

FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2023

# MERRYLANDS NEWS

AUTUMN TERM AT MERRYLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Open-minded

Inquisitive

Never Give Up

## Attendance

School Attendance Target: 97.00%

This week's Attendance: 94.80%

Remember.... If your child is absent, a call must be made to the School Office EVERY school day that your child is absent and must be reported by phone 01268 417893, via email [admin@merrylands-pri.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@merrylands-pri.essex.sch.uk) or ParentMail. Please do not send a message via Seesaw or Tapestry.

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have reached the end of a half term that no one could have predicted but despite the rest of the year looking a little different in terms of events and how we run things ultimately all the pupils will be back on site and we will be together again as one school.

I have been exceptionally proud of Merrylands pupils and I am sure you will agree that the staff have done a marvellous job settling in the children amongst challenging circumstances.

I do wish you all an enjoyable half term and we shall see you all on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October due to Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October being a training day for staff (INSET).

Take care,

Mrs Robinson

## Star of the Week

Acorn Class: Klay C

Sunflower: Max L

Daisy Class: Isabella O

Daffodil Class: Leonisa G

Ladybird Class: Lydia A

Dragonfly Class: Jessica G

Butterfly Class: Hanaa M

Sycamore Class: Arley H

Oak Class: Albert A

Maple Class: Rosie M

Lake Class: Teddy O

Ocean Class: Evie S

River Class: Annie-May G

Amazon Class: Tegan E-G

Snowdonia Class: Jenson H

Eagle Class: Kiara F

Falcon Class: Tyler R

Adventurer Class: Teddy K

Explorer Class: Harriet W



### Did you know?

Jupiter is the fastest spinning planet in the Solar System.



### UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award

We have received this lovely message from Director of Education -

I was delighted to receive a letter recently from Martin Russell (UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award Programme Director) which confirmed that your school has achieved the Silver award.



Embedding children's rights in the ethos and culture of a school, and to receive an external recognition of this in such a way is something to be deservedly celebrated.

I would like to extend my congratulations to you, your staff and governing body for this achievement which is a tribute to you all and thank you for your ongoing commitment to the children in your school community.

### Poetry Slam

This week Year 1 and Year 4 pupils attended the Berlusduna Poetry Slam. They all read their poems confidently and had a great time listening to other schools. Well done children!



### Upcoming Events

31.10.23 - Children Return to School

10.11.23 - Armistice Day to be observed in school

11.11.23 - Armistice Day

w/b 13.11.23 - Anti-bullying week

15.11.23 - Trust Maths Challenge

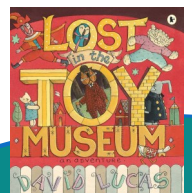
17.11.23 - Children In Need - Yellow & Pudsey non-uniform (cash donations)



Butterfly Class recommends 'Lost in the Toy Museum' by David Lucas.

The story is about one night, when the lights go out at a toy museum, everyone runs off and hides. Left all on his own, Bunting, the sensible old toy cat, sets out to look for them.

We have enjoyed this book because it links with our History Topic and it has lots of old toys in it.



## Year One is taking part in the Five to Twelve study

Pupils from our school have been selected to take part in the new **Five to Twelve** study!

Five to Twelve is a new national study involving around 8,000 children attending primary school in the 2020s and their families. The study will explore how children are getting on in a range of areas in the post-pandemic context. By following children and their families over time, the study aims to provide a contemporary understanding of how children's environments and experiences impact on their future education and wellbeing outcomes.

For the first stage of the study, the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), which is delivering the study on behalf of DfE, will be sending letters to the parents or carers of the selected children at their home address in October 2023. The information posted to families will list the various ways they can get in touch with the study team, should they have questions about participating or opting out.

If invited parents and carers have any questions, you can visit the study website at [fivetotwelve.org.uk](https://fivetotwelve.org.uk), or get in touch with the study team at [FivetoTwelve@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:FivetoTwelve@natcen.ac.uk) or on Freephone **0800 652 4568**.

# PHYSICALEducation



## Body Parts

**What you need:** A ball



Get Set 4  
Education

### How to play:

- Explore dribbling the ball. Can you dribble it so that it bounces high? And low? Can you use one hand then the other?
- Keeping your ball bouncing all the time, can you touch the following body parts to the floor?
  - Hands
  - Knees
  - Bottom
  - Stomach
  - Back
  - Forehead



### Top tips:

- Use soft, ball shaped hands and keep the ball close to you.

[www.getset4education.co.uk](http://www.getset4education.co.uk)

**Sportsperson of the Half Term...**  
**Bukayo Saka**

**Who is Bukayo Saka?**  
Bukayo Saka is a professional footballer who was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2001 in Ealing, London. He currently plays in the Premier League for Arsenal and also plays for the English national team.

As a child he enjoyed playing football in the back garden with his brother and dad and at the age of 6, he joined a local team – Greenford Celtic.

**What has Bukayo achieved?**  
Bukayo signed for Arsenal as a child, he then made his debut for the first team on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018. He was named as Arsenal's Player of the Season for 2020/21 and is known for being a versatile player. Off of the pitch, Bukayo has worked with the charity BigShoe and wants to inspire children.



### BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

BERLESDUNA – OPERATIONS MANAGER closing date 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
BERLESDUNA – FINANCE MANAGER closing date 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
CHERRY TREE – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 31<sup>st</sup> October  
CHERRY TREE – HLTA closing date 31<sup>st</sup> October  
CRAYS HILL – BEHAVIOUR & SUPPORT MENTOR closing date 30<sup>th</sup> October  
CRAYS HILL – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 30<sup>th</sup> October  
FELMORE – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
MERRYLANDS – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 2<sup>nd</sup> November

For more information and to apply for any of our roles, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies – Berlesduna Academy Trust](#)