



# MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

## Newsletter 37 - 17th July 2026

As we reach the very end of the academic year, we welcome you to our final newsletter of the term. It has been an absolutely incredible year filled with laughter, learning, and growth, and we are so incredibly proud of everything our school community has achieved together. Across all year groups, we have seen fantastic academic growth. The children have worked incredibly hard, tackled new challenges with resilience, and made progress that deserves to be celebrated. Alongside this, we have loved providing our pupils with a wide range of rich opportunities—from exciting school trips and hands-on workshops to creative arts, sports days, and collaborative projects. Thank you for your partnership at home; your support has been vital in helping your children achieve these wonderful milestones.

We also want to share a very special message of congratulations to our Year 4 children as they prepare to move on to the next stage of their educational journey. You have been fantastic role models, kind classmates, and a true joy to teach. We are incredibly proud of you all and wish you the very best of luck! You will be greatly missed but we know you are going to do amazing things. Finally, we want to wish all of our families a fantastic, restful and happy summer break. Please take this time to relax, recharge, take care and stay safe over the holidays. We look forward to welcoming our returning pupils back in September!

*Rebecca Baldwin*

### This Week

**Reception** have tasted fruits from our story Handas Surprise.

**Year 1** have made a lighthouse picture inspired by Van Gogh.

**Year 2** have made wonderful trains in DT adding axels and wheels to make them move.

**Year 3** have made pizza wraps from ingredients they tasted last week.

**Year 4** took to the stage and performed their leavers show superbly for their family members and the school community. They have also been creating a non chron on rivers ready to share with the mixed blessing group at the lantern



### Safeguarding

If you need any support over the summer holidays, please contact the BCP Early Help Access Point Public 01202 126 668  
[EHAcessPoint@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:EHAcessPoint@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

There is a brilliant team on hand with lots of practical and supportive advice.



## Congratulations

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

**YR:** Arthur E, Florence S, Luis W, Bonnie A, Eve L & Seb B

**Y1:** Darcie G, Jamie H, Buddy P, Alex B, Lando R & Roxie B

**Y2:** Bukhosi M, Emil T, Quinn W, Alfie G, Skylar & Adelaide

**Y3:** Hunter L, Sophie P, Franklin, Jensen E, Finley A & Asher B

**Y4:** Neala, Poppy, Sienna, Leo W, Molly & Reuben C

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

**YR:** Theo G & Junior S

**Y1:** Imrie P & Annika D

**Y2:** Jasmine Y & Ada G

**Y3:** Henry S & Nathan W

**Y4:** Tilly H & Niamh G

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

**YR:** William S & Darcey D

**Y1:** Anna P & Florence LB

**Y2:** Ottilie B & Emma I

**Y3:** Evie R & Olivia C

**Y4:** Lily-May & Henry S

## Dates for the Diary

- 21<sup>st</sup> July - Year 4 Leavers Disco
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July - Last day of summer term - finish 3:15pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> September - INSET Days - School Closed to children
- 3<sup>rd</sup> September - First Day of the Autumn Term
- 15<sup>th</sup> September - NEW Reception Children parent/carer information meeting 5:30pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> September - Scholastic Book Fair - Hall - 3:15pm - 3:45pm.

## BCP Summer FREE Holiday Activities



- Library Summer Reading Challenge: This year's official Read to the Beat book collection includes books about musicians, characters discovering music, sound science, cultural traditions, rhythm, storytelling through sound, breaking down barriers to music, creative expression and following your dreams.
- [Story Doors Trail: Story Doors Trail](#) - find the hidden story doors, and there's one hidden in every library. Download the map to begin the trail.
- [Whats-on-children-and-families-summer-2026.pdf](#)
- [Family activities and events for primary school children | Primary Times](#)
- [What's on it BCP?](#)
- [Where can kids eat free in BCP?](#)
- [Eating for free in the summer](#)
- Free Breakfast at Morrison's Cafe - Families visiting their local Morrisons Café throughout the summer holidays can enjoy a free 'Kellogg's Breakfast', which includes a bowl of cereal and a portion of fruit. The best part, it's not just for kids, adults get to eat completely free too. From 29.06.2026 – 06.09.2026, 12.10.2026- 01.11.2026, 21.12.2026- 03.01.2027. This offer is redeemable all-day Monday to Sunday. Simply say 'Kellogg's Breakfast' at the till point at any UK Morrisons Café.

## Staffing Updates

This term, we say a very fond farewell to the wonderful Anita from Outdoor Adventurers.

Anita has been a beloved part of the Early First School family for many years, spending the last seven of them working closely alongside Helen in Outdoor Adventurous.

To show our appreciation, the children held a special assembly on Monday. It was a beautiful opportunity to celebrate Anita and thank her for her incredible dedication to turning our children into confident, curious little explorers. We will miss her immensely and wish her all the very best!

Next week on Wednesday, we will also be saying a temporary goodbye to Miss Parkin.

As many of you know, Miss Parkin has worked across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 here at First School. She is now setting off on an exciting sabbatical to Allenbourn Middle School, where she will be gaining valuable Upper Key Stage 2 experience. We have absolutely no doubt that Miss Parkin will be exceptional in this new role. While we hope that at the end of her sabbatical year she chooses to return to First School, we support her wholeheartedly in whatever decision she makes for her career. Good luck, Miss Parkin! We are all behind you and can't wait to hear about your adventures.

