

MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL



Growing Together To Build Our Future
Newsletter 1 – 11.09.26

MESSAGE from Mrs Baldwin

Welcome to the start of a new term! It's been a pleasure seeing the children return looking so smart and ready to learn. A very warm welcome to our new families, with a special shout-out to our Reception pupils who have completed their first few days —they have done brilliantly and settled in so well!

To help us keep all our children safe, please take note of the following important site reminders:

- Staff Car Park Safety: Parents and carers must not walk across the staff car park before or after school. It is extremely busy, and with staff leaving the site from 3:15 PM onwards, this poses a serious health and safety risk.
- Play Trail & Playground Supervision: The play trail is strictly off-limits before and after school. In the mornings, children should remain standing with, or near, their adults rather than running around the playground before doors open.

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair is fast approaching (23rd, 24th & 25th September) so please make sure you pop along to the school hall if you would like to purchase a book. All proceeds help the school's book budget. Have a look at what could be in our cases [here!](#)

Finally, I would like to welcome Miss Hilling and Miss Brazel to the staff team. I am sure you will join me in welcoming them.

Have a lovely weekend!

SAFEGUARDING



If you have a concern about a child, or would like support yourself to keep your child safe please know we are here! The Merley Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Waldron. The Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Baldwin and Miss Stone.

ATTENDANCE

Why does Merley value good school attendance so much?

There are many reasons - but here are a few.

- Active involvement in daily school life broadens pupils' horizons through access to extracurricular activities, enrichment and personal development opportunities.
- Consistent attendance enables pupils to build stable peer relationships, develop collaborative skills and foster a strong sense of school belonging.
- Regular presence in the classroom directly correlates with higher levels of literacy, numeracy and overall examination performance.

THIS WEEK

- Reception have started school and adjusted brilliantly!
- Year 1 have been thinking about asking questions to help us work out what is in the 'mystery bag' and making predictions in Science.
- Year 2 have been learning about micro habitats & went to find some in the woodland area.
- Year 3 examined 'stone age poo' and started reading the text Stone Age Boy.
- Year 4 have been predicting what they think might happen in our new text 'The Barnabus Project' inferring from the text already read.

RESPECTFUL, ENGAGED & READY

Congratulations to the following children who received celebration awards today:

Reception: ALL of Ladybird and Butterfly classes for an amazing few days.

Year 1: Rosie S, Billy, Benji, Margaux, Thea D, Jessica, Lana, Luis W, Max & Lily

Year 2: Roxie, Blake, Cooper, Halli, Louis H, Eddie, Millie, Liberty, Nickolay & Josie

Year 3: Quinn, Alfie G, Lincoln, Courtney, Penny, Ada, Evin, Isla T, Reece & Myles

Year 4: Viba, Arthur P, Hunter, Caitlin, Ruben, Ellie, Grace, Fletcher W, Pearl & Finley A

KEY DATES

- 15th September - new Reception meet the teacher meeting - 5:30pm
- 23rd, 24th & 25th September - Scholastic Book Fair - 3:25 - 3:50pm - via office
- 7th October - Flu vaccinations
- 6th & 7th October - Prospective 2027/28 Reception stay and discover sessions (book through office)
- 12th - 16th October - Prospective 2027/28 Reception Open Mornings 9:15am - book through school office
- 19th & 20th October - Road Safety lessons for all year groups
- 23rd October - Celebration of Learning 2:45pm - classrooms - come in and see your child's books

SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS

Our pupils accomplish amazing things every day, and we want to bring those moments into the spotlight with our new weekly newsletter feature: Snapshots of Success!

What Can You Share?

We want to celebrate all kinds of accomplishments outside the school gates, including:

- Sports & Skills: Swimming badges, martial arts gradings or trying a new activity.
- Community & Kindness: Charity fundraising, volunteering, or helping neighbours.
- Living Our Values: Showing exceptional dedication to being Respectful, Engaged, or Ready.
- Personal Bests: Reaching a long-sought goal, performing in a show, or conquering a tough challenge.

How to Get Involved:

If your child has an achievement to share, simply email us at the school office with:

1. A Photo of your child in action or with their award.
2. A Short Description (2–3 sentences) explaining what they achieved.
3. Subject Line: "Snapshots of Success"

We will feature as many inspiring moments as possible each week so our entire school community can celebrate together. We can't wait to see your snapshots!