



MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 17 - 30th January 2026

First and foremost, we want to say a massive thank you to all our parents and carers for your efforts in getting the children to school during this week's exceptionally wet weather. We completely understand that travel can be difficult in these conditions, and we appreciate your patience when arrivals are slightly delayed. Despite the rain, it is still our expectation that children attend school every day—thank you for making that happen!

We are thrilled to announce that Merley First School will be taking part in the Wimborne Town of Culture event this year! This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to engage with the local community and celebrate the arts. We will keep you updated as more information and specific dates become available.

It has been a busy week of assessments as we've been checking in on the children's reading ages and abilities. You may notice your child's reading book being adjusted following these sessions. Please be reassured that all reading material sent home is carefully matched to your child's current stage—whether that is their phonetic reading ability or, for those further up the school, their fluency and comprehension levels.

The children have looked incredibly smart in their PE kits this week! Thank you to all parents for responding so positively to last week's reminder about the importance of wearing the correct uniform. It really helps foster a sense of pride and belonging in the school.

Rebecca Baldwin

This Week

Reception have been exploring the story of the Three Little Pigs

Year 1 have experimented whether materials are absorbent or not in Science.

Year 2 have written a recount of making Jamaican dough in DT.

Year 3 looked at fossils in Science to build on their knowledge of rocks. This links to their learning on Mary Anning in History.

Year 4 have been multiplying in maths.



Kindness Tree

The whole school helped decorate our 'Kindness Tree' with ways we can look after our community.



Safeguarding - what is Prevent?

Prevent is a national initiative designed to protect people from being drawn into harmful extremist views. Just as we protect children from accidents, bullying, or illness, we also have a duty to protect them from radicalisation and any influences that promote hate or division.

The foundations of Prevent are built on Fundamental British Values. For our youngest learners, this doesn't mean "politics"—it means: Helping children feel safe and valued, teaching kindness, encouraging children to respect others' differences and learning right from wrong through simple boundaries.

Attendance

Whole School	95.9%
Reception	97.2%
Year 1	95.3%
Year 2	95.2%
Year 3	96.5%
Year 4	95.3%

Dates for the Diary

- **NEW** - 3rd February - School Nursing Team - Introduction to Healthy Eating talk for parents/carers 9-10am in school hall
- 9th-13th February - Children's Mental Health week
- **NEW** - 10th February - parental information event on child anxiety 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
- **NEW** - 19th March - Year 3 Birds of Poole Harbour trip
- 30th March - 10th April - School Holidays
- 13th April - INSET Day - school closed to pupils
- 14th April - Back to school for all pupils

Playground Update

Thank you for all your understanding and support while we experience difficulties with the back playground. Please be reassured this is in hand. For those of you who have not seen the effect the water has, this was Tuesday morning!



Congratulations

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

YR: Margaux D, Alana G, Blake R, Alyssa M, Olivia S & Bonnie A

Y1: Mia S, Arlo W, Leon PA, Tom W, Hallie S & Louis H

Y2: Dylan A, Arthur S, Lincoln B, Bukhosi M, Evin K & Otilie B

Y3: Ruben B, Ava R, Grace LG, Ruby K, Pearl H & Fletcher V

Y4: Brooke T, Lily-May L, Albie G, Jesse D, Esme W & Eliana G

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

YR: Izzi H & Jessica B

Y1: Noah H & Eddie T

Y2: Adelaide W & Jake S

Y3: Jensen E & Isabella VC

Y4: Neala B & Joey S

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

YR: Seb B & William S

Y1: Darcie G & Lando R

Y2: Esme R & Delilah K

Y3: Elwyn H & Albie S

Y4: Ethan N & Ella H

Careers and Choices Pupil Charter Update

As part of our Careers and Choice focus this year, within our Personal Development curriculum, we invited Jo, a parent of a Year Four child, into school to talk about her career as a pilot.

Jo shared how she followed her passion for flying, describing the training she completed and the different roles she has taken within the aviation industry. She also emphasised the importance of confidence, teamwork and hard work, explaining to the children how these qualities helped her to succeed. The children asked some brilliant questions, and thoroughly enjoyed her visit. They were inspired to think about future careers of their own.





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 10th Febuary 2026 at 6.30pm in the school hall.

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

