



# MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 11 - 28th November 2025

It has been a noticeably focused week across the school this week which has been wonderful to see. I had the pleasure of teaching in various classes and "dipping into" many others to observe both children and staff working hard. I continue to be genuinely impressed with the pupil engagement and their fantastic attitudes towards learning; the children are working incredibly hard as we head toward the festive break. This week, we also extend a very warm welcome to our new Teaching Assistant, Mrs. Bostridge! Mrs.Bostridge will be primarily supporting our pupils in Key Stage 2, with a focus on Year 3. Please help us make her feel part of our community. As the final three weeks of term commence, please ensure you refer back to the Christmas letter that was circulated earlier this term for all important dates and details. A key upcoming event is our Christingle service at the Lantern Church on Thursday, December 18th. This is a special event for pupils and staff only. We kindly ask that you send your child to school with an orange on Monday, December 15th for use in this service. Have a wonderful weekend; I am heading down to the Wimborne Christmas Light switch on so I may see some of you there. Have a lovely weekend everyone.

*Rebecca Baldwin*

## This Week

**Reception** have been practising the Abracadabra Family in handwriting.

**Year 1** have been retelling the story of The Little Red Hen

**Year 2** have been writing chronological reports, sequencing the events of the Great Fire of London.

**Year 3** have been writing about the Alps for their Mountain non-chronological report.

**Year 4** have been planning a setting description using Roman topic words such as *peristylum*.

## Safeguarding

Please speak to us if you have any concerns about a child's safety.



## A Special Letter

Today, the children received a very special message from Merry the Elf. He is on his way to Merley First School because Santa wants him to keep an eye on us all before Christmas. He sent us some photographs and the children spotted that he's been in the Minster and by the River Stour. He's also hopped on a bus headed for Merley!



## Attendance

Whole School	96.1%
Reception	94.3%
Year 1	96.9%
Year 2	97.2%
Year 3	96.2%
Year 4	96.2%

## Dates for the Diary

- **NEW** - Saturday 6th December: PTA Santa's Grotto at Merley Christmas Community Fair, 10-4 at Merley Community Centre
- **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Year 3 singing in Merley Precinct for Lantern Church**
- 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> December - Reception Christmas Songs - tickets given out
- 9<sup>th</sup> December (pm) - Year 1 & 2 Nativity - tickets only
- 10<sup>th</sup> December (am & pm) - Year 1&2 Nativity - tickets only
- 12<sup>th</sup> December - PTA Elfridges event
- 12<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Jumper with school uniform day - donation to Meredith's Mission
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Year 3 Carols to parents 2.15pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> December - Year 4 Lantern Church Carols - 1.45pm
- **NEW** - 17<sup>th</sup> December - whole school party day - wear party clothes to school
- **NEW** - 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> - bring an orange into school for Christingle
- **NEW** - 18<sup>th</sup> - Last Day of Term

# Congratulations

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

**YR:** Theo G, Alyssa M, Charlie A, Margaux D, William S & Luca D

**Y1:** Darcie G, Mia H, Ava K, Lando R, Remy F & Luca B

**Y2:** Adelaide W, River R, Drummer HM, Otilie B & Logan R

**Y3:** Ronnie J, Fletcher W, Charlie R, Connie B, Finley G & Frazer S

**Y4:** Thea B, Thea P, Tilly H, Natasha D, Mya E & Lucas G

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

**YR:** Rosie S & Arthur E

**Y1:** Ottie L & Mia B

**Y2:** Charlie E & Jacob D

**Y3:** Franklin Q & Eloise K

**Y4:** Lily-May L & Leo T

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

**YR:** Thea S & Elodie D

**Y1:** Ivy A & Chuckie H

**Y2:** Dylan A & Meredith H

**Y3:** Arlo W & Nathan W

**Y4:** Theo H & Joey S