



# MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 15 - 16th January 2026

As we reach the end of another productive week, I would like to start by extending a sincere thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding regarding the weather. As you are aware, the recent wet weather has caused significant flooding on our playground. We understand the inconvenience this causes during drop-off and pick-up, and we are currently liaising with BCP Council to rectify the drainage issues as quickly and effectively as possible. It has been a busy week across all year groups. It is a joy to see the children continuing to work hard and, most importantly, consistently reflecting our school values in their learning. This positive atmosphere was noted by several prospective parents who visited the school this week. It is always a proud moment to showcase our school community to those looking to join us in the future.

On Wednesday 14th January, I sent out a letter regarding an upcoming event for parents and carers in Children's Mental Health Week.

In today's world, wellbeing and mental health are—quite rightly—a priority for us all. Please do take a moment to read through that letter if you haven't already, as the event will be exceptionally beneficial for all.

Thank you for your ongoing support, I wish you all a very calm and relaxing weekend with your families.

*Rebecca Baldwin*

## This Week

**Reception** have been making staircase patterns with multilink to help us with 1 more 1 less.

**Year 1** have been thinking about question words and question marks.

**Year 2** have looked at patterns in art.

**Year 3** started to investigate properties of rocks.

**Year 4** have explored relative difference in art to make objects appear closer than they are. Wow!

## Congratulations Meredith!

I am so happy to share that Meredith in Year 2 rang the end of treatment bell on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. I know you will all join in sending her best wishes and huge congratulations!

Both Meredith and her family are so appreciative of the community's support.



## Thank you!

Last term, Merley First School's attendance was rated 2<sup>nd</sup> in BCP! Well done everyone!



It can be tricky to know when to keep your child off or not so please refer to the NHS Guidance for Parents: Is my child too ill for school?

[NHS Guidance for Parents](#)

## Attendance

Whole School	97.3%
Reception	97.8%
Year 1	98.6%
Year 2	96.9%
Year 3	96.9%
Year 4	96.5%

## Dates for the Diary

- **NEW** - 3<sup>rd</sup> February - School Nursing Team - Introduction to Healthy Eating talk for parents/carers 9-10am in school hall
- 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> February - Children's Mental Health week
- **NEW** - 10<sup>th</sup> February - parental information event on child anxiety with [Rewellness](#) counselling and therapy - school hall - 6:30pm - 7:30pm - all welcome!
- **NEW** - 13<sup>th</sup> February - wear a scarf to school for World Mental Health Week. Click [here](#) for details
- 16<sup>th</sup> February - 20<sup>th</sup> February - Half Term holiday
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February - INSET Day - school closed to pupils
- 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> February - Reception Bikeability - Balance Bike Training
- **NEW** - 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> March - Parent Consultations - school hall - more information to follow
- **NEW** - 19<sup>th</sup> March - Year 3 Birds of Poole Harbour trip
- 30<sup>th</sup> March - 10<sup>th</sup> April - School Holidays
- 13<sup>th</sup> April - INSET Day - school closed to pupils
- 14<sup>th</sup> April - Back to school for all pupils

## Safeguarding

10<sup>th</sup> February is Safer Internet Day and Merley First School will be delivering part of our Internet Safety Curriculum on that day. If you would like more support on how to keep you child/children safe online please click [here](#).



**Online safety is no longer just about "blocking bad sites"—it is about teaching children how to handle the content that algorithms will inevitably put in front of them.**

# Congratulations

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

**YR:** Lily R, Liliana H, Annie-Mae P, Thea S, Rosie S & Alice C

**Y1:** Arabella, Harry L, Reggie L, Alex B, Roxie B & Nya R

**Y2:** Hannah B, Arlo H, Albie S, Isla R, River R & Alfie G

**Y3:** Frazer S, Ellie L, Finley A, Caitlin B, Albie S & Sophie P

**Y4:** Reuben C, Harvey WG, Amelia, Bella, Levi & Jack

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

**YR:** Tommy P & Layla M

**Y1:** Oakley D & Lando R

**Y2:** Harvey F & George C

**Y3:** Theo WJ & Harry A

**Y4:** Jackson M & Aurelia K

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

**YR:** Freddie M & Thea D

**Y1:** Mia H & Louis H

**Y2:** Leo G & Ada G

**Y3:** Faye S & Fred E

**Y4:** Micah H & Brooke T



Merley First School and ReWellness Counselling invite you to our information event to help parents/carers understand anxiety in children and provide practical tools to help at home.

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Febuary 2026 at 6.30pm in the school hall.**

Talk duration - 30 minutes followed by time to discuss and ask questions.

