

MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL



Growing Together To Build Our Future
Newsletter 6 -16.10.26

MESSAGE from Mrs Baldwin

This week, our school community truly shone as we welcomed prospective families for Reception 2027–2028 open tours. Our pupils represented the school wonderfully, showing exceptional engagement and deep pride in their work. Visitors were impressed by how articulately our children spoke about their learning and were amazed by the visible progression in knowledge and confidence across the year groups. I have never been prouder of our children and staff—their dedication and enthusiasm made a lasting impression on everyone who walked through our doors.

The children enjoyed both rain and sunshine this week at break times. On Monday and Tuesday wellies were worn and puddles were enjoyed whereas, jumpers were discarded on Wednesday and Thursday as the children enjoyed the Autumn sun. If your child does not currently have wellington boots in school, please bring some in but make sure they are named.

Finally, I am delighted to share that we have been awarded a Music Mark of Recognition by the BCP Music Education Agency SoundStorm who recognise our vibrant music curriculum and make music a meaningful part of every child's learning. Next term, our voices will sing loud and proud as preparation for the Christmas music festivities begin.

One more week until the half term break. Have a lovely weekend.

SAFEGUARDING

NSPCC

Helpline

For any concerns about a child
help@nspcc.org.uk | 0800 800 5000



ATTENDANCE

Whenever possible, please arrange routine medical and dental appointments after school, during school holidays, or on staff development (INSET) days.

If an appointment during school hours cannot be avoided, please aim for the very start or end of the school day so your child misses minimal lesson time.

Just ask the professional you are seeing for an out of school hours appointment because medical appointments still affect attendance.



Did you know? Schools are legally required to regularly inform parents of their child's attendance data. When a pupil's data begins to worsen, the school must formally notify parents to prevent them from unintentionally crossing legal thresholds.

THIS WEEK

- Reception made class posters all about the ways we can help Planet Earth.
- Year 1 have started looking at wholes and parts of a whole in maths.
- Year 2 have been plotting the distribution of blackberry bushes around MFS.
- Year 3 have written their own instructions based on the book, 'How to wash a Woolly Mammouth.
- Year 4 focused on teamwork to be successful in basketball this week.

RESPECTFUL, ENGAGED & READY

Congratulations to the following children who received celebration awards today:

Reception: Kelsey, Teddy C, Rue, Rocco, Zara, Cash, Milena, Freddie P, Dirk & Oliver C

Year 1: Olivia S, Tommy M, Charlotte B, Olivia S, Blake R, Junior, Layla, Annie Mae, Maddie & Sebby

Year 2: Millie M, Leon, Eddie T, Annika, Jaxon, Buddy, Bella W, Blake, Ava K & Daisy W

Year 3: Lenny S, Adelaide, Thea A, Eva C, Ada RT, Marley Sq, Harvey F, Arlo H, Ada G & Rex P

Year 4: Lottie C, Elliot, Robbie, Evie, Charlotte, Devyn, Frankie-Lee, Emilia, Daisy W & Arlo W

HARVEST THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to Harvest Festival collection! Your overwhelming generosity, we collected a fantastic array of donations, which have now gratefully received by the Wimborne Food Bank.

Your kindness and support directly help local individuals and families in need within our wider community.



ICT AND SCREEN TIME

You may have seen the recent news coverage discussing screen time and its impact on children's health, development and well-being. We know that headlines like these can raise questions and cause concern for parents, so we wanted to share how we approach technology here at Merley. We believe in a balanced and purposeful approach to screen use:

We use digital technology as a tool to support learning when it genuinely enhances teaching, such as during computing or when staff are live modelling or sharing resources.

We equally value hands-on experience. Our pupils learn through hands-on exploration, outdoor learning, physical play and collaborative group work.

For families looking for guidance on managing screen time and digital habits at home, please see this really useful guide by Internet Matters:

👉 [Internet Matters: Guide to Screen Time](#)

internet
matters.org

KEY DATES

- 19th & 20th October - Road Safety lessons for all year groups with BCP Roadsafety Teams
- 20th October - Donations for Shoebox appeal 8.30am - 9.00am outside front of school
- 21st October - PTA Halloween Disco (flyer below)
- 23rd October - Celebration of Learning 2:45pm - classrooms - come in and see your child's books
- **NEW** 4th November - Individual and sibling photographs
- **NEW** 10th & 12th November - Parent Consultation Evenings
- **NEW** 11th, 18th and 25th November - Year 1 and Year 4 BCP Road Safety Training on the crossing

SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS

Congratulations to Reggie (Y2) who did the 1.5K race at Bournemouth Running festival this weekend in 7 minutes. He had to run by himself and his family are so proud of him and so are we!

Rosie in Year 1, volunteers at the Blandford Animal Sanctuary doing early morning opening or bedtime close up of the animals once a fortnight. She cleans out the animals and ensures they get lots of fuss and love. Amazing work Rosie!

Finally, for this week, Luca in Year 2 recently took part in a gymnastics competition where he came first for his floor routine. Well done Luca!



If your child would like to celebrate a snapshot of their success - anything they have achieved, big or small - then please send a picture and a few sentences to office@merleyfirstschool.org

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

The theme this year is

Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change.

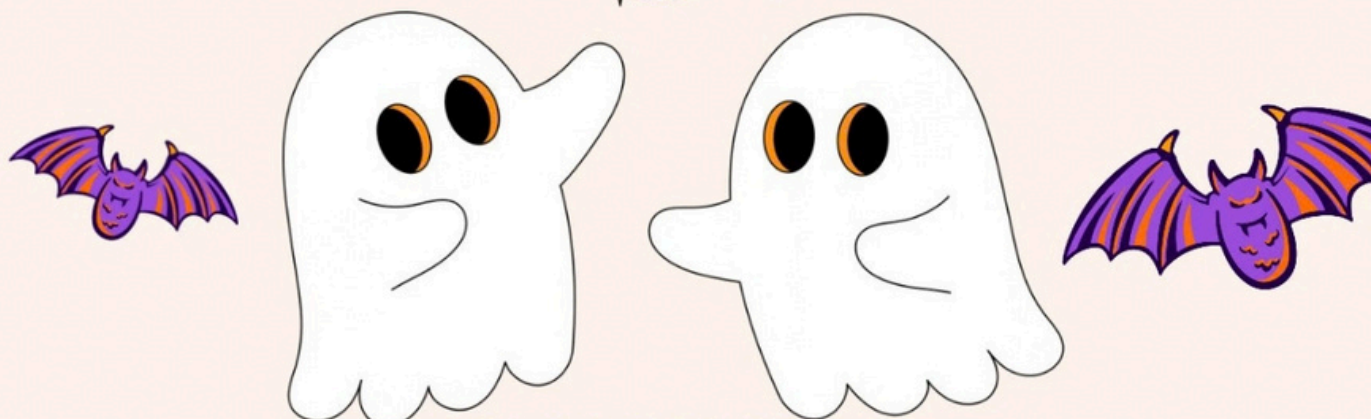
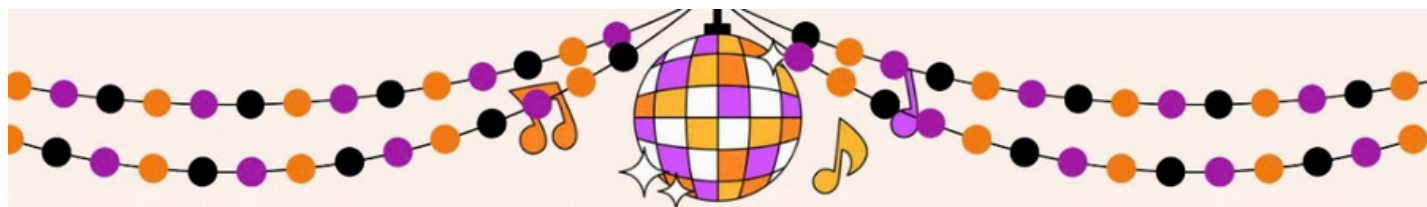


The children loved helping to create our giant rainbow at the back of the playground.

It makes us all smile!

Thank you for all your help and support,
we had plenty of ribbon and material.

Pupil voice worked hard to collect ideas from each class on things we could change in school to help us feel even happier. More to follow.



MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

HALLOWEEN DISCO

WITH "OUTALIMITS DISCOS"

WEDNESDAY **21ST** OCTOBER

RECEPTION ~ 3.45 - 4.15

YEAR 1 & 2 ~ 4.30 - 5.15

★ YEAR 3 & 4 ~ 5.30 - 6.15

COSTUMES OPTIONAL!



USE THE QR CODE
OR FOLLOW THE
LINK TO BUY
YOUR TICKET!





CHRISTMAS THEME



Outdoor Adventurers
Forest School



ADULTS ONLY SESSION

Held in the woodland area at Merley First School, BH21 1SD

Friday 11th December 2026, 6pm – 8pm

Come along to our adults only Forest School evening, where you can experience mindfulness and relaxation in our candlelit woodland area, enjoy some Christmas themed natural crafts in our purpose-built wooden shelter, and finish the evening with warm mulled wine or hot chocolate and mince pies or stollen around the campfire.

Other things on offer;

- Hammocks available for quiet reflection
- Have a go at lighting your own small fire
- Whittling and Christmas themed natural crafts
- Relax in the treehouse
- Chat and meet likeminded people



Please dress for the weather as the session is fully outdoors. Warm, waterproof clothing and wellies or suitable shoes are essential.



Merry
Christmas



The cost of each session is £18 per person, payable before the event.

This session is only available to 18+.

To book your space follow the link to our booking page or scan the QR code:

<https://bookwhen.com/outdooradventurers>

Or for further information email Helen at:

outdooradventurers10@gmail.com

You can also follow our Facebook page for updates

