



11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Homework Arrangements: A Guide for Parents

Our home learning routine at Merley is designed to reinforce classroom learning while making sure children still get to be children. Please find an overview of homelearning for this academic year including any updates we have made.

- **Reading:** All children's reading ability has been re-assessed after the summer holidays. Whether they are reading a phonic book matched closely to their assessed phonic ability or a coloured book, please know that the book they have will be the correct level for them. It is common for children's reading skills to dip a little, particularly if they have not read very much for 6-weeks. Re-reading familiar texts is a proven way to lock key sounds into long-term memory and boost reading fluency so please don't worry if they bring a book home they have previously read. Books have been sent home with reading records. Reading records are for parents and children to fill in, teachers keep their own records at school.

MyLogin

As a school, we use a simple QR code login solution for pupils called 'MyLogin'. Pupils use this system to log onto the computers at school, and it also allows them to access learning platforms easily from home. Your child will be bringing home their individual MyLogin code. For years 1, 2 & 3 this will be a QR code and Year 4, an emoji password.

To use the MyLogin web application successfully, please click [here](#) for the parent information guide.

Simply head to app.mylogin.com and search for Merley First School and use the QR code or emoji password we have provided you with. QR codes from last year should be the same as the ones for this year. Year 4 pupils now need to transition to using their emoji password.

When you enter the web address for MyLogin, you should then be presented with options. Select the relevant option (e.g. QR or Emojis) and enter the given password which we have provided.

Once you log in, you may also notice different applications that are used in school. These can also be explored at home but may not initially be familiar to the children.





- **Maths Apps:** We use **Numbots (Y1)** and **Times Tables Rockstars (Y2-4)** to support pupils to fluently recall and build confidence with multiplication facts.
- **Maths:** Essential number facts to learn will be available on Google Classroom.
- **Spelling:** We will share key words and spelling patterns through Google Classroom for your awareness.

What's new?

- **Our Curriculum overview letters:** We have re-freshed our Curriculum Overview letters which now include optional tasks that parents and carers can engage in at home, with their child, to help secure and consolidate in-school learning.
- **Black Belt Reader for Key Stage 2:** Merley First School is now using **Black Belt Reader** to help children in Year 3 & 4 build strong, regular reading habits and develop a love of reading. With Black Belt Reader, children spend most of their time reading a physical book. After reading a section, they use the Black Belt Reader app to record the pages they have read and answer a few short questions about key events from that part of the book. These questions help to check understanding and encourage careful reading. Teachers will then use the outcome of this tool to help with next steps and areas for improvement. We are aiming for Black Belt Reader to be enabled for use at home in the near future. You may see the app, Silver Reader, on your child's MyLogin screen which will enable you to use Black Belt reader at home when we are ready for that phase of implementation.

Thank you for all your support,

Rebecca Baldwin
Headteacher



Year Group	Reading	Spelling	Maths Fluency
KEY STAGE 1 (YEARS 1 & 2) — Focus: Building Foundational Skills			
Year 1	10 minutes daily reading. Note in reading record.	Half-termly overview of phonic sound patterns and key words starting from Autumn 2.	5 minute short Numbots activity.
Year 2	10 minutes daily reading. Note in reading record.	Half-termly word overview sent home to practise spelling patterns.	8 minute Times Table Rockstars or Numbots activity.
KEY STAGE 2 (YEARS 3 & 4) — Focus: Developing Independence & Embedding Core Skills			
Year 3	Continued daily reading for 10 - 15 minutes.	Half-termly overview of words, patterns, and rules sent home to explore.	10 minute Times Table Rockstars practise.
Year 4	Continued daily reading for 15–20 minutes.	Half-termly overview of words, patterns, and rules sent home to explore.	10 minute Times Table Rockstars practise. Weekly set task set Friday due to be completed by the following Tuesday.

Parental Support & Tips

- **Environment:** Help your child find a quiet, comfortable space to work free from distractions.
- **Fun Spelling Methods:** Try interactive ways to practise spellings, such as rainbow writing, writing in sand, or using magnetic letters.