



MERRYLANDS

PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

SPRING TERM – FRIDAY 4TH APRIL 2025

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL – MRS PRYER

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of the Spring term, I would like to say thank you for your continued support. The children have worked very hard throughout the Spring term and have demonstrated our core values in their class work, on the playground and in their general conduct around the school. In celebration assembly today, we congratulated all the children on their hard work and perseverance as well as for showing kindness and respect to others.

In celebration assembly we also announced this half term's team point winners. The winning teams were **BLUE TEAM** in Early Years / Key Stage 1 and **RED TEAM** in Key Stage 2. When we return after half term, all totals will be reset and we look forward to finding out which team will win next term.

Today, we also celebrated all the children who have achieved 100% attendance in the Spring term. Certificates were handed out in assembly and all these children were entered into the 100% attendance raffle. The winners were:

Caleen L	Inioluwa A	Dorit T	Daisy G	Emily L
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Congratulations to all our prize winners who received a certificate and a gift voucher. A special attendance reward will take place for all of the children who achieved 100% attendance for the Spring term after the holidays.

This week we have sadly had to say goodbye to Mrs Vasian (Learning Support Assistant) and Mrs Adamoviene (Catering Assistant). I am sure you will all join me in wishing them both all the best for the future.

Finally, I hope you all have a good spring break and for those of you celebrating Easter, I hope you have a lovely time with your family. Fingers crossed the sun continues to shine!

ATTENDANCE

School Attendance Target: 97.00 %



This week's Attendance: 91.39 %

The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Mrs Andrade's class with 96.15 %

The class with the best attendance in KS2 was Mr Hayward's class with 97.93 %

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: Zachary M

Nursery, Mrs Tobin: Joshua A

Reception, Mrs Anthony: Santiago D-C

Reception, Mrs Sullivan: Austin B

Reception, Miss Bagridge: Vinny L

Year 1, Mrs Andrade: Azan K

Year 1, Mrs Fairman/Mrs Christie: Betty-Rose

Year 1, Mrs Camoccio: Dominik P

Year 2, Mrs King: Kiki C

Year 2, Miss Gilmore: Whole Class

Year 2, Mrs Jarvis: Joshua S

Year 3, Mrs Almond: Bleresa G

Year 3, Mr Taylor: Dragos M

Year 3, Miss Medina: Beau M

Year 4, Miss Lee: Teddy O

Year 4, Miss Miller: Lillie-Ann A

Year 4, Mrs Didham: Ejay O

Year 5, Miss Day: Amira G

Year 5, Miss Osborne: Rosie G

Year 6, Miss White: Lenny P-A

Year 6, Mr Hayward: Pippa F

Reception	Sadie D
Year 1	Thomas H
Year 2	Hanaa M
Year 3	Lillie S
Year 4	Rayyan M
Year 5	Scarlett D
Year 6	Ronnie D

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.



ATTENDANCE WINNERS



On Wednesday 2nd April 2025, we held another attendance raffle.

All children who were in school on Wednesday 2nd April 2025 were entered into the raffle.

The winners were:



George G
Zyana E
Bleresa G
David P



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UPCOMING DIARY DATES

April	Autism Acceptance Month
22.04.2025	Return to School
23.04.2025	St George's Day - Non-Uniform Day - Red and White
May	
w.b 12.05.2025	Year 6 SATs Week
21.05.2025	National Numeracy Day
w.b 26.05.2025	May Half Term



ACHIEVEMENTS



Sonny from Reception received a Blue Peter Sports Badge for his efforts in Kung Fu.

Well Done Sonny.

EASTER EGG COMPETITION

Head Boy and Head Girl have had a very tough job of judging them but through lots of discussion they have decided the winning eggs are:

Reception - Avineet B

Year 2 - Gagu D

Year 4 - Tony A

Year 6 - Summer B



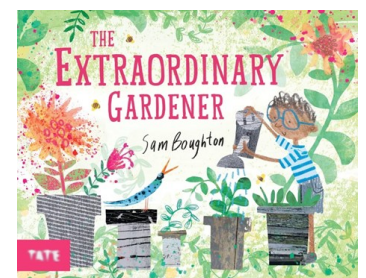
BOOK OF THE WEEK

The Extraordinary Gardener by Sam Boughton

In Reception we have been reading "The Extraordinary Gardener." It is a lovely story about improving your environment. Joe plants seeds and grows beautiful flowers which he shares with his community to make it a brighter, happier place.

"I liked when Joe planted the apple seed," says Lexi.

"It was kind when Joe shared the plants with people," says Ryan.



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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!



CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION



Due to their excellent achievement at the local Cross Country heats, Max and Amelia qualified to take part in the Essex Primary Schools Cross Country competition on Wednesday 2nd April 2025.

Both children did amazingly well - Max placed 25/150 and Amelia 37/150.

Wonderful achievement—Well done Amelia and Max.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Mousetrap

What you need: 1 basket, 1 large bottle, a ball or pair of socks, 1 or more players.

How to play:

- Turn the basket upside down. Tilt the basket as you keep it lifted at one end by placing it on top of the bottle.
- Using your ball or rolled up socks, try to hit the bottle so that the basket drops to the floor.
- Playing with a partner? Who can knock the mousetrap down first?
- Make this harder by standing further away when you make the throw.
- Then try balancing the basket with different items such as a trainer or some toilet rolls.



Get Set 4 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.



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RESPECT

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 **Lighter Bites**



OUR LIGHTER LUNCH
OPTIONS OF JACKET
POTATO & HAM OR CHEESE
BAGUETTE ARE AVAILABLE
TO ALL PUPILS EVERYDAY



SALAD BAR
AVAILABLE DAILY

MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY

WEEK 1

SWEET & SOUR CHICKEN
SWEET & SOUR VEGETABLES
WITH STEAMED RICE & SWEETCORN
DESSERT - HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE SPRINKLE CAKE
FRUIT & YOGHURT

FISH FINGERS
CHEDDAR WHIRL
WITH SMILEY FACES AND SPAGHETTI HOOPS
DESSERT - AMERICAN PANCAKES WITH SYRUP
FRUIT & YOGHURT

BUTCHERS PORK SAUSAGES
VEGAN FILLET
WITH MASH, YORKSHIRE PUDDING, PEAS &
GRAVY
DESSERT - JELLY & FRUIT

BEEF BOLOGNESE
VEGETABLE BOLOGNESE
WITH PENNE PASTA & MIXED VEGETABLES
DESSERT - HOMEMADE FLAPJACK
FRUIT & YOGHURT

PEPPERONI PIZZA
CHEESE & TOMATO PIZZA
WITH PASTA IN HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE
DESSERT - ICE CREAM
FRUIT & YOGHURT

WEEK 2

CHICKEN NUGGETS
VEGETABLE NUGGETS
WITH CHIPS & BAKED BEANS
DESSERT - STRAWBERRY SWIRL MOUSSE
FRUIT & YOGHURT

BEEF CHILLI
QUORN & VEGETABLE CHILLI
WITH RICE & MIXED VEGETABLES
DESSERT - HOMEMADE LEMON DRIZZLE CAKE
FRUIT & YOGHURT

BACON MACARONI CHEESE
MACARONI CHEESE
WITH PEAS & SWEETCORN
DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY & FRUIT

CHICKEN CURRY
VEGETABLE CURRY
WITH SAVOURY RICE
DESSERT - HOMEMADE FLAPJACK
FRUIT & YOGHURT

BATTERED FISH
VEGETABLE FINGERS
WITH POTATO WEDGES & PEAS
DESSERT - ICE CREAM
FRUIT & YOGHURT

WEEK 3

CHICKEN FAJITA WRAP
QUORN FAJITA WRAP
WITH SQUARE POTATOES & SALAD BAR
DESSERT - HOMEMADE ICED SPRINKLE CAKE
FRUIT & YOGHURT

CHEESE PASTA BAKE
VEGETABLE PASTA BAKE
WITH SWEETCORN
DESSERT - CHOCOLATE SWIRL MOUSSE
FRUIT & YOGHURT

BUTCHERS ROAST CHICKEN
VEGAN FILLET
WITH ROAST POTATOES, YORKSHIRE
PUDDING, VEGETABLES & GRAVY
DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY & FRUIT

FISH FINGERS
CHEDDAR WHIRL
SMILEY FACES & BAKED BEANS
DESSERT - HOMEMADE FLAPJACK
FRUIT & YOGHURT

BEEF BURGERS
QUORN BURGER
WITH CHIPS & SPAGHETTI HOOPS
DESSERT - ICE CREAM
FRUIT & YOGHURT

 **ST. GEORGE'S DAY LUNCH MENU** 

On Wednesday 23rd April we will be providing a special St. George's Day lunch!



Children will have the option of:



Full English Breakfast

Sausage, Bacon, Scrambled Egg, Hash Browns & Beans

or

Quorn Full English Breakfast

Quorn Sausages, Scrambled Egg, Hash Browns, Beans



Dessert:
Ring Donut



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

RESPECT

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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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **INSTAGRAM**

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The live stream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



*Supporting Families
in our Community*

TIME4YOU... HAND REFLEXOLOGY



As busy parents, sometimes we just need to 'stop' and 'recharge'...
We deserve to look after our wellbeing ...and our families will benefit too!
Come and relax with our Reflexologist, who will show you some simple

Wed 23rd April 2025

12.30 - 2.30pm

**Beech Community Hub
8 Austen Road, SS14 3RZ**

techniques to relax
your mind and body.



We have 3 ways to book:

[CLICK HERE](#) to book via Eventbrite!

Call/Text/Whatsapp

07923 426502

Email - basildonp4p@outlook.com



 Essex County Council


Essex
Community
Foundation

Sanctuary
Group



Essex County Council

FREE EASTER HOLIDAY CLUBS IN BASILDON

Book onto a free holiday club with Essex ActivAte this EASTER in Basildon!

Offer your children a memorable holiday experience filled with exciting and fun activities.

We provide FREE spaces for children who receive income related free school meals.

Book on with your emailed/text HolidayActivities voucher code!

CENTRAL BASILDON

Premier Education - Basildon Sport & Leisure Club (5-12 yrs)

Basildon Sport & Leisure Club, Gardiners Way, SS14 3UJ
RClark@premier-education.com & 07387196392

ATF - Millhouse (5-14 years)

Millhouse Primary School, Tavistock Road, SS15 5QF
kherring@atfcommunity.com & 07701365822

BILLERICAY

Camp 4 Champs (4-14 years)

Mayflower High School, Stock Rd, Billericay, CM12 0RT
bookings@camp4champs.co.uk & 02081030101

Mega Camps (4-14 years, SEND Level 1)

St John's School, Stock Road, Billericay, CM12 0AR
03330124378

FELMORES & VANGE

Southend United (5-13 years, up to SEND Level 2)

Eversley Leisure Centre, Crest Ave, SS13 2EF
info@southendunited-cet.co.uk & 01702341351

ATF - Briscoe (5-12 years)

Briscoe Primary School, Felmores End, SS13 1PN
c.mcalden@heartscademy.uk & 07956770446

ATF - Vange (5-12 years)

Vange Primary School, London Road, SS16 4QA
smartin@atfcommunity.com & 07989515757

ATF - Northlands (5-12 years)

Briscoe Primary School, Felmores End, Basildon, SS13 1PN
kherring@atfcommunity.com & 07701365822

Sports Cool East London (4-11 years)

Cherry Tree Primary School, Long Riding, SS14 1QP
sout Essex@sportscool.org & 07707861027

WICKFORD & SHOTGATEE

Jack Of All Sports - Wickford (4-12 years)

North Crescent Primary School, Wickford, SS12 9AP
jackofallsports@btinternet.com & 07919888093

Jack Of All Sports - Wickford FC (4-12 years)

Bartlett Part, Shotgate, Wickford, SS11 8RZ
jackofallsports@btinternet.com & 07919888093

Crafty Katies Make and Move Holiday Club (4-12 years)

Abacus School, Tresco Way, Wickford, SS12 9GJ
craftykatie10@gmail.com & 07929044960

LAINDON, FRYERNS & ST MARTIN'S

Kidbusterz - Janet Duke (4-13 years, up to SEND Level 2)

Janet Duke Primary School, 105 Markhams Chase, SS15 5LS
info@kidbusterz.co.uk & 07519079628

Sports Cool East London (4-11 years)

Fairhouse Community Primary School, Long Riding, SS14 1QP
sout Essex@sportscool.org & 07707861027

SPECIALIST SEND & MENTAL WELLBEING CLUBS

Butterflies Club - Laindon, SEND Level 4 (8-16 years)

Presidents Hall, Laindon, SS15 6LF
jasmine@butterfliesclub.co.uk & 07884700124

Motivated Minds!

Mental Wellbeing & SEND Level 2 (6-16 years)

Happy Hub, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Basildon, SS14 1AE
thrive@motivated-minds.co.uk & 07429224971

JTD Arts SEND Level 1-3 (5-11 years)

Northlands Primary School, 45 Winifred Road, SS13 3JQ
activejtd@hotmail.com & 07856869296

Share SEND Level 4 (5-16 years)

The Fryth, Beeleigh E, SS14 2RR
admin@sharerespite.co.uk & 0126852169

Find out more: activeessex.org