



# MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 21 - 6th March 2026

I would like to thank all parents and carers for their incredible support and effort with the children's World Book Day costumes yesterday. The school was filled with fun and excitement all day, and it was wonderful to see everyone having such a brilliant time. It has also been a busy week for Year 1, who enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Priest's House Museum in Wimborne to learn about the history of toys. A huge thank you to the parent volunteers who supported these visits—we couldn't do it without you! Next Friday, we will say a fond goodbye to Mrs. Crook, one of our EYFS Teaching Assistants. Mrs. Crook is leaving to start an exciting new role with BCP Council. I know you will all join me in thanking her for her hard work and dedicated support of the children over the last few years. On a more serious note, several parents have informed me that some drivers are not observing pedestrian safety at the zebra crossing. Please ensure you remain vigilant when crossing the road and talk to your children about the importance of road safety, as drivers do not always stop when they are required to. I have reported these concerns to BCP Council. Finally, I would like to thank our school community for the overwhelmingly positive comments given to staff during this week's parents' evenings. I know the team feel exceptionally valued by your support. Have a lovely weekend!

*Rebecca Baldwin*

## This Week

**Reception** drew their favourite book characters and wrote the character's name.

**Year 1** enjoyed a fabulous trip to the East Dorset Museum. They represented our school brilliantly!

**Year 2** have designed covers and written about their favourite books, Albie told me "it was fun!"

**Year 3** have enjoyed studying plants in Science.

**Year 4** enjoyed a talk from Waterwise! They learnt about the water cycle and the importance of conserving water.



## A Huge Thank You!

The Reception children are absolutely delighted with their improved role play area. Thanks to the generous donation from the PTA, along with additional contributions from parents, the space has been transformed. The children are thoroughly enjoying exploring, imagining and learning in their wonderful new space.



Growing Together To Build Our Future

## Safeguarding

The Department for Science, Innovation, and Technology (DSIT) has recently launched the "You Won't Know until You Ask" campaign, providing parents with practical support they can use immediately and the confidence they need to have a conversation with their children about the content they see online.

Backed by behavioural research and academic insights, new guidance has been made available to parents on safety settings, conversation prompts, and age-appropriate advice for tackling misinformation and harmful content. [Click here](#) to access the site.



## Attendance

Whole School	98%
Reception	98.7%
Year 1	97.2%
Year 2	99.4%
Year 3	98.3%
Year 4	95.9%

## Dates for the Diary

- **NEW** 6-15<sup>th</sup> March - British Science Week - activities in school
- 19<sup>th</sup> March - Year 3 Birds of Poole Harbour trip
- **NEW** - 20<sup>th</sup> March - Non uniform day for Red Nose Day
- 27<sup>th</sup> March 2:45pm - PTA Easter Event cakes/drink sale and Merley pupils singing
- 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\
- **NEW** - 11<sup>th</sup> May Class Photographs

## World Book Day 2026!

We had a wonderful World Book Day - reading, drawing, talking and writing. The children and staff looked fantastic and the potato characters were magnificent! **Well done everyone!**

The winners of the competition are: Monty (YR), Imrie P (Y1) Rex (Y2) Harry A (Y3) & Esme (Y4)



## Congratulations

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

**YR:** Theo G, Rai S, Seb B, George F, Luca D & Olivia S

**Y1:** River H, Mla H, Noah H, \luca B, Austin S & Eddie T

**Y2:** Jasmine Y, Bukhosi M, Talia B, Millie H, Marley S & Lincoln B

**Y3:** Arlo W, Sienna K, Charlie R, Irelia, Finley G & Harper W

**Y4:** Leo W, Molly R, Joel CP, Neala B, Eddie S & Isla L

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

**YR:** Keeva B & Willow W-J

**Y1:** Reggie L & Hazel L

**Y2:** Logan R & Eva C

**Y3:** Malakai & Nathan W

**Y4:** Sophia W & Esme W

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

**YR:** Izzi H & Isla W

**Y1:** Arlo W & Hallie

**Y2:** Evin K & Esme T

**Y3:** Hollie C & Olivia

**Y4:** Maisie & Natasha D

## Breaktime Snacks!

To support the September 2026 implementation of Benedict's law, we would like to ask that only fruit and vegetables are brought in for break time snacks. We have several children in our care with severe, food allergies and to help ensure that break times are safe for everyone, we are implementing a Fruit Only snack approach.

Please Leave at Home: Granola bars, crackers, biscuits, or "yogurt-covered" fruit treats and processed fruit treats such as winders or yo-yo snacks, as these often contain hidden allergens or are processed in facilities with nuts.



FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2026

# RED NOSE DAY

NON-UNIFORM DAY WITH  
SOMETHING RED!

HELP MERLEY FIRST RAISE MONEY  
FOR COMIC RELIEF. FOLLOW THE  
LINK OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO  
DONATE.

[HTTPS://WWW.JUSTGIVING.COM/FUNDRAISING/R](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ND26-MERLEY-FIRST-SCHOOL)  
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT