



# Newsletter 25

22 March 2024



Growing together to build our future

## Message from the Headteacher

Despite the wet conditions over the past 2 weeks, our Year 4 children have been out on the local roads with their bikes to complete their level 2 bikeability award. We feel it is very important that all children at Merley are offered the opportunity to develop their cycling skills and confidence and we are incredibly proud of their achievements. Enjoy cycling safely year 4.

Year 1 gave a wonderful performance to families this week, of the Julia Donaldson songs they have learnt as part of the English learning this term. They performed with great enthusiasm, having loved her stories. Well done Year 1!

This week we have welcomed Mrs Carrie Scotney to our team, who joins Merley as an HLTA. She will work across the school providing cover for teachers when they have their planning and preparation time (PPA). Mrs Scotney is very experienced and we are delighted to have her as part of the Merley team.

Next week is a short week with the last day of term being Wednesday for the children and Thursday is a training day for staff. On Wednesday we have some exciting Easter activities planned for the children and we would love to welcome you onto the front playground at 2.40pm on Wednesday to enjoy an Easter parade and Easter songs by the whole school to end the term. The PTA are kindly offering refreshments. I can assure you, you do not want to miss us singing Spring Chicken!

I hope we manage a little bit of sunshine and you have a lovely 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	95.95%
Year 4	95.23%
Year 3	96.36%
Year 2	96.65%
Year 1	95.79%
Reception	95.66%

## 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.

## Outdoor Adventurers

This is just a reminder that there will be no Outdoor Adventurers sessions next week as the staff are having a rest before the Easter holiday sessions.

## Forthcoming Diary Dates SPRING TERM 2024



### March 2024

**Wednesday 27th March** - Last day of term and PTA Easter Event and Cake Sale (2.40pm to 3pm)

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

### April 2024

**Tuesday 23rd April** - Maths Fluency Information Evening for parents/carers 6pm - 7pm

### June 2024

**Tuesday 4th June** - Year 2 Rabbit class trip to Russell Cotes Museum (details to follow)

**Thursday 6th June** - Year 2 Hedgehog class trip to Russell Cotes Museum (details to follow)

**Friday 14th June** - Sports Day - morning only

**Tuesday 18th June** - Reserve Sports Day

**Friday 21st June** - Staff training day (no children in school)

### July 2024

**Monday 1st to Wednesday 3rd July** - Year 4 PGL Residential

**Friday 12th July** - PTA Summer Fair

**Tuesday 23rd July** - Last day of term. 3.15pm finish.

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