



# MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 30 - 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

First and foremost, I want to express my thanks to the entire school community for your incredible support and understanding over the last week. We have faced a few hurdles, including the issues with the fire bell –which I am pleased to say has now been fully fixed - and very high levels of staff absence. Managing this is never easy, but your understanding and flexibility has been appreciated. I must also give a special thank you to our fantastic PTA. They were exceptionally understanding and quick to act when we realised we needed to rearrange the School Disco. Please rest assured that all purchased tickets will automatically transfer to the new date. We love seeing our school community walking to school, but we must ask that dogs are not left tied up unattended outside the entrances. We have received a report of an incident where children approached an unattended dog to stroke it. Because the owner was not there to grant permission or supervise, the dog understandably became fearful, which in turn frightened the children. For the safety and peace of mind of all our pupils, families, and pets, please do not leave dogs tied up alone on school boundary gates.

Finally, we are excited for our sessions with the Life Education Team after half term. We are kindly asking for parents to contribute to this experience which supports our PSHE and wellbeing curriculum. The focus of the sessions is Wellbeing and the children always enjoy meeting Harold the Giraffe.

Have a brilliant half-term everyone.

*Rebecca Baldwin*

## This Week

**Reception** have learnt how to chop fruit safely for their fruit salads!

**Year 1** have enjoyed their space day together. They particularly enjoyed the art activities as well as dressing up.

**Year 2** played fitness bingo in PE and had lots of fun!

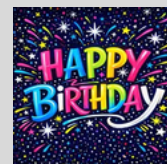
**Year 3** have carried out science experiemnts looking at light and shadow.

**Year 4** have learnt about animal classification and the types of animals that can be found on the local heaths when the Heath Partnership visited.



## Supporting the Lantern Church

We are proud to have a brilliant relationship with the Lantern Church and this week the children have decorated bunting to help decorate the church for their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. We know the Merley First community will join us in wishing the Lantern Church a very Happy Birthday!



## Bling your Wheels for Walk to School Week!

We had so many AMAZING bikes and scooters entered into the competition this year! Thank you for all of your support at home.

Mrs Baldwin had a very tricky decision when picking a winners.

Congratulations to Tobias L, Liberty P and Eva C



## Safeguarding

If you are worried about a child's safety over the holidays click [here](#) to find out how to report Safeguarding concerns.

If you need some support yourself, contact the [BCP Early Help Access Point](#) family hub.



## Attendance

Whole School	91.1%
Reception	82.9%
Year 1	96.6%
Year 2	91.3%
Year 3	90%
Year 4	94.8%

## Congratulations

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

**YR:** Charlie A, Ida B, Sebby B, Bella S, Florence S & Tommy M

**Y1:** Austin, Arlo K, Nya, Arlo W Leon PA & River H

**Y2:** Jake S, Lucas W, Leo G, Louis D, Isla R & Esme R

**Y3:** Cooper T, Sienna K, Ronnie J, Jensen E, Colby M & Faye S

**Y4:** Dolce W, Luke M, Harvey S, Xander BS, Theo L & Eden PA

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

**YR:** Alana G & Arthur N

**Y1:** Bella W & Eliza M

**Y2:** Delilah K & Milo M

**Y3:** Charlie R & Frazer S

**Y4:** Henry S & Carter J

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

**YR:** Blake R & Rosie S

**Y1:** Alex B & Arabella K

**Y2:** Ottilie B & Skylar M

**Y3:** Caitlin B & Asher B

**Y4:** Thea B & Joel CP

## Can you help? We are looking for a Police Officer for a special school assembly!

At Merley First School, we are always looking for meaningful ways to bring our learning to life. As part of our focus on British Values, we are planning an upcoming assembly centered around the Rule of Law and why having rules is so important—both in school and in our wider community.

To help make this message really impact our children, we would love to invite a real-life police officer in to speak to them!

Can you help us? If you, a family member, or a close friend are a serving police officer (or community support officer) and would be willing to volunteer a short amount of your time to come in and talk to the children, we would absolutely love to hear from you.



## Dates for the Diary

- **UPDATED** 4<sup>th</sup> June PTA Disco
- 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> May - Half Term Holiday
- 1<sup>st</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> June - Year 4 Multiplication Assessments
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> June - Life Education lessons for PSHE curriculum
- 12<sup>th</sup> June - Sports Day
- 19<sup>th</sup> June - RESERVE Sports Day (in case of poor weather)
- 26<sup>th</sup> June - Transfer Day - Year 4 to Middle schools
- 29<sup>th</sup> June - 1<sup>st</sup> July - Year 4 PGL Trip
- **NEW** - 30<sup>th</sup> June - 2026/27 Year 2 Parent/carer meeting - 4:30pm
- **NEW** - 30<sup>th</sup> June - 2026/27 Year 1 Parent/carer meeting - 5:00pm
- **NEW** - 7<sup>th</sup> July - 2026/27 Year 4 Parent/carer meeting - 4:30pm
- **New** - 7<sup>th</sup> July - 2026/27 Year 3 Parent/carer meeting - 5:00pm