



Newsletter 26

27 March 2024



Growing together to build our future

Message from the Headteacher

Although the weather has not been very kind to us this week, we have managed to still enjoy some Easter fun today. The children have all been out on an Easter trail around the school and thanks to the PTA each child will go home with an Easter Chocolate bunny today. I am hopeful that we will enjoy some sunnier weather over the Easter holidays!

Last week we were very proud to have been formally recognised as achieving the new BCP Inclusion Quality mark for leadership. We were visited by two Educational Psychologists from BCP to undertake an accreditation walk to certify and award the school with their certificate for the IQM in Leadership. The BCP Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) is a tool that certifies good inclusive practices and reflects the ideas of our local community, schools, parents, and children's services staff. The award celebrates the strong relationships and strategies that are in place at Merley First to enable all pupils to succeed.

Mrs Jean Witt - Last year our much loved Lollipop lady who had worked in the area for over 45 years passed away. We were kindly donated a cherry tree, which we planted in her memory and now we have placed a plaque so that people passing the school can remember her.

Have a wonderful Easter break.

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.

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.

This week's attendance

Whole School	95.93%
Year 4	95.2%
Year 3	96.4%
Year 2	96.55%
Year 1	95.75%
Reception	95.69%

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.

Forthcoming Diary Dates SPRING TERM 2024



March 2024

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

Thursday 11th July - Year 3 trip to Winchester Science museum (details to follow)

Friday 12th July - PTA Summer Fair

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

Magical Merley Memories



Reception

We made phone calls home, which we all loved and made us all smile.
We dialled the number ourselves, listened for our adult to answer then answered with a greeting.
We had a short conversation and then we made sure we said goodbye.
We loved talking to our adult on the school phone.



We loved the awe and wonder of blowing bubbles.
We made our own wands with pipe cleaners and then enjoyed blowing as many bubbles as we could. We loved watching where the wind blew them!



Year 1

During this half term we had a visit from 'The Creature Teacher' who had a range of animals which the children were able to meet, touch and learn more about. We used our scientific language to describe different body parts on the animals and talk about which animal group they belonged to.

We learnt about Julia Donaldson as an author this term but she is also famous for writing a range of songs. The children learnt and performed songs to their parents. They were 'The Gruffalo', 'Monkey Puzzle', 'Handy' and 'Funny Face'. The children performed well remembering lyrics, tunes and actions. It was a brilliant musical performance to a live audience.



Year 2

This term Year 2 have been talking about what makes a hero in our world. We have created some 'Thank You' cards that we are going to give to our Heroes in the local community of Merley.

Our Community Heroes are:

The Merley Shop
The Lantern Church
The hairdressers
The Lollipop people
The Chemist
The PTA
The Doctors



Year 3

As part of our Nurturing Nature topic, we were able to Walk with the Wardens and learn about our local environment along The Castleman Trailway and into Delph Woods. It was fascinating to hear about all the native and non-native species of plants and animals that can be found here. We learnt how to respect and protect our woodlands and heathlands and also got the chance to see the 200 year old Oak Tree that is a focal point in Delph Woods!

We also took a trip down to the Minster church for an Easter Experience run by people and volunteers of the church. We went round in groups to different stations to learn about the different parts of the Easter Story.



Year 4

Year 4 enjoyed a visit from Katie and 'Otto the Otter' from Bournemouth Water who gave us an interactive lesson all about water and the journey it makes from rain to our taps in our homes! We learnt some important facts and figures about water and how vital it is that we don't waste it, as well as pledging to reduce our water wastage!

