



MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 31 - 5th June 2026

What a fantastic week it has been at school! All of our children thoroughly enjoyed their Life Education lessons this week, which included a wonderful opportunity to meet the famous Harold the Giraffe. The focus was on Wellbeing and our Life Educator Jane was so impressed with how respectful and engaged the children were. We also want to share that we will be able to replace the fencing around the Reception outside area during the summer holidays. Thank you to Mr.Watts for securing this funding.

A huge thank you goes out to our amazing PTA for running a brilliant, high-energy disco last night. The children absolutely loved it. A huge amount of effort and time goes into organising the disco so I am thankful to all the volunteers that supported. Thank you.

Watching the staff who also gave up their own time to dance and have fun with the children last night was another reminder of how dedicated the Merley team are. Looking ahead, Wednesday 17th June is National Thank a Teacher Day—please take a moment to let our fabulous, hardworking teachers know just how much they are appreciated by sending an e-card



if you can spare a moment. Please send them to the office - office@merleyfirstschool.org
Click [here](#) to access the e-card portal.

Have a wonderful and relaxing weekend!

Rebecca Baldwin

This Week

Reception had their wheels day on Monday to start their new topic, 'things that move'.

Year 1 have been learning about the oceans surrounding the UK.

Year 2 wrote some super recounts of their wet and windy adventure to Brownsea Island.

Year 3 have been using maps and two figure grid references in Geography.

Year 4 have investigated erosion and linked it to the local area, discussing Durdle Door's formation.



Safeguarding

3 Quick Checks for Parents and Carers

- Keep devices in shared family spaces rather than bedrooms, and regularly review the privacy settings on the games and apps they use.
- Remind your child that their body belongs to them, and that parts of their body covered by underwear are private. Let them know they should always tell you if someone makes them feel uncomfortable or asks them to keep a secret.
- Help your child name three or four safe adults they can talk to if they ever feel unsafe and can't reach you.

Attendance Matters

Every day in school counts. While it can be tempting to plan a trip or a family getaway during term time—especially to avoid peak holiday prices—missing school has a direct impact on your child's academic progress and social development.

Missing just one week of school means missing around 25 hours of direct, structured learning. Lessons are sequential; when a child misses a foundational concept, catching up can feel like chasing a moving target.

School isn't just about academics. Regular attendance helps children build stable friendships and stay locked into a comfortable, predictable routine. Coming back after an absence can sometimes trigger unnecessary anxiety about what they missed.

Click [here](#) for Merley First School Attendance Policy and [here](#) for DfE guidance on attendance.



Attendance

Whole School	93.6%
Reception	88.3%
Year 1	95.5%
Year 2	94.2%
Year 3	96.3%
Year 4	93.6%

Transition Support

When children face major educational transitions, the shift can feel like a massive leap.

When everything else is changing—new teachers, new buildings, new routines—keeping home life predictable gives them a sense of control.

Maintain your usual hobbies, favourite family activities, and existing boundaries. Keeping these anchoring routines intact builds a psychological safety net for when school feels unpredictable.

For deeper insight and practical videos on supporting your child's emotional well-being through these shifts, check out the [YoungMinds Guide to Transitions and Times of Change](#).

IT'S
TIME
TO
MOVE
ON

Congratulations

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

YR: Isabella F, Elodie D, Orlagh B, Jude C, Theo G & Olivia B

Y1: Oakley A, Noah H, Ava K, Chuckie H, Tobias L & Blake OS

Y2: Jasmine Y, Anahi S, Freya H, Marley W, Esme T & Lincoln B

Y3: Connie B, Elwyn H, Harper W, Amira L, arthur RR & Alfie A

Y4: Jason J, Alfie G, Tilly H, Carter J, Lucas G & Micah H

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

YR: Thea S & Freddie M

Y1: Jaxon S & Halli S

Y2: Leo G & Dylan A

Y3: Finley G & Elvis H

Y4: Jackson M & Montana AC

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

YR: Junior S & Olivia S

Y1: River H & Mia B

Y2: Connie H & Esme R

Y3: Ellie L & Charlie B

Y4: Levi L & Charlie B

Dates for the Diary

- 1st - 19th June - Year 4 Multiplication Assessments
- 8th - 19th June KS1 Phonic aAssessments
- 12th June - Sports Day - letter sent out before half term
- 19th June - RESERVE Sports Day (in case of poor weather)
- **NEW 25th June** - Year 2 singing in Wimborne Minster at 12 noon. All welcome.
- 26th June - Transfer Day - Year 4 to Middle schools
- 29th June - 1st July - Year 4 PGL Trip
- NEW - 30th June - 2026/27 Year 2 Parent/carer meeting - 4:30pm
- NEW - 30th June - 2026/27 Year 1 Parent/carer meeting - 5:00pm
- NEW - 7th July - 2026/27 Year 4 Parent/carer meeting - 4:30pm
- New - 7th July - 2026/27 Year 3 Parent/carer meeting - 5:00pm

Coming Soon!



Parental Feedback Survey Results

In last term's survey parents and carers said they would like:

An increased focus on reading for the love of it, reading slots every now and again in class just as the middle schools do.

At Merley, we integrate reading into all English lessons - it is the link between the wider curriculum and writing. In addition we have 'Love of Reading' time, everyday at the end of the day where we share a non-curriculum based text together. We have two Mystery Reader assemblies a half term and all classes enjoy a library book together in their weekly library session.

Parents and carers have asked about online apps like the Reception Tapestry account.

While online learning journals like Tapestry are popular tools particularly in Early Years, as children settle into the demands of the National Curriculum, we want our teachers to focus on teaching and assessment rather than documenting. We choose to invest our time in creating rich, engaging learning environments and delivering impactful lessons.