



# MERRYLANDS

## PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

AUTUMN TERM – FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER

### MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL – MRS PRYER

Dear Parents / Carers,

Over the last few weeks we have been focusing on the meaning of our core values. This week we have been focusing on kindness – what kindness is and how we can be kind to ourselves and others. We have found out why it is important to be happy and strategies we can use to help us to be happy as we observed World Mental Health Day. We have also explored how we can show kindness to others in the classroom and on the playground.

Please can I remind all parents/carers that children should not be riding bikes and scooters on the school grounds. In the past week we have had a few near misses where children have cycled/ridden scooters into other children and parents. To help keep everyone safe and to avoid a serious accident, if your child brings a bike or scooter to school, please ensure they walk with it until they are outside the school gates. We really appreciate your support with this.

Finally, I would like to say thank you for the harvest donations we have received so far. If you are able to donate any non-perishable food items, 'The Happy Hub' would be most grateful.

I hope you all have a great weekend.



**School Attendance Target: 95.00 %**

**This week's attendance: 94.34%**

**The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Mrs Camoccio's Class with 98.46%**

**The class with the best attendance in KS2 was Miss Miller's Class with 99.31%**

**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



Nursery: Carter T  
 Nest: Jonathan F-V  
 Reception, Mrs Anthony: Billy W  
 Reception, Mrs Sullivan: Paige A  
 Reception, Miss Bagridge: Caelen L  
 Year 1, Mrs King: Ryan B  
 Year 1, Mrs Camoccio: Austin B  
 Year 1, Mrs Andrade: Mason E  
 Year 2, Mrs Didham: Leo B  
 Year 2, Miss Milne: Belle D  
 Year 2, Mrs Cooper/Mrs Christie: Halle-Mae P

Year 3, Mrs Almond: Darcie H  
 Year 3, Miss Gilmore: Jaiden Y  
 Year 3, Miss Medina: Dayyan D  
 Year 4, Miss Lee: Billy M-S  
 Year 4, Miss Miller: Arianna P  
 Year 4, Miss Atkin: Maisie C  
 Year 5, Miss Day: Heshia P  
 Year 5, Mr Taylor: Kyle P  
 Year 5, Miss Osborne: Georgianna C  
 Year 6, Miss White: Nailah O  
 Year 6, Mrs Thour: Olivia D

## 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	Dominic D
Year 1	Albina G
Year 2	George C
Year 3	Lenny H
Year 4	Mattias A
Year 5	Thea B
Year 6	Tia-Mae C

## UPCOMING DIARY DATES

### OCTOBER

Black History Month  
 Oracy Month

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  
 04.11.2025 Back to School

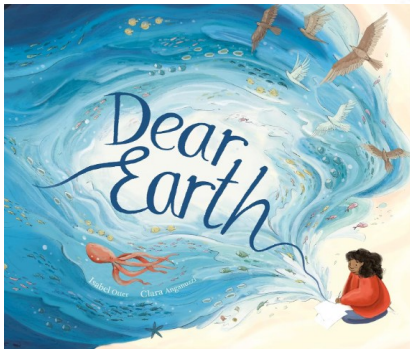


RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

# BOOK OF THE WEEK



Year 2, Mrs Cooper and Mrs Christie's class have been reading the book Dear Earth by Isabel Otter. They have been really enjoying this book as it is about a girl called Tessa who becomes an explorer after she has spoken to her Grandad about Earth.

Tessa writes a love letter to the Earth and then she goes on an amazing adventure where she blows bubbles with whales and soars with birds over mountains. Tessa wants everyone to know how special our planet is and she believes that there is a chance to save our Earth if enough of us share the message.

George says 'This is a good book because she has good adventures.'  
Tyla, says 'It is a fantastic book because it has fun pictures.'



On Monday 13th October 2025 children will return to school 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.

L  
U  
N  
C  
H  
T  
I  
M  
E

**Lighter Bites**



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



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 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

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

# 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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).



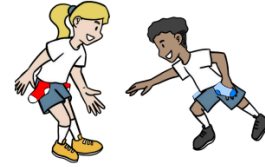
## All Four, I Score



**What you need:** four socks and a partner

#### How to play:

- Tuck two socks into your waistband, one on either side, so that they hang down.
- Stand facing your partner.
- Try to take your partner's socks. If you manage to get one, hold it in the air and shout 'tag!'. At this point, the game stops so that you can tuck the additional sock into your waistband.
- Restart the game. To win, you need to get all four socks tucked into your waistband.



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

© Copyright Get Set 4 Education Ltd.

## YEAR 6 ISLE OF WIGHT RESIDENTIAL

Year 6 visited the Isle of Wight from Monday 29th September 2025 to Friday 3rd October 2025. The children were an absolute credit to the school and enjoyed many different activities including:

- D-Day Museum
- A story telling workshop
- Glass making demonstration
- Sweet making demonstration
- Boat cruise
- Fossil Hunting
- Beach walk
- Visit to Carisbrooke Castle
- Crazy Golf
- Robin Hill Country Park
- Disco



A big thank you to all our staff that attended the Isle of Wight with our Year 6 children.



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%**



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FINAL FANTASY XIV

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
16

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The video game Final Fantasy XIV launched in 2010, and, despite being critically panned, it saw an overhaul that has made it one of the biggest success stories in gaming. Its huge world, epic story and versatile combat system have continued to draw in new players, but there's a lot that trusted adults need to be aware of – not least the cost of paying monthly to play.

### ALWAYS ONLINE

Final Fantasy XIV is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Much like World of Warcraft, players create a character in a chosen class and level up by completing quests to gain power and items. The game requires a constant internet connection, whether you're playing on PC, Mac, Playstation or Xbox, and there's no option to play offline.

### REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As with similar titles in the genre, players can purchase expansions to unlock additional content for the game. Those without the expansions will be locked out of certain new quests and activities, meaning that young people who play regularly will potentially have the next release earmarked on their calendar, ready to buy it as soon as possible.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES & SUBSCRIPTION FEE

Users need to pay £8.99 per month to play Final Fantasy XIV, but there is a free trial. If someone stops paying, they'll lose access to their character (although they'll be able to pick up the payments again and resume where they left off). If a player forgets to cancel their payments, however, those subscription fees will continue rolling on automatically.

FREE TRIAL

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MANAGE PLAYTIME

Playtime limits are a great way to counter the addictive qualities of games like Final Fantasy XIV. They allow you discuss why it's still important to enjoy things outside of gaming while still letting a child enjoy playing online with their friends when it makes sense to do so. It's all well and good to have fun with a game, so long as they're able to step away and reconnect with the real world.

### MAKE USE OF THE FREE TRIAL

The Final Fantasy XIV free trial is a generous one, with no limits on how long someone can play until their character hits level 70. That's really dozens of hours for a child to go through the game, complete quests, and see if they enjoy it before purchasing expansions or subscribing to a membership. They may well move on to something else before you need to spend so much as a penny.

### PLAY TOGETHER

The free trial makes it extremely easy to jump into Final Fantasy XIV and play alongside a child, provided they're old enough. Not only does that help you ensure that settings are adjusted for their privacy and safety, but it may also end up becoming a bonding experience for you both and any other family members that want to try it out.

### REMEMBER, IT'S A PEGI 16

Despite its often-relaxing nature, Final Fantasy XIV carries a PEGI 16 rating for violence and drugs (although the latter is due to a character smoking a pipe on occasion). There's minimal blood, but characters can attack enemies (and other players) with weapons and spells. Take a look at some gameplay videos to see if the content is appropriate for a younger player.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor-in-Chief of @@Recon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A longtime fan of online games, he's also a parent, and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has previously been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/final-fantasy-14>

X @wake\_up\_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.09.2024