



MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 19 - 13th February 2026

As we reach the end of what has been a very wet half term, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the entire Merley First School community for your continued support. Despite the grey weather, the school has been full of energy and purpose. The children have concluded the term by focusing on their mental health and happiness, participating in several well-being events. This culminated today in our SCARF event and a wonderful whole-school "Talk and Draw" pencil party, where it was a joy to see the children expressing themselves so creatively. I would like to add that I am exceptionally proud of the Merley First School staff team. They are constantly looking for innovative ways to improve and enhance the high standard of provision and education we already offer, ensuring our pupils have the very best environment and opportunities in which to grow.

We wish everyone a restful and calm half term and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 24th February.

Rebecca Baldwin

This Week

Reception have tasted foods for Chinese New Year.

Year 1 have performed a toy dance in PE.

Year 2 joined forces with Reception and held a draw and chat session for Children's mental health week.

Year 3 have written some super recounts of a section from the Iron Man.

Year 4 have been rehearsing written 'bus-stop' division methods using their sharp multiplication skills to assist them



Successful Support

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us on Tuesday evening for our Anxiety Workshop. We were thrilled to host Donna and Wendy from the Re-Wellness Counselling team, who provided invaluable insight into the world of childhood worries. Those who attended walked away with practical, simple strategies to help their children navigate anxiety at home, as well as clear guidance on when it might be the right time to seek professional support. We also want to extend our sincere gratitude to ReWellness – their enthusiasm and expertise made the session incredibly supportive for all.



Safeguarding

Merley First School's Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Waldron

Miss Stone and Mrs Baldwin are the Deputy Leads. Miss Leftwich is also trained to support in her capacity of SENCO and Inclusion Lead.



Inclusion

The Inclusion Team supports pupils' pastoral care, academic challenges, special educational needs and disabilities (SEN), disadvantaged pupils, and mental health and wellbeing, working to remove barriers so every child can feel supported, included, and able to succeed. This week is the first edition of our termly Inclusion update. Please click [here](#) to access it. Thank you to Miss Leftwich and Mrs Butler for their hard work producing it.



Dates for the Diary

- 16th February - 20th February - Half Term holiday
- 23rd February - INSET Day - school closed to pupils
- **NEW** 24th February - Year 4 Multiplication Test information event - 2:30pm - school hall
- 24th, 25th & 27th February - Reception Bikeability - Balance Bike Training
- **NEW** - 2nd & 3rd March Year 1 Trip to Priest House Museum
- 3rd & 5th March - Parent Consultations - school hall - more information to follow
- 19th March - Year 3 Birds of Poole Harbour trip
- **NEW** - 27th March 2:45pm - PTA Easter Event cakes/drink sale and Merley pupils singing
- 30th March - 10th April - School Holidays
- 13th April - INSET Day - school closed to pupils
- 14th April - Back to school for all pupils

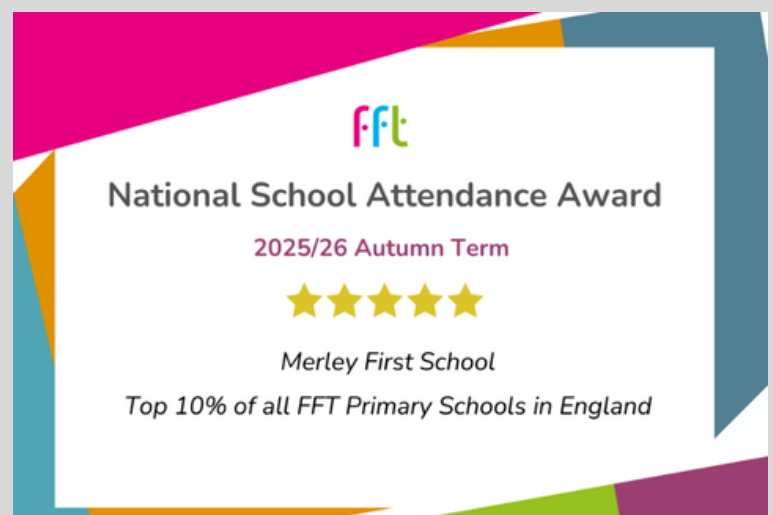
Attendance

We are absolutely thrilled to share some fantastic news with our school community.

Thanks to your unwavering commitment to getting your children into school every day, our school has been officially recognized by the Fisher Family Trust (FFT) for our outstanding attendance levels.

For the Autumn term, we placed in the Top 10% of all schools nationally for attendance.

Thank you.



Congratulations

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

YR: Luis W, Benji B, Isabella F, Eve L, Hallie M & Darcey D

Y1: Kieran, Darcie, Noah, Daisy W, Chuckie & Florence LB

Y2: Louis D, Emma I, Adelaide W, Connie H, Myles B & Rosie P

Y3: Malakaim Lottie P, Amira L, Pippa H, Daisy & Colby

Y4: Tilly H, Ben W, Alfie, Elsie, Emily & Theo L

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

YR: Jude C & Bella S

Y1: Anna & Thomas B

Y2: Esme R & Harvey F

Y3: Arlo W & Devyn

Y4: Sienna B & Charlie B

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

YR: Charlie A & Finn B

Y1: Harry L & Remy F

Y2: Millie H & Rawdon R

Y3: Sophie P & Connie B

Y4: Luke & Theo S

Safer Internet Day 2026

Tuesday 10th February was Safer Internet Day and this year the theme: "Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI" was the focus. The

children reflected on artificial intelligence—like the algorithms behind their favourite games or the voice assistants they use at home. Activities encouraged children to think critically about whether what they see online is "too good to be true" and to understand that

AI is a tool, not a person. Through an interactive assembly, children learned how to spot AI-generated content, protect their personal data, and—most importantly—always talk to a trusted adult if something they encounter makes them feel confused or uncomfortable





Children's Mental Health Week

THIS IS OUR PLACE



CHILDREN DECORATED A PUZZLE PIECE TO SHOW THAT WE ALL BELONG!



CHILDREN WORE A SCARF TO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



CHILDREN ACROSS THE SCHOOL HELPED TO CREATE OUR NEW DISPLAY IN THE HALL. WE ALL BELONG!