



# Newsletter 16

12 January 2024



Growing together to build our future

## Message from the Headteacher

We have all needed to wrap up warm this week as the weather has certainly taken a cooler turn. The forecast for next week is also cold so please ensure children come to school prepared to go outside at playtimes.

I hope you will have had time to read our Ofsted report that was published this week and can be found on our website. Thank you for all your kind messages of support. We are extremely proud that our early years provision and personal development was graded as outstanding. We had two HMI's on the inspection, one is also a senior HMI and for them to recognise our high expectations and ambition for the children alongside the emphasis we place on recognising and developing each child as an individual is fantastic. This brilliant outcome is due to the ongoing commitment and hard work of staff, local school committee members, Initio Trust colleagues and of course the superb children, families and community members. Rest assured that the hard work continues and we are already addressing the areas identified for improvement. Thank you for your support and making this such a special school.

I would like to inform you that Mrs Hayley Walker, who teaches in Kestrel class (3K) two days a week will be leaving us at half term. Mrs Walker has been teaching at Merley for 16 years and I would like to thank her for her dedication and service to the children and families of the school over such a long period. I know she will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best as she moves on to new adventures.

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 | 95.75% |
| Year 4       | 94.6%  |
| Year 3       | 95.91% |
| Year 2       | 96.84% |
| Year 1       | 95.76% |
| Reception    | 95.57% |

## 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.

## Reception Classes - Looking for a dentist/dental nurse

Reception Classes are looking for a dentist or dental nurse to come and talk to the children about the importance of dental hygiene.

If you think you can help, or know somebody that might be willing, please contact the school office or Reception Team.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL WELLBEING

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.

## Set up a safe space indoors

The outdoors won't always be suitable, sometimes the weather just won't allow a nice day outside. So for those days, try setting up a safe space for your children indoors.

Setting up a reading corner with a good selection of children's books can provide your child with somewhere to go when they feel like they need to be alone. You could even build them a blanket or pillow fort over the weekend, so they have somewhere they feel they can hide away if they need to.

Explain to your child that the space is for them when they want to have a quiet moment or if they feel like their head is a bit noisy. You can demonstrate that you respect their boundaries here too by always asking before going into their safe space.



## Forthcoming Diary Dates SPRING TERM 2024

### January 2024

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

**Monday 22nd January** - Year 1 Sparrows - Museum of East Dorset Trip

**Tuesday 23d January** - Year 1 Robins - Museum of East Dorset Trip

### February 2024

**Wednesday 7th February** Celebration of Learning - Families invited to see their child's learning 2.45-3.15pm

**Monday 12th - Friday 16th February - Half Term**

**Monday 19th February** - Staff training day (no children in school)

**Tuesday 27th February** - Parents evening (information on booking to follow)

**Tuesday 29th February** - Parents evening (information on booking to follow)

### March 2023

**Wednesday 27th March** - Last day of term

**Thursday 28th March** - Staff training day (no children in school)

**MERLEY PTA PRESENTS....**

# QUIZ NIGHT

**SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY,  
7PM**

**Merley Community  
Centre, Harrier Drive**

£7 Standard Entry or  
£15 including Fish &  
Chip dinner

Bring your own  
drinks and snacks!

Book tickets online at  
<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/merleypta>  
or scan here:

**Parentkind**  
Member Association

