



MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 14 - 9th January 2026

Welcome Back! It has been a wonderful, positive start to the Spring term. It is a joy to see the children back in their classrooms with such high energy and enthusiasm for their learning. We are looking forward to a productive and happy term ahead.

I am pleased to share that our BCP Community Infrastructure bids have been officially submitted! These bids are part of our ongoing effort to improve our school environment. The panel will now review the applications, and we expect to hear whether we have been successful in securing this funding by March. We will keep you updated as soon as we have news!

Can You Help? We Need a "Shed Crew!" We are planning to install a new metal shed to store our "wheels" (scooters and bikes) for the lower playground. Before the shed can go up, we need a solid concrete base laid. We are looking for a small team of parents or carers who might have the skills (or the muscle!) to help prepare and pour a concrete shed base and assist in assembling the metal shed once the base is ready. If you are handy with a shovel or a drill and could spare some time to help improve the playground for the children, please speak to the school office. Your support makes a huge difference!

Please be reminded that during the busy drop-off period, children must stand with their adults before the doors open. This helps to keep our morning transition calm and everyone safe.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school community!

Rebecca Baldwin

This Week

Reception baked gingerbread people to see how ingredients changed to dough then a biscuit.

Year 1 went on a winter walk to inspire their poetry writing

Year 2 have started working on multiplication in maths.

Year 3 have enjoyed reading and gathering vocabulary from Pebble in my Pocket.

Year 4 have made predictions about their new class text Running Wild by Michael Morpurgo.



Safeguarding

Mrs Waldron, Miss Stone and Mrs Baldwin are all Designated Safeguarding Leads but what does this mean? A DSL is a school of staff who has been specially trained to take responsibility for safeguarding and child protection.

Their Main Responsibilities:

- point of contact for anyone who has a concern about a child's well-being
- ensure the school follows strict safety procedures to protect children from harm, neglect, or bullying.
- act as a link between the school and outside support services such as social care.

Community Links

Irelia in Year 3 recently had the opportunity to interview Martin Edwards, the CEO of Julia's House. Last year, Merley supported Julia's House and we now proudly display a tail at the front of the school. Ray was amazing at asking his questions as she supported him and her mum zip lining to raise money for the charity. Please click [here](#) to watch Ray in action!



Attendance

Whole School	97.7%
Reception	97.6%
Year 1	98.1%
Year 2	97.4%
Year 3	98.8%
Year 4	96.6%

Dates for the Diary

- 9th-13th February - Children's Mental Health week
- **NEW** 10th February - parental information with [Rewellness](#) counselling and therapy - school hall - 6:30pm - 7:30pm - all welcome!
- **NEW** 13th February - wear a scarf to school for World Mental Health Week. Click [here](#) for details
- 16th February - 20th February - Half Term holiday
- 23rd February - INSET Day - school closed to pupils
- 24th, 25th & 27th February - Reception Bikeability - Balance Bike Training
- **NEW** - 3rd & 5th March - Parent Consultations - school hall - more information to follow
- 30th March - 10th April - School Holidays
- 13th April - INSET Day - school closed to pupils
- 14th April - Back to school for all pupils

School Flag

We are thrilled to see our new school flag flying high at the front of the school! It serves as a wonderful symbol of our collective pride and school spirit. A huge thank you goes to Mr. Peters, one of our Year 2 parents, for his initiative in organising the project and to our incredible PTA for providing the funds to make this purchase possible.



Congratulations

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

YR: Finn B, Isla W, Willow WJ, Keeva B, Billy C & Alfie H

Y1: Oakley A, Oakley D, Ottie L, Blake, Annika & Cooper

Y2: Marley W, Eva C, Charlotte A, Thea BL, Charlie E & Thamarai P

Y3: Olivia C, Emilia A, George P, Hunter L, Harry A & Viba A

Y4: Sammy W, Ella H, Leo T, Henry S, Theo H & Lucas C

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

YR: Orlagh B & Ida B

Y1: Darcie G & Remy

Y2: Courtney HC & Evin K

Y3: Ruben B & Arthur P

Y4: Xander BS & Levi L

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

YR: Aria B & Arthur N

Y1: Ava K & Tobias L

Y2: Kit F & Bukhosi M

Y3: Finley G & Elvis H

Y4: Amelia C & Jack W

Can you help us please?

If anyone is having a sort out in the upcoming weeks and no longer requires a Kallax unit, Reception are looking for one for their role play area (please see photo). We would be grateful if you would consider donating it to us.

Any colour will be suitable.

Thank you so much.

