



MERRYLANDS

PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

SPRING TERM – FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2025

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL – MRS PRYER

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another busy week at Merrylands with the highlight being World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. The children enjoyed a range of book based activities throughout the day as well as a whole school assembly. Thank you for your efforts and support with costumes, face painting and props, the children really did look amazing!

Please can I remind all parents/carers who drive to the school to think carefully about where they are stopping or parking at drop off and pick up times. Several dangerous situations have occurred when cars have stopped outside the school gates or on the zebra crossing, making it unsafe for the pupils of Merrylands to walk to school.

In other areas of school life this week, Nursery have been exploring shapes and puzzles, Reception have been making pancakes, Year 1 have been learning about the weather and Year 2 have been finding the pulse in music. Children in the Nest have been working on their pencil control while the children in the ASC have been learning about addition and number bonds. In Year 3 the children have been using conjunctions in their writing, Year 4 have explored different ways to communicate in PSHE, Year 5 have been acting out The Tempest by William Shakespeare and Year 6 attended the Crucial Crew event at the Towngate theatre.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine!

ATTENDANCE

School Attendance Target: 97.00 %



This week's Attendance: 92.31 %

The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Mrs King's class with 97.33 %

The class with the best attendance in KS2 was Mr Taylor's class with 99.23 %

If your child is absent, contact must be made to the School Office EVERY school day that your child is absent.

Please report your child's absence by phone 01268 417893, ParentMail or by email: admin@merrylands-pri.essex.sch.uk

RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE



STAR OF THE WEEK

CERTIFICATE FOCUS: PERSEVERANCE



Nest: Frank R
 Nursery, Mrs Tobin: Libby B
 Reception, Mrs Anthony: Olivia L
 Reception, Mrs Sullivan: Henry G
 Reception, Miss Bagridge: Klay C
 Year 1, Mrs Andrade: Joris M
 Year 1, Mrs Fairman/Mrs Christie: Lukas B
 Year 1, Mrs Camoccio: Erik E
 Year 2, Mrs King: Evie F
 Year 2, Miss Gilmore: Alexandra S
 Year 2, Mrs Jarvis: Freya-Rose H

Year 3, Mrs Almond: Ivy-Mae H
 Year 3, Mr Taylor: Louie L
 Year 3, Miss Medina: Leo G & Lucas M
 Year 4, Miss Lee: Cristina V
 Year 4, Miss Miller: Freddie T
 Year 4, Mrs Didham: Charlie H
 Year 5, Miss Day: Arianna M
 Year 5, Miss Osborne: Frankie D
 Year 6, Miss White: Jaiden T
 Year 6, Mr Hayward: Emily L

MERRYLANDS BADGE WINNERS

Our Merrylands badges are given to the pupils who demonstrate the school values at all times. They are good role models to other pupils and work hard to improve every single day. They try their best and persevere in all lessons, complete homework on time, have good school attendance and show respect and kindness to their peers.

Congratulations to this week's winners:

Reception	Daniel G
Year 1	Scarlett B
Year 2	Stella C
Year 3	Tia S
Year 4	Zac A
Year 5	Susannah F
Year 6	Jasmina L

BOOK OF THE WEEK

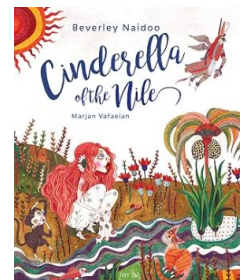
Miss Medina's class have just finished reading the book *Cinderella of the Nile* by Beverley Naidoo. The story reimagines the traditional Cinderella story in Ancient Egypt with a rosy-cheeked girl called Rhodopis who wears rose-red slippers. We have really enjoyed the twist of the tale in comparison to the traditional story of Cinderella.

The children's views:

'I like how the story is linked to the original Cinderella'.

'The book moved me as Rhodopis is so kind and I liked that it had a happy ending'.

'I liked how the story got better and better along the way'.



RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

14.03.2025	Science Day
17.03.2025	St. Patrick's Day Special Dinner
21.03.2025	Red Nose Day—Comic Relief—Red non-uniform
28.03.2025	Mother's Day Sale
07.04.2025 - 21.04.2025	Easter Holidays
22.04.2025	Return to School



POTTERY CLUB

Another successful pottery Club for Year 6. Please find pictures of their pots that they made and glazed to their own designs.



YEAR 6 – CRUCIAL CREW

This week, year 6 attended the Crucial Crew workshop at the Towngate Theatre with a focus on three key areas: vaping, knife crime and criminal exploitation. It was a highly engaging workshop where the children were made aware of some pressing issues that are affecting children of their age in these areas. The children enjoyed the workshop, having the opportunity to leave the school premises and found some of the information shared very interesting which hopefully they will share at home too.

YEAR 6 – MAYAN WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, Year 6 took part in a Mayan Workshop where they used all that they have already learnt about the Ancient Civilisation to explore Mayan culture and travel back in time. They were given the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding through role play which they all engaged with. The children really impressed us with how much they were able to recall and share with the workshop leaders.

Year 6 children, " We all gathered around and we answered a few questions about the Mayans. Then, we worked in groups of 4 and each group were given a task to act out something from the Mayan time. Our group was given the theme of slavery and sacrifice. We all enjoyed working together to do this to create freeze frames. After that, we walked around and we saw a pyramid built by the Mayans and we had some people who acted out being astrologists too. I really enjoyed it because I got to be fully involved."

RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

TAG RUGBY TOURNAMENT

Last Friday, children from Year 5 and 6 attended a Tournament at James Hornsby School. They played amazingly well and won every single game they played. Well done to everyone who participated.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Billy was awarded with player of the match for his football team. Billy is a goalkeeper and made some super saves, keeping his team in the game with a final score of 1-1. Well done Billy.



WORLD BOOK DAY

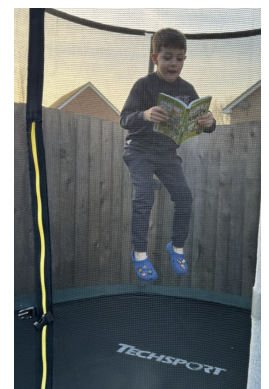
Children and Staff took part in World Book Day dressing as their favourite book characters.



As part of our World Book Day celebrations this year and keeping with the 2025 theme, "Read Your Way," we would like to thank everyone who submitted their World Book Day Photographs of your children enjoying a book in the most weird and wonderful places they could think of!



Our winners are:
EYFS - Erin N
KS1 - Dylan H
KS2 - Teddie C



RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Sportsperson of the Half Term...

Ashley Facey

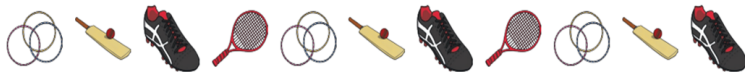
Who is Ashley Facey?

Ashley Facey was born on the 31st of January 1995 in London. He is a Paralympian who plays table tennis for team GB. Ashley was born with a condition called Erbs palsy which has affected the nerves in the right side of his body. This has mainly impacted his arm and his shoulder.

He has always been a keen sports fan and in Year 7, started playing table tennis. Ashley impressed his coaches with his talent and they suggested he try for the Paralympic GB team. He has said his disability does not hold him back.

What has Ashley achieved?

In 2009, Ashley joined the Great Britain performance squad. He just missed out on selection for the London 2012 Paralympic Games but was selected for the Inspiration Programme and competed at Rio 2016. Ashley has won a number of medals including a silver at the China Open (2019) and team bronze medal at the European Championships in the same year.



Add it on



Get Set 4
Education

What you need: Music

People: 2 or more

Play: Inside



How to play:

- One person shows everyone else a dance move.
- The others copy the move.
- The next person shows everyone a dance move.
- Everyone does the first move and then adds on the next move and so on.

www.getset4education.co.uk

SPRING DISCO

Friends of Merrylands are looking to arrange a Spring Disco after the Easter break. In order for this to take place we require parent volunteers to help at the event - if you are able to volunteer, please email: friendsofmerrylands@gmail.com.

Further information will follow if there are enough volunteers to run this event.

The proposed dates are as follows:

Tuesday 22nd April, Wednesday 23rd April, Thursday 24th April

Join Today!

FRIENDS OF
MERRYLANDS

LOTTERY



Next
Draw



And the
Winner
is...

VICTORIA
EVANS £20.40

FRIENDS OF MERRYLANDS LOTTERY

For just £3.00 per ticket, you have the chance to win BIG every month.

Sign up here: <https://www.fundingwall.org.uk/members/merrylands-monthly-lottery-ss156qs>

Share with friends and family - everyone can join in!

Monthly Draws: Each month, a winning number is drawn.

Fantastic Prizes: 40% of the total pot goes to the lucky winner.

Support our School: 40% of the total pot goes to supporting Merrylands Primary School.

You will be entered every month until you cancel. Join the fun, support our school and you could be the next big winner!

RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

Lunch at a glance...

The option of Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans, Ham Baguette and Cheese Baguette are available each day

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Monday	Sticky BBQ Chicken or Sticky BBQ Quorn with Steamed Rice and Sweetcorn Dessert – Fresh Fruit or Yogurt	Chicken Curry or Vegetable Curry with Steamed Rice and Peas / Sweetcorn Dessert – Fresh Fruit or Yogurt	Cheesy Chicken Pasta Bake or Vegetable Pasta Bake with Sweetcorn Dessert – Homemade Flapjack
Tuesday	Butchers Chicken Nuggets or Vegetable Nuggets with Chips and Peas / Spaghetti Hoops Dessert – American Pancakes and Syrup	Sausage Roll or Vegan Roll with Smiley Faces and Baked Beans Dessert – Chocolate Cake and Chocolate Custard	Butchers Pork Sausages or Vegan Sausages with Mashed Potato, Peas, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy Dessert – Fresh Fruit or Yogurt
Wednesday	Homemade Mince Beef Pie or Homemade Vegetable Pie with Mashed Potato, Seasonal Vegetables and Gravy Dessert – Fruit Flavour Jelly	Butchers Roast Chicken or Vegan Fillet with Roast Potatoes, Peas / Carrots, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy Dessert – Fruit Flavour Jelly	Homemade Chicken Pie or Quorn and Vegetable Pie with Roast Potatoes, Carrots and Gravy Dessert – Fruit Flavour Jelly
Thursday	Cheese & Tomato Pizza and Fusilli Pasta with Homemade Tomato Sauce Dessert – Homemade Flapjack	Beef Bolognese or Vegetable Bolognese with Fusilli Pasta and Mixed Vegetables Dessert – American Pancakes and Syrup	Chicken Fajita Wrap or Quorn Fajita Wrap with Diced Potatoes and Salad Bar Dessert – Homemade Lemon Drizzle Cake
Friday	Fish Fingers or Homemade Cheddar Whirl with Wedges and Baked Beans Dessert – Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Battered Fish or Omelette with Chips and Peas Dessert – Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Fish Fingers or Homemade Cheddar Whirl with Smiley Faces and Spaghetti Hoops Dessert – Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt

Salad Bar is available Daily



On Monday 10th March 2025, we will be returning on Week 1.

Please ensure all school lunches are paid for in advance on ScoPay.



Please let the office staff know if there are any changes to your child's dietary needs.

INFORMATION

ACL **FREE**
FAMILY SUPPORT SESSIONS FOR PARENT & CARERS
ONLINE

An opportunity for parents/carers, to come along and connect with a community dedicated to positive growth and development. All sessions are online

- Sibling Rivalry**
11/03/2025 1900 - 2100 Search 'Sibling' via our website
- Sleep For Wellbeing**
13/03/2025 0930 - 1130 Search 'Bitesize Sleep' via our website
- Managing Big Emotions**
25/03/2025 1900 - 2100 or 28/03/2025 1230 - 1430
Search 'Big Emotions' via our website
- Family Wellbeing**
27/03/2025 0930 - 1130 Search 'Family Wellbeing' via our website

Visit our website acessex.com and type the key words above in to the 'Find a course...' box

COMMUNITY & FAMILY LEARNING

ACL **ZONES OF REGULATION SESSIONS**

FREE

Help Your Child Master Their Emotions

Join our transformative Zones of Regulation sessions, designed to provide you with information to support your child to understand their emotions, & to self regulate.

Sign Up!

- Scan the QR code, OR
- Visit our website acessex.com and type the word 'Zones' in to the 'Find a course...' box, OR
- Click [here](#) and type the word 'Zones'

SCAN ME

COMMUNITY & FAMILY LEARNING

RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS



ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a £10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, far starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some innuendo and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Wela, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.



FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.



DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



The National College