



# MERRYLANDS

## PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

SPRING TERM – FRIDAY 14TH MARCH 2025

### MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL – MRS PRYER

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, the school was visited by Ofsted this week. The inspection involved three inspectors observing lessons, speaking to children, meeting with staff and governors, speaking to parents, hearing children read and looking at children's work. We are now waiting for the report to be written and we will share the outcome of the inspection with you as soon as we can.

We have had several school achievements over the past week. On Friday 7th March, the Tag Rugby team won silver medals for their competition and on Thursday 13th March, some children from Year 2 and Year 5 attended the Berlesduna Trust Science competition and achieved 2nd place, also coming away with silver medals – well done to all involved!

Across the school this week, children in Nursery have been using chalk to create routes on the playground, Reception have been labelling parts of a plant, Year 1 have been creating a weather dance in PE and Year 2 have been comparing England and India in geography. The children in the Nest have been identifying animal sounds while the children in the ASC have been completing work about the story 'Lost and Found'. Further up the school, Year 3 have been learning about working together in PSHE, Year 4 have been finding out about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, Year 5 have been rounding decimal numbers to the nearest whole number and Year 6 have been learning about the Mayan Number system.

I hope you all have an enjoyable weekend.

### ATTENDANCE

School Attendance Target: 97.00 %



**This week's Attendance: 94.07 %**

**The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Mrs Camoccio's class with 99.60 %**

**The class with the best attendance in KS2 was Miss Miller's class with 97.39 %**

**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](mailto:admin@merrylands-pri.essex.sch.uk)**

RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE



## STAR OF THE WEEK

## CERTIFICATE FOCUS: PERSEVERANCE



Nest: Henry S

Nursery, Mrs Tobin: Leya L

Reception, Mrs Anthony: Kareem O

Reception, Mrs Sullivan: Alexander L

Reception, Miss Bagridge:

Year 1, Mrs Andrade: Presley W

Year 1, Mrs Fairman/Mrs Christie: Matthew A

Year 1, Mrs Camoccio: Shiloh S

Year 2, Mrs King: Nathaniel O

Year 2, Miss Gilmore: Ayan B

Year 2, Mrs Jarvis: Kevin C

Year 3, Mrs Almond: Olivia A

Year 3, Mr Taylor: Angel K

Year 3, Miss Medina: Arley H

Year 4, Miss Lee: Riley S-P

Year 4, Miss Miller: Jesudasimi A

Year 4, Mrs Didham: David M

Year 5, Miss Day: Lily-Mae P

Year 5, Miss Osborne: Carter M

Year 6, Miss White: Emily P

Year 6, Mr Hayward: Evie G

## MERRYLANDS BADGE WINNERS

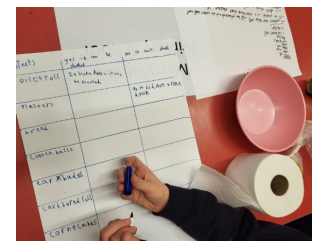
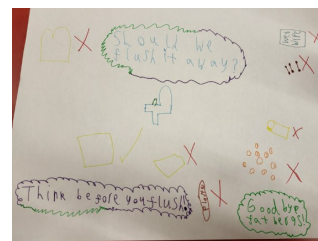
Our Merrylands badges are given to the pupils who demonstrate the school values at all times. They are good role models to other pupils and work hard to improve every single day. They try their best and persevere in all lessons, complete homework on time, have good school attendance and show respect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

Congratulations to this week's winners.

Reception	Klay C
Year 1	Roxanne O
Year 2	Jessica G
Year 3	Chidubem E
Year 4	Matilda H
Year 5	Daisy G
Year 6	Carmen B

## SCIENCE COMPETITION

We had a fantastic morning at a Trust Science competition at Felmores Primary School on Thursday. Iulian, Evan, Abigail and Freddy had to complete an investigation about 'Should we flush it away?' and then give a presentation about it to the judges. Our children were amazing and they were awarded a silver medal for their excellent work. A huge well done to all of them - we are very proud of you.



# RESPECT

# KINDNESS

# PERSEVERANCE

## UPCOMING DIARY DATES

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



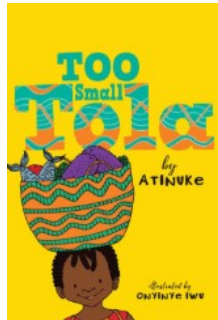
## BOOK OF THE WEEK

Mrs Jarvis' class are currently reading *Too Small Tola* by Atinuke which is the inspiring story of a smart and brave young girl named Tola, who lives in a busy city in Nigeria. Despite being small, Tola shows everyone that size doesn't matter when it comes to kindness, bravery, and family.

Here are some of the children's thoughts...

'I like this book because Tola is kind and stands up to people and teaches others to be kind'.

'I enjoy this story because it is lovely and relaxing'.



## LITTLE PRINCESS TRUST

Freya in Year 6 will be donating her hair to the Little Princess Trust on the 27th April 2025.

Please find details for Freya's just giving page.



Help us reach our £1,000 target!

Make a donation with **JustGiving**

On Thursday 3rd April 2025, Freya will be selling lucky bags, phone charms, bracelets and a tombo-la. Prices will start from £1.00.

More details to follow.

## 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!



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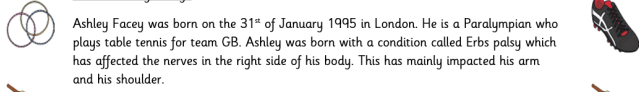
## PHYSICAL EDUCATION



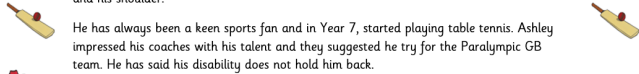
### Sportsperson of the Half Term...

#### Ashley Facey

##### Who is Ashley Facey?



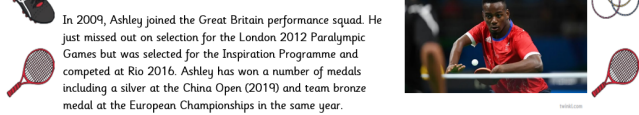
Ashley Facey was born on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 1995 in London. He is a Paralympian who plays table tennis for team GB. Ashley was born with a condition called Erbs palsy which has affected the nerves in the right side of his body. This has mainly impacted his arm and his shoulder.



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.



## Colour Command



Get Set 4  
Education

**What you need:** 4 - 6 different coloured socks or items

### How to play:

- Lay out 4-6 different coloured pairs of socks in a circle formation and stand in the middle.
- Ask a helper to call out 2 colours and see if you can use your speedy feet to get quickly to the correct colours in turn.
- Return to the middle of the circle and repeat with a new call.

### Top tips:

- Start in the ready position, feet shoulder width apart and knees bent, ready to react.
- Head and shoulders facing forwards
- Turn your hips and move your feet to each colour.



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

## TAG RUGBY TOURNAMENT

The Year 5 and 6 Tag Rugby team won silver medals at last Friday's tournament at James Hornsby School. They played 5 tournaments in total and over the past two tournaments the children played 8 games and won each and every one of them. They played amazingly well.

## SNACKS

As part of the National School Fruit Scheme all children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 are provided with free fruit each day. They can also bring in their own fruit or a healthy snack as set out below. In KS2 children can bring their own snack for break time. Below is a list of suitable options that you could provide for your child:

- fruit
- vegetables
- plain rice cakes
- plain crackers
- bread sticks
- nut free granola bar or oat bar

Snacks should not contain chocolate chips, chocolate coating, nuts, artificial sugars and colourings or have a high sugar, fat or salt content eg crisps, fruit winders, pretzels, mini cheddars etc.

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# 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 Bolognaise or Vegetable Bolognaise 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 17th March 2025, we will be returning on Week 2.

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.





## St. Patrick's Day Lunch Menu

*On Monday 17th March we will be providing a special St. Patrick's Day Lunch!*

*Children will have the option of:*  
**Traditional Lamb Shepherd's Pie**  
 or  
**Quorn Shepherd's Pie**

**Dessert:**  
**Vanilla Ice Cream**

*The option of ham/cheese baguette or jacket potato will be available for all pupils.*

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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](http://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
7

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for on-line dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

#### ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

#### MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable in smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

#### RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

#### IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

#### SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

#### PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

#### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

#### TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of an online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

#### Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



The National College