



MERRYLANDS

PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

AUTUMN TERM – FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL – MRS PRYER

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been another busy week with many of the Year 6 children enjoying their residential trip to the Isle of Wight. In the rest of the school, Year 5 have been learning about air resistance while Year 4 have been finding out about the effects of environmental change. Year 3 found out why Stonehenge was built and why it is an important landmark, Year 2 explored qualities which make a good friend and Year 1 compared carnivores, omnivores and herbivores. In Reception the children have started Phonics learning the letters S A T P while the children in Nursery completed a range of activities linked to the nursery rhyme 'Incy Wincy Spider'.

At Merrylands, we really love to celebrate the children's successes and we are very keen to hear about their achievements outside of school. If your child has achieved an award, medal, badge, certificate, trophy or participated in a competition or performance outside of school please encourage them to bring it to school and share their success with us. Whether it is an achievement through Guiding or Scouting, sport, performing arts to name a few, we would love to hear about it.

Next week we will be starting our Harvest Appeal. Any non-perishable food items donated will be given to 'The Happy Hub' for their food bank.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.



School Attendance Target: 95.00 %

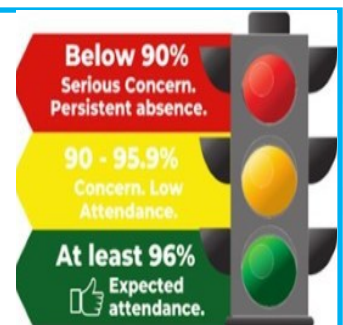
This week's attendance: 94.43 %

The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Miss Milne's Class with 100 %

The class with the best attendance in KS2 was Miss White's Class with 100 %

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



Nursery: Alice M

Nest: Henry S

Reception, Mrs Anthony: Ollie B

Reception, Mrs Sullivan: Sienna C

Reception, Miss Bagridge: Ember P

Year 1, Mrs King: Mykhailo R

Year 1, Mrs Camoccio: Nicole S

Year 1, Mrs Andrade: Louis L

Year 2, Mrs Didham: Charlie G

Year 2, Miss Milne: Joshua P

Year 2, Mrs Cooper/Mrs Christie: Sophia S

Year 3, Mrs Almond: Ada T

Year 3, Miss Gilmore: Hazel D

Year 3, Miss Medina: Joanne A

Year 4, Miss Lee: Ruby F

Year 4, Miss Miller: Michael C

Year 4, Miss Atkin: Ethan A

Year 5, Miss Day: Tyroon H

Year 5, Mr Taylor: Teddy K

Year 5, Miss Osborne: Zac A

Year 6, Miss White: Lily-Mae P

Year 6, Mrs Thour: Malik C

BADGES

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 kindness to their peers.

Congratulations to this week's winners.

Reception	Harper G
Year 1	Millie F
Year 2	Aurora P
Year 3	Hazel D
Year 4	Rosie M
Year 5	Keira B
Year 6	Aaron B

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

OCTOBER

Black History Month

Oracy Month

06.10.2025 - 17.10.2025 Harvest Festival Collection

15.10.2025 Reception - Year 6 Autumn Term Parents Evening
3.40pm-7.30pm

16.10.2025 Reception - Year 6 Autumn Term Parents Evening
3.40pm-5.30pm

21.10.2025 Nursery Parents Evening (Morning)

22.10.2025 Nursery Parents Evening (Afternoon)

27.10.2025 October Half Term

03.11.2025 Inset Day - School Closed

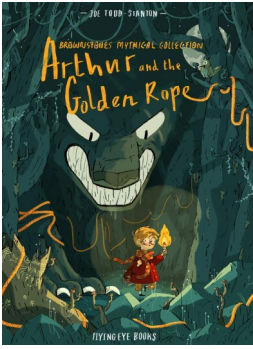


RESPECT

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BOOK OF THE WEEK



Year 3, Mrs Almond's class have been reading 'Arthur and the Golden Rope.'

We really liked this book! It was about a boy named Arthur who is small and a bit weird, but he's super smart and brave. One day, a huge scary wolf comes to his village and breaks everything. All the grown-ups don't know what to do, but Arthur goes on a big adventure to save everyone! He meets cool gods like Thor (he has a big hammer!) and has to find a magical golden rope. There are lots of monsters and magical things. It was exciting and a little scary but not too scary.

Holly said "The pictures are amazing especially the front cover."
Harris said "Some pages looked like treasure maps."



On Monday 6th October 2025 children will return to school 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.

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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

FRIDAY THURSDAY WEDNESDAY TUESDAY MONDAY

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 SUGAR
FRUIT & YOGHURT

BUTCHERS PORK SAUSAGES
VEGAN SAUSAGES
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

RESPECT

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Sportsperson of the Half Term...



Lauren James

Who is Lauren James?

Lauren James is a professional women's football player who is currently signed to Chelsea and has represented England and the Women's Euros and Women's World Cup as a forward. She was born on the 29th September 2001 and started playing football from a young age, playing with her brother's in the park behind their house.

What has Lauren achieved?

At the age of just 17, Lauren signed for Manchester United and helped the team to gain promotion to the Women's Super League – she scored 14 goals in 18 appearances. In 2021, she rejoined Chelsea and has continued to have a successful career. Some of her achievements include: FA Women's Super League Winner (2021/22), Women's FA Cup (2021/22), Arnold Clark Cup Player of the Tournament (2023) and London Football Awards Young Player of the Year (2023). In addition to this, she helped England to win the Women's Euros (2025).

Beat the Bowler



Get Set 4 Education

What you need: 2 players, a tennis ball and 2 markers.
Optional: tennis racket

How to play:

- Create a 'batting square' with markers approx 2m apart. Players take turns to be the batter and the bowler.
- The bowler bowls to the batter, throwing five balls, trying not to give away half a rounder for two consecutive no balls.
- The batter can play with a tennis racket or by catching and throwing.
- The batter scores a rounder for each star jump made until the ball is collected by the bowler.

A bowl must:

- be underarm between shoulders and above the knees of the batter.
- not bounce.
- not be wide of the batting 'square'.



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YEAR 5 AND 6 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Year 5 and 6 football team played really well on Thursday 25th September.

They won two out of their four games and were awarded with the school games team value certificate which showed both their team work on and off the pitch. Well done everyone.



PRO STRIKE EVENT

Last week the children had the opportunity to participate in our Pro Strike fundraising event. The children went out in their classes and were encouraged to kick the ball three times and their fastest time was recorded for their sponsorship form. All the children thoroughly enjoyed this event and they all received a certificate to show their participation in this brilliant fundraiser.

Thank you to everyone who raised money through their sponsorship forms - we will let you know the final total once we have received confirmation of it.

RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

Good Attendance means...

Being in school at least 97% of the time or 184 to 190 days

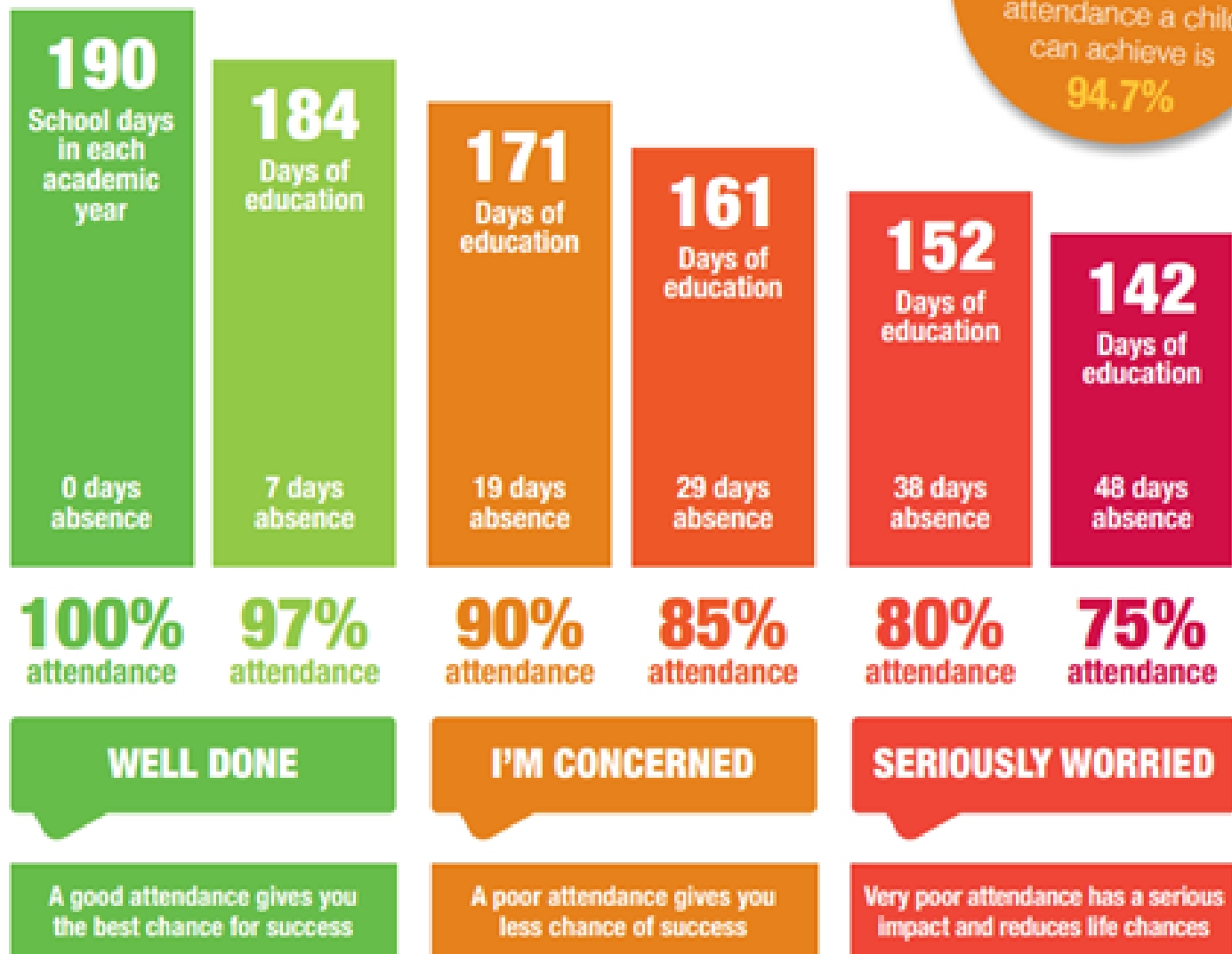
Remember

Education is important - don't miss out!

Did you know?

A two week holiday in term-time means that the highest attendance a child can achieve is

94.7%



SNAP STREAK

97

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 800 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🌟 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgmentally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

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

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

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AUTUMN TERM

THE ESSEX LOCAL OFFER SEND ROADSHOWS



Are you a parent or carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25? Do you want to know what support is available in your area? Come along to one of our Essex Local Offer Roadshows.



You can chat with teams from Education, Health and Social Care, as well as local support groups and activity providers.



The marketplace is free and there is no need to book. Children are welcome!



Drop in between 9:30am and 12:30pm



This term we are in Loughton, Burnham on Crouch, Brentwood and Harwich

Scan the QR Code for all the information, including dates and venues or visit the Essex Local Offer at:

<https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows>



In Partnership with

