



MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 1 - 12th September 2025

Welcome to the start of a new term! It's been a pleasure to see the children return looking so smart in their school uniforms and ready to learn. We've had a calm and positive start to the mornings, and we thank you for supporting your child to come into school settled and prepared for the day ahead.

A very warm welcome to all our new families and children who have joined us across the school – we're so pleased to have you as part of our community. A special mention to our youngest children, who completed their first full day today – they've made a fantastic start and we are incredibly proud of how well they've settled in. A big well done to all the parents too. Starting school is a big milestone and we understand that this is a big change for you also. The autumn term is already looking packed full of exciting opportunities which we look forward to sharing with you. Have a lovely weekend everyone and thank you for you for all the support you show the staff and me!

Rebecca Baldwin

This Week

Year 1 have wowed the teachers transitioning to year 1 - they have started working at their tables and being more independent.

Year 2 received a special letter from some crayons and have replied back to White Crayon!

Year 3 started to look at the stone age and the shelters they lived in comparing them to our own houses

Year 4 have started learning about the romans.

EPIC Play Reminder

We will be outside at break times, whatever the weather so please ensure your child has a waterproof coat and wellington boots in school everyday.



Come to the Book Fair!

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in school this month with a great selection of books to purchase. Every book sold will raise funds for the school and pupil voice will be involved to select new resources for the library. Pop into the school hall from 3:30pm to 3:45pm on Tuesday 23rd, Friday 26th & Monday 29th September.



Merley PTA

The PTA will be holding their first meeting of the year on Thursday 18th October, 7pm in the Willett Arms. Please pop along and see how you can help support future events and fundraising.



Reading

This week, staff have been busy assessing the children's reading abilities to ensure they are matched with books that support their development.

Starting next week, your child will begin bringing home reading books to enjoy and share with you.

We're often told by parents that the books seem "too easy" and that their child can read all the words. Our response to this is – great! The purpose of these home reading books is to help children develop fluency, confidence, and enjoyment in reading. When children can read a book fluently, they are more likely to focus on expression, understanding, and storytelling – all vital skills for lifelong reading success.

Thank you for your continued support with reading at home.

Dorset Library Service have informed us that they will send reading challenge certificates to us in October. If your child already has one, please keep it at home until our celebration assembly later in the term. We will inform you when this is.

Merley Values

Respectful Engaged Ready

Our focus value this half term is Respectful.

At Merley First School, we show kindness, care, and consideration to others. We listen, use polite language, take care of our environment, and celebrate differences. Being respectful helps us create a safe and positive school community where everyone feels valued.



Safeguarding

Every child has a right to protection from harm. At Merley, we have a strong safeguarding culture and three designated safeguarding leads: Mrs Waldron, Mrs Baldwin and Miss Stone.

If you, as a parent, have any concerns regarding a child's safety please speak to us.

Dates for the Diary

- 16th September - 5:30pm - school hall - New Reception parent meeting
- **18th September - PTA meeting 7pm - Willett Arms Pub - all welcome**
- 23rd - September - 3:25pm - 3:50pm - Scholastic Book Fair in the school hall
- 7th October - 5:00pm - 6:30pm - Prospective Reception Parents 26/27 Open Evening
- 10th October - World Mental Health Day - wear school uniform with a yellow accessory
- 13th - 17th October - 9:30am - 11:00am - Prospective Reception Parents 26/27 tours
- 27th - 31st October - Half Term - school closed
- 3rd November - INSET Day - school closed to pupils
- 4th November - Pupils return to school
- 4th November - Individual and sibling photographs - all pupils in school uniform please

Congratulations

The following pupils have been awarded Oak Leaves for demonstrating our values: Respectful, Engaged and Ready

Y1: Oakley D, Josh B, Millie M, Hazel, Chuckie & Cooper D

Y2: Freya H, Bukhosi M, Logan R, Lincoln B, Charlotte A & Reece M

Y3: Connie, Elwyn, Eloise, Lottie C, Franklin & Evie R

Y4: Remy, Amelia, Leo T, Brooke, Bella & Lucas

These children have a Headteacher's Award because they have been recognised for being respectful:

Y1: Jamie H & Roxy B

Y2: Quinn W & Rex P

Y3: Sophie P & Meg

Y4: Reuben & Maisie

These pupils have been recognised for fantastic effort in a particular lesson or subject and are Star Learners:

Y1: Liberty P & Nikolay

Y2: Jake S & Cohen D

Y3: Fletcher & Ava

Y4: Emily & Isla

Reception awards will begin next week.

Pupil Charter

We are excited to share with you the launch of our new Pupil Charter which brings together all elements of our Personal Development programme.

The charter covers five areas:

Community
Culture
Curriculum and extracurricular
Careers and Choices
Courageous Advocacy



These five areas come together to give your child experiences and learning outside of the curriculum.

At Merley, we strive to prepare our pupils for their future as responsible citizens, encouraging them to make a positive contribution to society, be responsible citizens and have an appreciation of diversity and a respect for British Values and equality.

We also promote respect for the environment, encouraging children to enjoy learning outside, appreciate and enjoy nature and the natural world while understanding the importance of looking after our planet.

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving outcomes for our pupils, alongside our curriculum, teachers have planned exciting and fun experiences and opportunities that will develop children's interests, talents and aspirations throughout their journey at Merley First School, these are called our

'Magical Merley Memories'
and
'Merley's 50 Outside Adventures'

Look out for updates on the website at the end of each half term where we will share our latest adventures, highlights and achievements from our Pupil Charter initiative.

Mrs Riley - Personal Development Lead