



MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 23 - 20th March 2026

What a fantastic, high-energy week we've had! Our Year 3 students had a particularly busy and exciting week. Their learning took them out of the classroom and into the local community with two wonderful trips:

- A Visit to the Minster: Exploring our local history and architecture.
- Poole Harbour Boat Trip: Identifying local birdlife and enjoying the coastal scenery.

We are incredibly proud to share that the facilitators at both locations reached out specifically to praise our students. They noted that the children were exceptionally well-behaved and were a credit to the school. Well done, Year 3!

To wrap up this sunny week, the entire school gathered on the front playground for a Dance-a-thon! We moved, grooved, and celebrated "Merley Style" to raise awareness for Comic Relief. It was a brilliant way to support the charity while enjoying the fresh air and having some well-deserved fun as a school community. Thank you for your continued support. We hope you all have a relaxing and sunny weekend!

Rebecca Baldwin

This Week

Reception have made dot work bears inspired by Yayoi Kusama.

Year 1 have been weaving with card - which supports their fine motor skills and Art.

Year 2 have started turning their rosette designs into an actual product, cutting felt and using running stitch to sew.

Year 3 have had a very action-packed week visiting the Minster and Poole Harbour.

Year 4 have started sewing in DT. They are making their own teddies.



Year 2 Learn About the Rule of Law

This week, Year 2 have had two very special visitors! On Tuesday Miss Philippou - a barrister - came in to talk to us about her job in court. The children thought about the story of Goldilocks and we even decided if she was guilty or not guilty. The children said that they "loved the outfit" and "it was interesting learning about asking questions to help you find out if they are guilty."

We then had a nurse practitioner - Mrs Sargent - come in to show us some equipment that she uses in her job!

The children even got to practice using a bandage - lots of upcoming nurses!



Safeguarding & Support

ParentLine is a confidential text messaging service providing parents and carers of 5-19 year olds in Dorset a way to seek advice from the school nursing team about their child's health and development via text message.



Attendance

Whole School	96.4%
Reception	98.1%
Year 1	94.5%
Year 2	98%
Year 3	95%
Year 4	96.3%

Dates for the Diary

- 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
- **NEW** - 20th-24th April - Bikeability Level 2 for Year 4
- **NEW** - 11th May Class Photographs

Year 4 Careers Fair

This week we were delighted to host our first careers fair for our Year Four children. We welcomed a range of parents who shared insights into their different careers, talking about their career journeys, the skills and qualities needed and what their roles involve on a day to day basis. The afternoon was both informative and inspiring, giving our oldest children an insight into the world of work and the many opportunities available to them.

It was wonderful to see the children so engaged and excited about the possibilities for their future. Many thanks to all the parents involved for their time.



Congratulations

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

YR: Elodie D, Tommy P, Bella S, Rosie S, Izzi H & Charlie A

Y1: Jamie, Ava, Mia, Hazel. Remy & Lando

Y2: Thea BL, Evin K, Logan R, Alaya S, Esme T, Marley S & Louis D.

Y3: Franklin Q, Hunter L, Lottie P, Jenson D, Devyn & Nathan

Y4: Jesse, Joey, Micah, Jackson, Sienne & Isla

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

YR: Billy C & Arthur E

Y1: Liberty P & Austin

Y2: Bukhosi M & Alfie G

Y3: Ronnie J & Evie E

Y4: Emily W & Lydia DC

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

YR: Bonnie A & Margaux D

Y1: Ottie L & Daisy W

Y2: Harvey F & Ada G

Y3: Arthur P & Grace LG

Y4: Lucas G & Lily-May L



Pupil Premium Funding

**Improving Educational Outcomes
for all.**

**Are you in receipt of one of the following
benefits?**

Income Support

Income Based Job Seekers Allowance.

**Income related Employment and Support
Allowance**

Universal Credit

**If you are, you can apply for Free School Meals and
Pupil Premium funding for the school. Click [here](#).**

We can then help you by providing:

***50% off the cost of school trips**

*** reduced fee for Early Bird Club**

***free attendance at one other extra-curricular activity
(eg after school clubs)**

***one free school sweatshirt or cardigan per year**

***free milk**





RECEPTION



YEAR 1



YEAR 2



YEAR 3



YEAR 4