MERRYLANDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

AUTUMN TERM– FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL – MRS PRYER

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another busy week at Merrylands. On Monday we had an external safeguarding audit. During the visit all our policies and procedures were reviewed and a range of staff and pupils were spoken to. I am pleased to report that the reviewer was very impressed with the safeguarding procedures we have in place at Merrylands as well as the learning opportunities across the curriculum which promote children keeping themselves safe.

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended parent consultation meetings this week. It is really important for us to share information with you regarding your child's progress throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who completed the Autumn term questionnaire and shared their views with us. As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school or speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Please note, we are making quite a collection of lost property across the school and unfortunately, we are unable to reunite these items of clothing with their owner because they have not been named. Please ensure that all items of clothing have your child's name in so they can be returned to them.

I hope you all have a good weekend!

School Attendance Target: 95.00 %

This week's attendance: 94.87%

The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Mrs Camoccio's class and Mrs Cooper and Mrs Christie's Class with 99.23%

The class with the best attendance in KS2 was Miss Medina'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.

STAR OF THE WEEK

CERTIFICATE FOCUS : PERSEVERANCE

Nursery: Stefan M
Nest: Frank R
Reception, Mrs Anthony: Hudson B-S
Reception, Mrs Sullivan: Bluey B
Reception, Miss Bagridge: Albert P
Year 1, Mrs King: Blake M
Year 1, Mrs Camoccio: Violet P
Year 1, Mrs Andrade: Archie J
Year 2, Mrs Didham: Zyana E
Year 2, Miss Milne: Theo W
Year 2, Mrs Cooper/Mrs Christie: George C
Year 3, Mrs Almond: Oliver B-D
Year 3, Miss Gilmore: Holly R
Year 3, Miss Medina: Blake J
Year 4, Miss Lee: Jaden O & Elbiee T
Year 4, Miss Miller: Chidubem E
Year 4, Miss Atkin: Hunter L
Year 5, Miss Day: Jaxon P
Year 5, Mr Taylor: Charlie H
Year 5, Miss Osborne: Freddie T
Year 6, Miss White: Millie C
Year 6, Mrs Thour: Tegan E-G

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	Ollie B
Year 1	Olivia L
Year 2	Charlie G
Year 3	Freya-R H
Year 4	Ruby F
Year 5	Isla C
Year 6	Lyla L

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

OCTOBER
Black History Month
Oracy Month

21.10.2025	Nursery Parents Meetings (Morning)
22.10.2025	Nursery Parents Meetings (Afternoon)
27.10.2025	October Half Term
03.11.2025	Inset Day - School Closed
04.11.2025	Back to School

RESPECT KINDNESS PERSEVERANCE

ACHIEVEMENTS

Joey received the Pride of Essex, Child of Courage award 2025 due to his bravery and resilience after countless major reconstructive surgeries. Joey has a condition called Cholesteatoma, this is a condition that causes him to have benign tumours that destroy all his muscle, bones and cartilage and grows at a rapid speed, destroying everything in its pathway.

Joey has had to endure more than most, but he always has a smile on his face, he always just gets on with life and doesn't let his condition hold him back. Joey is also his brother Carson's young carer. Joey always helps keep Carson safe by looking out for him, guiding him and very often puts Carson's needs first.

Joey has encountered lots of complications and set backs along his journey such has epilepsy, severe scar tissue developing which has led Joey to have plastic surgery. This has caused Joey to develop anxiety. For Joey this journey is long and he will always need life long treatment but he always does this with grace and a smile - that is why he was awarded the Child of Courage award.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Teddy was awarded player of the match for the 3rd time in a row this season, for Perry Street Yellows, Teddy delivered an outstanding performance by scoring 4 goals and 3 goal assists.

Well done Teddy!

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 29th September 2001 and started playing football from a young age, playing with her brother's in the park behind their house.

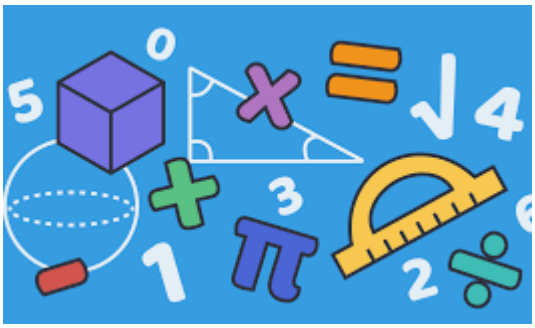
What has Lauren achieved?

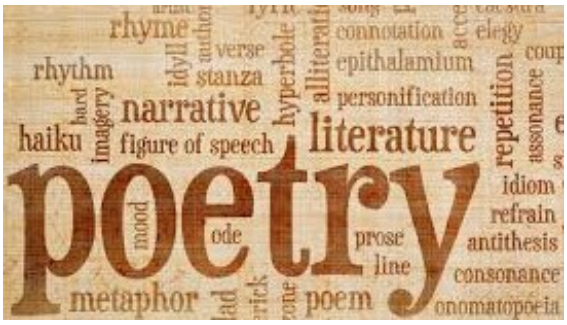
At the age of just 17, Lauren signed for Manchester United and helped the team to gain promotion to the Women's Super League – she scored 14 goals in 18 appearances. In 2021, she rejoined Chelsea and has continued to have a successful career. Some of her achievements include: FA Women's Super League 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).

BERLESDUNA TRUST COMPETITIONS

Last week four children from Year 2 and Year 6 attended our Berlesduna Poetry Slam at Cherry Tree School. The children worked in pairs and were asked to learn a poem about play. The children worked hard to do this and they added their own actions. During the poetry slam the children were asked to stand on a stage and perform their poem to the other children from the academy. Our children were absolutely fantastic and were brilliant ambassadors for our school. Well done to you all.

On Thursday we took four of our marvellous mathematicians to spend the day at a Year 6 Maths Competition at James Hornsby Secondary School. The children had to work as a team to answer a wide range of questions and complete different activities. They had Maths Masters from the school to guide them through the day. All of the children worked really hard and were an absolute credit to our school. Well done to you all.





On Monday 20th October 2025 children will return to school on Week 3.

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.

LUNCHTIME

Lighter Bites

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

SALAD BAR AVAILABLE DAILY

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3
MONDAY	SWEET & SOUR CHICKEN SWEET & SOUR VEGETABLES WITH STEAMED RICE & SWEETCORN DESSERT -HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE SPRINKLE CAKE FRUIT & YOGHURT	CHICKEN NUGGETS VEGETABLE NUGGETS WITH CHIPS & BAKED BEANS DESSERT - STRAWBERRY SWIRL MOUSSE FRUIT & YOGHURT	CHICKEN FAJITA WRAP QUORN FAJITA WRAP WITH SQUARE POTATOES & SALAD BAR DESSERT - HOMEMADE ICED SPRINKLE CAK FRUIT & YOGHURT
TUESDAY	FISH FINGERS CHEDDAR WHIRL WITH SMILEY FACES AND SPAGHETTI HOOPS DESSERT - AMERICAN PANCAKES WITH SYRUP FRUIT & YOGHURT	BEEF CHILLI QUORN & VEGETABLE CHILLI WITH RICE & MIXED VEGETABLES DESSERT - HOMEMADE LEMON DRIZZLE CAKE FRUIT & YOGHURT	CHEESE PASTA BAKE VEGETABLE PASTA BAKE WITH SWEETCORN DESSERT - CHOCOLATE SWIRL MOUSSE FRUIT & YOGHURT
WEDNESDAY	BUTCHERS PORK SAUSAGES VEGAN SAUSAGES WITH MASH, YORKSHIRE PUDDING, PEAS & GRAVY DESSERT - JELLY & FRUIT	BACON MACARONI CHEESE MACARONI CHEESE WITH PEAS & SWEETCORN DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY & FRUIT	BUTCHERS ROAST CHICKEN VEGAN FILLET WITH ROAST POTATOES, YORKSHIRE PUDDING, VEGETABLES & GRAVY DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY & FRUIT
THURSDAY	BEEF BOLOGNESE VEGETABLE BOLOGNESE WITH PENNE PASTA & MIXED VEGETABLES DESSERT- HOMEMADE FLAPJACK FRUIT & YOGHURT	CHICKEN CURRY VEGETABLE CURRY WITH SAVOURY RICE DESSERT - HOMEMADE FLAPJACK FRUIT & YOGHURT	FISH FINGERS CHEDDAR WHIRL SMILEY FACES & BAKED BEANS DESSERT - HOMEMADE FLAPJACK FRUIT & YOGHURT
FRIDAY	PEPPERONI PIZZA CHEESE & TOMATO PIZZA WITH PASTA IN HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE DESSERT - ICE CREAM FRUIT & YOGHURT	BATTERED FISH VEGETABLE FINGERS WITH POTATO WEDGES & PEAS DESSERT - ICE CREAM FRUIT & YOGHURT	BEEF BURGERS QUORN BURGER WITH CHIPS & SPAGHETTI HOOPS DESSERT - ICE CREAM FRUIT & YOGHURT

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%**

190 School days in each academic year	184 Days of education	171 Days of education	161 Days of education	152 Days of education	142 Days of education
0 days absence	7 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence	38 days absence	48 days absence
100% attendance	97% attendance	90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance	75% attendance
WELL DONE		I'M CONCERNED		SERIOUSLY WORRIED	
A good attendance gives you the best chance for success		A poor attendance gives you less chance of success		Very poor attendance has a serious impact and reduces life chances	

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 SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.

#WakeUp Wednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams

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