolutely superb at lifting our spirits this week with Christmas joy and storytelling, singing, dancing and generally looking fabulous on the stage. Thank you for supporting us with costumes and practising lines and singing and being a fabulous audience. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the performances.

Next week Year 3 and Year 4 will be performing and we also have our party day and our Christingle service. Tuesday is our Christmas Jumper day and we look forward to that. It is a busy time of year!

Staffing update

I would like to welcome Mrs Martine Colton who has joined us in badger's class this week as the teaching assistant to replace Mrs Mills. I know everyone has given her a warm welcome in her first week and we are delighted that she has joined us.

I am in contact with Mrs Debbie Barnett, teaching assistant, who has been absent from school since last November. She would like to wish all the Merley children and families a Merry Christmas. I would also like to wish her and her family a Merry Christmas.

This weekend is the Wimborne Save the Children's parade on Saturday afternoon and we wish you lots of fun if you are taking part. Have a wonderful weekend,

Katharine Anstey
Headteacher

This is a school for everyone. Everyone is welcome.



Safeguarding and Online Safety

Through partnership working with BCP Council, Dorset Police and the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group the Partnership has put together a briefing document with key information for parents/carers with more information about risks linked to county lines and exploitation.

If you have any serious concerns about a child, particularly if you think they may be suffering or at risk of suffering harm, please share this information promptly with the Designated Safeguarding Lead Team. If you are unable to contact a member of the school team and you wish to pass on serious concern, please call the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01202 735046 We are an Operation Encompass school, to find out more please follow the link [here](#).

Open conversation is best when negotiating online safety with children and young people. Find guidance on these conversations here from the NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

Privacy Notice

Initio Learning Trust is committed to protecting the privacy and security of personal information. The privacy notice describes how we collect and use personal information about pupils, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), section 537A of the Education Act 1996 and section 83 of the Children Act 1989. Please find the document [here](#) on the school website.

Policies can be found on our school website and contact the school office if you require documents in different formats.

Attendance

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child's attendance in school and being on time every day. Good attendance in school is a top priority and our expectation is that pupils attend school every day for every session. We believe that regular, uninterrupted attendance secures the best possible learning achievement for all our children and we are committed to working in partnership with families to achieve this. Schools are expected to monitor all pupils' attendance records closely and to pass these on to the receiving school when pupils transfer.

This week's attendance

Whole School	96.19%
Year 4	95.61%
Year 3	96.43%
Year 2	96.96%
Year 1	95.75%
Reception	96.14%

When will absences not be authorised?

The school will not authorise absence for any of the following reasons:

holidays, shopping, looking after other members of the family, minding the house, birthdays or similar events.

Children will be marked in as late after 8.55 am and children arriving after 9.15 am are recorded as an unauthorised absence. We carefully monitor pupils who arrive late for school and work with parents and carers to improve punctuality.

Do you have a comment, thought or question you would like to share with the school?

Please use the link [here](#) to access our communication form.

Is your child eligible for Pupil Premium funding?

You may be entitled to financial support towards uniform, trips, an extracurricular activity, milk and school meals. Use the link [here](#) to check.

Year 2 - Visit from the Fire Service

As part of the learning about fire safety and how fire fighting has changed since 1666 and the Great Fire of London, Year 2 were visited by a Fire unit from Poole Fire station this week. The education officer told the children about what to do in the event of a fire and they also saw, and learnt about fire fighting equipment. A thoroughly enjoyable experience for all.





It's never too early to talk to your children about mental health, as starting off with good habits can help them manage their wellbeing better as they grow up. Teaching them healthy coping mechanisms early on will mean they understand how to cope with periods of low mood and not great mental health.

Each week we will include a different suggestion to help connect with your child and support the development of their mental health.

Create a journal

Children don't always have an easy time verbalising how they feel, whether that's down to not fully understanding how they feel or being worried to talk directly to you about their feelings. This can stem from worrying about being judged or having their feelings dismissed.

While you can always reassure your child that you will listen and would never dismiss their feelings, you can also remind them that there are non-verbal outlets for their emotions, like keeping a journal.

You can make journaling exciting by providing your child with coloured pens and stickers, so they can express themselves creatively while they write.

Forthcoming Diary Dates AUTUMN TERM 2023



December 2023

Monday 11th December Year 4 Christmas service Lantern Church 2pm- Year 4 families welcome

Tuesday 12th December - Year 3 Carols around the Christmas Tree 2.30pm - Year 3 families welcome in the Hall

Tuesday 12th December - Christmas Jumper day - please come to school in uniform but with a festive jumper

Wednesday 13th December - Christmas party day - non school uniform - party clothes but appropriate shoes to go out to play.

Thursday 14th December - Christingle service at the Lantern Church. School only.

Thursday 14th December Last day of term 3.15pm finish.

January 2024

Tuesday 2nd January - Staff training day - No pupils

Wednesday 3rd January - Term starts children return.

Saturday 13th January - Merley PTA Quiz Night, Merley Community Centre



Face Paint

Nature's Grotto

Save the planet together



Drinks

This Fantastic Fundraiser will be open on Monday 18th of December 2023 from 10:30am to 2:30pm at Merley Community Centre. (Same location in hall as where 'About the Flowers' are hosting a children's Christmas workshop.)

All the money that we make from the brownies to the face paint will be used by Allenbourn and Broadstone Middle school to help protect their environment.

The people running this no palm oil sale will be: Sofia Raccagni, Skye Lesmoir-Gordon, Willow Bennett and Lucia Penn who are all part of the Hawthorn Girls Nature Protectors (are all 9 years old).



Brownies



Christmas craft



No need to book.

Cash only.



Christmas cakes