



MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 25 - 17th April 2026

Welcome back! The children have transitioned back to school brilliantly. To support this move from holidays to the classroom, we intentionally opted for a gentler start to the week. By moving our assembly to a later slot, we ensured children had ample time to reconnect with their friends and gave staff the space to check in with every student individually. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Sargent to our Year 1 team! Mrs Sargent is a highly experienced educator who joins us as a Teaching Assistant until the end of the academic year. We are very lucky to have her expertise in the classroom and I know you will join us in making her feel welcome. Next week marks the exciting opening of our Wheels Area for EPIC play! As per the information sent via Arbor on 27 March, children will be using school-provided "wheels" but for safety reasons, children must bring their own helmets into school to participate. Year 4 will have use of the area on Mondays, Year 3 Tuesdays, Year 2 Wednesdays, Year 1 Thursdays and Reception on Fridays. Once the excitement has worn off and we know the children are familiar with the safety requirements, we will allow them to enjoy the track and equipment more frequently. Have a brilliant weekend everyone, summer is on the way!

Rebecca Baldwin

This Week

Reception have started their growing topic and planted beans.

Year 1 have started learning about space and finding out about Neil Armstrong.

Year 2 have set up their science experiment to investigate what plants need in order to grow.

Year 3 have started reading the Stolen Spear in whole class reading and had their first recorder lesson.

Year 4 have explored an Egyptian tomb finding out about artefacts and decoding hieroglyphic words.



Attendance

Whole School	98.1%
Reception	99%
Year 1	97.9%
Year 2	98.7%
Year 3	98.8%
Year 4	96.4%

Safeguarding

It's important that every child has someone they trust that they can ask for help.

As parents and carers, you might need to start a difficult conversation because you have to:

- break some bad news
- ask about something you're worried about
- ask about topics you find uncomfortable
- ask your child if they're worried or scared by something
- ask your child about a new behaviour
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It is normal to not know how to talk to children about difficult topics.

But whatever the subject, and however old the child you're talking to, you can make it easier for you both. Please click [here](#) to look at some fantastic resources and advice from the NSPCC.

How to talk to children about difficult topics

Feeling confused or anxious shouldn't stop you from having tricky conversations. It's what your child needs you to do.

Dates for the Diary

- 20th -24th April - Bikeability Level 2 for Year 4
- 20th April - Wheels Playground Opens
- **NEW** - 20th April - Live and Inspired Whole School Music performance
- 4th May - Bank Holiday - school closed
- **NEW** - 11th - 15th May - Mental Health Awareness Week
- 11th May Class Photographs - school uniform
- **NEW** - 15th May - Celebration of Learning - classrooms - 2.45 - 3.15pm
- 18th - 22nd May - Walk to School Week
- **NEW** - 21st May - Bling your Wheels event - details to follow
- **NEW** - 20th May PTA Disco
- 25th - 29th May - Half Term Holiday
- **NEW** - 2nd - 4th June - Life Education lessons for PSHE curriculum - information to follow
- **NEW** - 12th June - Sports Day
- **NEW** - 12th June - RESERVE Sports Day (in case of poor weather)
- 29th June - 1st July - Year 4 PGL Trip

Money Superstars - PSHE curriculum

We were pleased to welcome representatives from Teachers Building Society before the Easter break. Eve and Kate spoke to the children about keeping money safe and the importance of budgeting. During the Year 3 and 4 assembly, they explained ways to save money and how funds can be transferred between accounts. Each session ended with a fun quiz, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.



Congratulations

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

YR: Arthur N, Freya T, Thea S, Benji B, Charlotte B & Freddie M

Y1: Reggie L, Harry L, Ottie L, Blake OS, Annika D & Roxie B

Y2: Lenny SB, Rosie P, Thamarai P, Lexi B, Jacob D & Arthur S

Y3: Isabella VC, Albie S, Fred E, Olivia C, Frankie LD & Grace LG

Y4: Matilda C, Mya E, Emily W, Thea B, Maisie H & Albie G

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

YR: Isobella F & Monty R

Y1: Millie M & Tobias L

Y2: Albie S & Esme T

Y3: Pearl H & Ava R

Y4: Niamh G & Theo H

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

YR: Orlagh B & Keeva B

Y1: Leon PA & Tayah P

Y2: Lucas W & Milo M

Y3: Fletcher V & Jenson D

Y4: Esme W & Rosa W

This week we were delighted to welcome Kay Woodward (Kay Barnham), a local author, into Merley. She shared a wonderful story telling session with the children, capturing everyone's imagination, and then gave pupils the opportunity to ask questions about her career as a writer.

She spoke about the importance of reading for pleasure and then gave pupils an insight into the process of writing a book. She inspired the children by explaining that one of her short stories, she wrote in one evening! It was an inspiring visit that encouraged a love of reading and writing across our school.

