



MERRYLANDS

PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

AUTUMN TERM – FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL – MRS PRYER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Christmas has started at Merrylands this week with the Year 1 Nativity performance. The children were absolutely amazing at remembering their lines and singing the songs. Well done to all the children in Year 1. We are looking forward to Year 2 performing at Eastgate next week as well as the Reception Christmas production.

Across the school this week, Nursery have been writing Christmas cards in the home corner, Reception have been learning about Advent and Year 1 have been writing recipes. Year 2 have been developing their throwing and catching skills, Year 3 have been multiplying and dividing while Year 4 have been identifying the achievements of the Ancient Egyptians. Year 5 have been adding and subtracting fractions and Year 6 have been writing a non-chronological report. The children in the ASC have been using speech marks in their writing while the children in the Nest have been making pizza.

At the Year 1 performance and over the next few weeks, including Christmas jumper day, we will be collecting donations for the charity 'Save the Children'. If you are not attending a performance and would like to donate, please send money in on Christmas jumper day or pop into the school office.

I hope you all have a great weekend!



School Attendance Target: 95.00 %



This week's attendance: 94.03%

The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Mrs King's Class with 97.20%

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

RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

STAR OF THE WEEK

CERTIFICATE FOCUS: PERSEVERANCE

Nursery: Davina D

Nest: Alfie N

ASC: Elijah M

Reception, Mrs Anthony: Lanayah L

Reception, Mrs Sullivan: Mason H

Reception, Miss Bagridge: Heidi B

Year 1, Mrs King: Neil T-H

Year 1, Mrs Camoccio: Olivia L

Year 1, Mrs Andrade: The Whole Class

Year 2, Mrs Didham: Isabella O'C

Year 2, Miss Milne: Jacob L

Year 2, Mrs Cooper/Mrs Christie: Ethen W

Year 3, Mrs Almond: Lexi S

Year 3, Miss Gilmore: Lydia A

Year 3, Miss Medina: Mirabel A

Year 4, Miss Lee: Marley S

Year 4, Miss Miller: Albert A

Year 4, Miss Atkin: Skyler B

Year 5, Miss Day: Isla C

Year 5, Mr Taylor: Samuel S

Year 5, Miss Osborne: Sebastian L

Year 6, Miss White: Alice H

Year 6, Mrs Thour: Harlee T

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 | Arthur S |
| Year 1 | Francesca B & June L |
| Year 2 | Sebastian W |
| Year 3 | Zaliya B |
| Year 4 | Grace T |
| Year 5 | Wiktorija M |
| Year 6 | Olivia H |

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

DECEMBER

10.12.2025 ASC Christmas Performance 2.00pm - 3.00pm

10.12.2025 Year 2 Eastgate Singing Performance for St Luke's Hospice - 10.00am -11:45am

10.12.2025 Year 6 Parents/Carers Meeting

11.12.2025 Year 6 Parents/Carers Meeting

11.12.2025 Reception Christmas Performance 2.15pm - 3.00pm

12.12.2025 Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day for Save The Children

15.12.2025 Nursery Carol Singing 10.45am - 11.30am and 2.15pm - 3.00pm

17.12.2025 Nest Christmas Performance - 2.00pm - 3.00pm

17.12.2025 KS2 Christmas Carols around the Christmas tree 3:30pm-4:4:15pm

16.12.2025 Whole School Pantomime

17.12.2025 KS1 & KS2 Choir - Carols around the Christmas Tree 3.30pm - 4.15pm



RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

BOOK OF THE WEEK



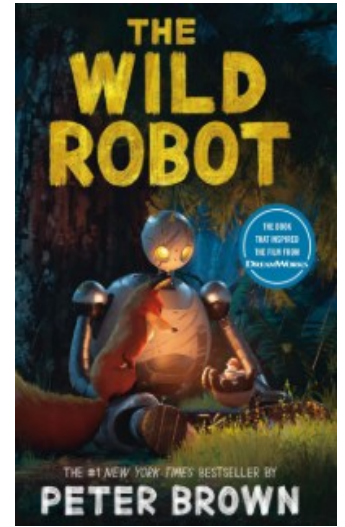
Year 4 Miss Atkin's class have been reading "The Wild Robot" by Peter Brown.

The Wild Robot tells the story of Roz, a robot who unexpectedly washes up on a remote, wild island after a shipwreck designed for efficiency, not survival. Roz slowly earns the trust of the strange animals by observing their behaviours, helping them and showing kindness.

When Roz adopts an orphaned gosling named Brightbill, she discovers what it means to be a family, even in the most unlikely circumstances.

Lucas said, "It's very cool. I like that it's all about the wilderness and animals."

Skyler said, "It's a very interesting book. I like that it shows you how animals survive in the wild."



YEAR 1 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE



On Thursday, Year 1 performed their Christmas Nativity Story to parents and carers. The children have been practicing very hard over the last few weeks. Well done to June for her singing solo, Luena for her role as Mary, Handel for his role as Joseph, the narrators who kept all parents/carers engaged with their loud and clear lines and to all the stars, angels, stable animals and extras who took their roles very seriously, resulting in a wonderful and moving performance.

Well done Year 1 - you captured the spirit of Christmas perfectly.

OAKLANDS CARE HOME VISIT

On Wednesday the KS2 choir went to visit Oaklands care home to sing to the residents. The children spent some time talking to the residents about their lives and interests. It was a very wholesome visit and the children left with a new understanding and respect for the older generation. The residents of the care home clapped, sang and joined in with the singing festivities and were very grateful for the time the children spent with them.



RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

On Monday 8th December 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.



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Lighter Bites

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OUR LIGHTER LUNCH OPTIONS OF JACKET POTATO & HAM OR CHEESE BAGUETTE are available to ALL PUPILS everyday

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WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

CHICKEN FAJITA WRAP
QUORN FAJITA WRAP
WITH POTATO CUBES & SALAD BAR
DESSERT - RICE PUDDING
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT

SAUSAGE ROLL
VEGAN ROLL
WITH SMILEY FACES & SPAGHETTI LOOPS
DESSERT - HOMEMADE ICED SPRINKLE CAKE
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT

HOMEMADE CHICKEN PIE
QUORN & VEGETABLE PIE
WITH SAUTE POTATOES, CARROTS & GRAVY
DESSERT - FLAPJACK
FRESH FRUIT & YOGHURT

CHEESE & TOMATO PIZZA
WITH PASTA IN HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & SALAD BAR
DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY
FRESH FRUIT

FISH FINGERS
CHEDDAR WHIRL
WITH CHIPS & BAKED BEANS
DESSERT - STRAWBERRY SWIRL MOUSSE
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT

BEEF MEATBALLS
VEGAN MEATBALLS
WITH PASTA IN HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & PEAS
DESSERT - AMERICAN PANCAKES & GOLDEN SYRUP
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT

BUTCHERS CHICKEN NUGGETS
VEGETABLE NUGGETS
WITH CHIPS & BAKED BEANS
DESSERT - HOMEMADE SPONGE CAKE & CUSTARD
FRESH FRUIT & YOGHURT

BUTCHERS PORK SAUSAGE
VEGAN SAUSAGES
WITH MASH POTATO, YORKSHIRE PUDDING, PEAS, CARROTS & GRAVY
DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY
FRESH FRUIT

CHICKEN CURRY
VEGETABLE CURRY
WITH STEAMED RICE & SWEETCORN
DESSERT - GOLDEN OAT FLAPJACK
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT

BATTERED FISH
VEGETABLE FINGERS
WITH SMILEY FACES & PEAS
DESSERT - ICE CREAM
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT

BREADED CHICKEN BURGER
QUORN BURGER
WITH CHIPS & SALAD BAR
DESSERT - HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE SPRINKLE CAKE
FRESH FRUIT + YOGURT

BACON MACARONI CHEESE
MACARONI CHEESE
WITH PEAS
DESSERT - SEASONAL FRUIT & YOGHURT

BUTCHERS ROAST CHICKEN
QUORN FILLET
WITH ROAST POTATOES, YORKSHIRE PUDDING, GREEN BEANS, CARROTS & GRAVY
DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY

BEEF BOLOGNESE
VEGETABLE BOLOGNESE
WITH FUSILLI PASTA & MIXED VEGETABLES
DESSERT - HOMEMADE FLAPJACK
FRESH FRUIT + YOGURT

FISH FINGERS
CHEESE OMELETTE
WITH POTATO WEDGES & SPAGHETTI HOOPS
DESSERT - CHOCOLATE SWIRL MOUSSE
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT



Essex County Council
Special Educational Needs
and Disabilities







SPACE

SPACE offers free support to families of children and young people with SEND.

Delivered by peer educators – all parents and carers with lived experience.

Get support your way:

-  **in person** – meet us at Local Offer roadshows, coffee mornings, and community events
-  **by phone** – talk one-to-one with a peer educator
-  **online** – join webinars on key topics, led by peer educators
-  **on the SPACE website** – find helpful info and guidance anytime



Book your place for an online session, or a phone call today!

parent-send-support.essex.gov.uk



The 12 Safety Tips for Christmas

Presented by 'The 2 Johns'



"I Know them"

The Johns would like to invite you to join a complimentary online event. This will provide you with an introduction to a world that we, as adults, did not grow up in but your children are fully embracing.

They will give you tips on: -

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|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| The Internet Express | Gaming | The Exploiters |
| WhatsApp & Snap Chat | Screen time | Cliff Top Parenting |
| What to do if it goes Wrong | Sexploitation | Where can I Get Help |
| Indecent Images of Children | Stranger Danger | The Power of Influence |

The two Johns, yes, they are both named John and have spent many years working in the police in various overt and covert roles tackling online and offline child exploitation. They are regarded as experts in their field and annually work in hundreds of primary and secondary schools interacting with thousands of children, teachers and parents. They also regularly deliver lunch and learn sessions to parenting networks in the private sector.

Over the past fifteen years, the two Johns have been key speakers at numerous major events throughout the country. In Essex they are regularly commissioned by the Safeguarding Children's Board, Community Safety Partnerships and schools to deliver both staff training and bespoke sessions for large numbers of children. This includes their highly successful 'Walk Online Roadshow' which is delivered to many thousands of children annually.

The 2 Johns



'Keeping Children Safe'

Thursday 11th December
at 20:00hrs

(Scan the QR code to register)



www.esafetytraining.org



EST E Safety Training



@JohnsThe2

When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, many face a familiar struggle to prise their young one's attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. Fun family bonding over the festive period, however, doesn't have to exclude devices. There are sackfuls of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. We've compiled our own 'nice list' of seasonal suggestions for how to ...

MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS



1 EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little elves can rustle up gingerbread santas, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer shortbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!

WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

4 A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide – curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!

2 THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect, if it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs – no more pining for The Pretenders or wishing for Wizzard.

5 THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.

3 DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.

6 KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they gleefully trounce you at FIFA or Mario Kart. Digital versions of traditional board games like Monopoly and Cluedo are available on most platforms, too; get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.

7 A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year: after all, the whole celebration is based on an engraving yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.

8 CANT WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents – and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.

9 BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Snuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause* are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has *Elf* and *The Grinch*, and Netflix goes with *The Princess Switch* and *The Christmas Chronicles*.

10 GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge, ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday