



MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 26 - 24th April 2026

What a glorious week it has been! The sunshine has truly brought the school to life, and it has been wonderful to see the children making full use of the lower field during break times and lessons. The real highlight, however, has been the launch of our new "Wheels Playground." It has been wonderful seeing the children navigate the new space with such enthusiasm and energy has been a joy for the staff to watch. The Year 4 children have participated in the final stage of their Bikeability training this week. Taking their learning outside the school gates is a big responsibility, and they rose to the challenge brilliantly. They represented Merley wonderfully, proving to the local community just what fantastic, responsible, and capable individuals they are. Well done, Year 4!



Let's hope this beautiful warm weather continues into next week so we can keep the outdoor momentum going. Have a wonderful, restful weekend!

Rebecca Baldwin

This Week

Reception working hard to correctly form letters from the Slider family.

Year 1 have done some team building with the parachute in PE

Year 2 have started learning how to play Jambie pans!



Year 3 are working on calculating remainders in division.

Year 4 have explored texture with paint in art and have started learning how to play ukuleles.

Attendance

We are currently ranked 2nd in the BCP area for attendance across Primary Schools, with an impressive 97% so far this academic year. The national average is 94.44%.

Thank you for your continued support!



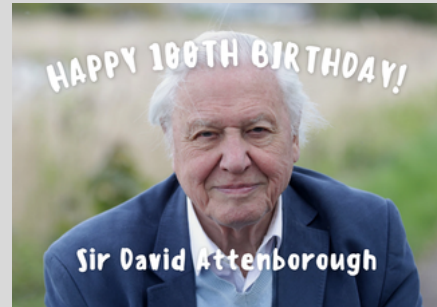
Safeguarding

We work hard to ensure our school community is safe. If you have a question about safeguarding, please speak to Mrs Waldron - Designated Safeguarding Lead.



David Attenborough Turns 100!

This week we have designed David Attenborough a birthday card. On 8th May he will be turning 100 and to celebrate what an incredible life he had, every child has made him a birthday card which will be entered into a competition. These will be displayed in Wimborne Town hall. Fingers crossed we have a winner!



Dates for the Diary

- 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

Live and Inspired Music Performance

On Monday afternoon, we were delighted to welcome a special visitor from The Rap School— founder Rob Bradley! The children were treated to a high-energy, interactive session that combined music, rhythm, and language. Rob created spontaneous raps from the words suggested by the children and it had everyone fully engaged from start to finish. The children absolutely loved the experience- and the staff did too!



Congratulations

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

YR: Finn D, Mason BH, Erin S, Hallie M, Mabel L & Eve L

Y1: Archie A, Ivy A, Kieran FR, Josie Y, Florence LB & Cooper D

Y2: Ottilie B, Harvey F, Jake S, Kit F, Alfie G & George C

Y3: Charlie B, Elvis H, Lottie C, Elliot D, Evie E & Finley A

Y4: Lucas C, Jack W, Brooke T, Montana AC, Sammy W & Dillon E

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

YR: Luis W & Olivia B

Y1: Evie W & Blake OS

Y2: Drummer HM & Isla R

Y3: Albie S & Robbie W

Y4: Bella P & Harvey WG

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

YR: Willow WJ & Billy C

Y1: Tommy C & Will P

Y2: Hannah B & Arthur S

Y3: Isabella VC & Harper W

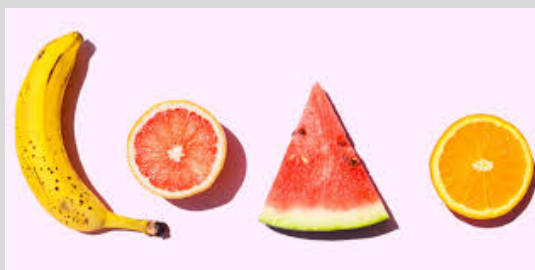
Y4: Dolce W & Micah H

Breaktime Snacks!

Department for Education standards ask for schools to encourage **healthy eating habits**. With this in mind and the implementation of **Benedict's Law**, please ensure only **fruit and vegetables** are brought in for break time snacks.

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.

As a reminder, our school is a strictly nut-free zone at break and lunchtime. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all our children safe and healthy!



Can you help?



We would love to source a small stage area for one of our outside learning areas. Can you help? If you think you would be able to support by building a small stage area please contact the school office to discuss it further with Mrs Riley or Mrs Baldwin.

Thank you.



EPIC Play



We are need in of the following items for EPIC Play:

- Dressing up clothes (no hats, masks or shoes please)
- A dolls house
- Safe scooters/wheely items

FAMILY'S LEARNING ABOUT SELF HARM F.L.A.S.H

BUILDING RESILIENCE AND PARENTAL STRENGTH

Goal:

To reduce family anxiety, worries and fears, build courage and resilience whilst offering tools for understanding and managing self-harm.

Workshop Themes:

Understanding self-harm,
Listening skills,
Building self-esteem,
Coping strategies,
Managing difficult situations.

Want to
know more?

SCAN ME



Who is it for:

Parents/carers of young people exhibiting self-harming behaviours.

Structure:

A 10 session workshop,
6pm -8pm, every
Wednesday in
Bournemouth.



The FLASH program, developed by the Ministry of Parenting CIC, is not considered group therapy or counselling, but rather a structured educational workshop to help parents feel more equipped to handle the emotional challenges of self-harm in their family. This workshop contains no power points and is an interactive workshop to support your learning and development. If you think that this workshop is for you, please continue to scan the QR code or visit the website below to fill out your referral/application form, We look forward to hearing from you.

BUILDING RESILIENCE AND PARENTAL STRENGTH