



MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 9 - 14th November 2025

I want to start by saying how incredibly proud the staff are of all our Merley children. They work so hard and are a true credit to you all as parents and carers. This was beautifully highlighted during a visit from Liz West, our Initio CEO, this week. She toured the school and was so impressed with the children's wonderful engagement in their lessons.

This week, we came together as a school to mark Remembrance Day. Mrs. Waldron led a thoughtful assembly, and we all observed a minute's silence to pay our respects.

A huge thank you to Rosa in Year 3 and her mum for their hard work in helping to sell poppies for the Royal British Legion. Also this week their whole school participated in an online 'Poetry Party' with Michael Rosen to celebrate #michaelrosenday

On Wednesday, you should have received your child's Autumn Progress report via Arbor. This report follows on from our recent parents' evenings, we hope you find them a useful reference. We are pleased to announce that our school nursing team is resuming its drop-in sessions—the first since before Covid! On Wednesday, 19th November from 8:45 am – 9:30 the team will be available if you would like any help or advice on children's toileting. Please pop in via the office to speak to them.

Finally, the weather has certainly turned cold and wet! Please make sure your child brings a suitable coat to school every day. We believe fresh air and exercise is important so we do go outside for playtimes, even in the rain.

Enjoy the weekend!

Rebecca Baldwin

This Week

Reception have made Diva lamps as part of their learning about Diwali.

Year 1 have used thin and thick brushes when painting like Mondrian.

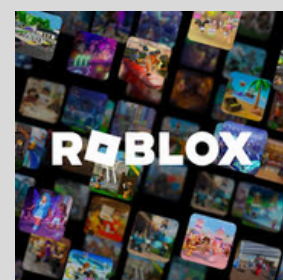
Year 2 have been writing super descriptions of Paddington Bear and working hard renaming in maths.

Year 3 have started their singing lessons with Cathy, our singing expert and exchanged in maths.

Year 4 re-enacted a Roman Parade - it sounded very exciting.

Safeguarding

As a school, we receive information and updates from Dorset Police related to Safeguarding. Children are frequently targeted through social media platforms such as Roblox by abusers. If your child uses Roblox, I urge you to monitor their use of the platform alongside putting into place measures to safeguard them against harm. Click [here](#) for more support.



Crazy Hair Day



Attendance

Whole School	98.1%
Reception	99.3%
Year 1	97.4%
Year 2	97.7%
Year 3	97.7%
Year 4	98.3%

Children in Need - Meredith's Mission!

Today we wore uniform and crazy hair for Meredith's Mission. Please click [here](#) to make a donation if you are able to.



We asked and you most certainly answered!

A heartfelt thank you from me and the Merley Team for the whole community's support for the BCP funding applications. The closing date is mid December and then we will have to wait until March to find out if we have been successful. I'll keep you all posted.

Thank
you
so
much!

Congratulations

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

YR: Rai S, Max K, Olivia S, Annie-Mae P, Freddie M & Liliana H

Y1: Buddy H, Liberty P, Jamie H, Tayah P, Hazel L & Tom W

Y2: Thea A, Connie H, Jake S, Ada G, Isla T & Cohen D

Y3: Elliot D, George P, Faye S, Sophie P, Fred E & Alfie A

Y4: Eddie S, Rosa W, Ben W, Elizabeth G, Micah H & Harvey WG

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

YR: Freya T & Erin S

Y1: Archie A & Louie H

Y2: Freya H & Dylan A

Y3: Grace LG & Hollie C

Y4: Dolce & Theo S

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

YR: Maddie W & Olivia S

Y1: Thomas R & Blake O'S

Y2: Logan R & Charlotte A

Y3: Ireliia H & Hunter L

Y4: Neala B & Reuben C

Dates for the Diary

- 18th November - Fox Class Bikeability
- 19th November - 8.45am - 9.30am - NHS Dorset Healthcare School Nursing Team Toileting drop-in session - school hall. Entry at 8.45am via the main entrance - parents/carers only.
- 19th November - Badger Class to Allenbourn Middle - afternoon
- 20th November - Fox Class to Allenbourn Middle - afternoon
- 20th November - Badger Class Bikeability
- **NEW** - 12th December - PTA Elfridges event - information to follow
- **NEW** - 12th December - Christmas Jumper with school uniform day
- **NEW** - 17th December - whole school party day - wear party clothes
- **NEW** - 15th - 17th December - bring an orange into school for Christingle
- **NEW** - 18th - Last Day of Term

CAROLS IN THE PRECINCT



**Join us for an evening of carols,
hot chocolate, mince pies,
and more!**

**Refreshments will be served
from 4:30pm.**

GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION



**Drop off your completed
Gingerbread Creations at the Precinct
by 4:45pm to enter!
Every entry gets a prize!**



Joy to the world the Lord has
let earth receive her King
let her hear the good news
and nature sing and heaven
and nature sing and heaven
and nature sing joy to the world
saviour reigns let all their
employ while fields and floods
hills and plains repeat the sound
joy repeat the sounding
repeat the sounding



WONDERS *of* HIS LOVE

Carols in the Precinct

Sunday 7 December 5pm

Lantern Carols

Sunday 14 December 7pm

Beer & Carols

Saturday 20 December 8pm

@ Eight Arch Brewery

Nativity Escape Room

(book online)

Monday 22

Tuesday 23 December

Puppet Musical

(book online)

Tuesday 23

Wednesday 24 December

Christmas Day

Communion 8:45am

Family Celebration 10am





book online here



The Lantern Church
presents...

*Sophie's
Christmas Eve*



A Christmas Puppet Musical

Discover how Sophie overcomes her fear of the darkness...

Suitable for all ages

23 Dec 4:45-5:30 & 6:15-7pm

24 Dec 4:30-5:15pm