



MERRYLANDS

PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

SUMMER TERM – FRIDAY 15TH MAY 2026

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL – MRS PRYER

Dear Parents/Carers,

I must start my message by giving a special mention to Year 6 who have completed their SATs this week. It has been a very busy week with grammar, spelling, reading and maths tests. All the children in Year 6 have worked incredibly hard, persevered and tried their best in preparation for these tests and we are extremely proud of them all!

I am delighted to share that we raised a phenomenal £6,367.00 from the Mini Marathon. I would like to say a huge thank you for all your donations. This is a huge amount of money to promote PE and physical activity and we are busy looking into the best way to spend this money to benefit all the children in the school. More information on this will be shared soon.

Please can I remind everyone to ensure that all items of uniform, coats, bags and personal belongings are labelled with your child's name. We are getting an increasing amount of lost property which we are unable to return as it is not labelled with a name.

Today the children have enjoyed finding out about countries participating in the Eurovision Song Contest. Each year group was allocated a country and it was great to see the children dressed in the colours of the flag and hear them sharing what they had learnt about that country.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.



School Attendance Target: 95.00 %



This week's attendance: 95.89%

The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Mrs Camoccio's Class with 99.56%.

The class with the best attendance in KS2 was Miss White's Class with 98.89%.

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: Oliver L	Year 3, Mrs Almond: Luna G
Reception, Mrs Anthony: Louie C	Year 3, Miss Gilmore: Zaliya B
Reception, Mrs Sullivan: Otilia T	Year 3, Miss Medina: Alice Irwin
Reception, Miss Bagridge: Ember P	Year 4, Miss Lee: Hugo G
Year 1, Mrs King: Percy S	Year 4, Miss Miller: Joris J
Year 1, Mrs Camoccio: Horia Q	Year 4, Miss Atkin: Luca-Jo W
Year 1, Mrs Andrade: Jacob D	Year 5, Miss Day: Cristina V
Year 2, Mrs Didham: Charlie G	Year 5, Mr Taylor: Whole Class
Year 2, Miss Milne: Mya McDonald	Year 5, Miss Osborne: Hana G
Year 2, Mrs Christie/Mrs Cooper: Aleshia M-Z	Year 6, Miss White: Whole Class
	Year 6, Mrs Thour: Whole Class

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	Skyler-Rose H
Year 1	Louis C Aryah-Mae S
Year 2	Belle D
Year 3	Stella C
Year 4	Sofia S Ellie L
Year 5	Hana
Year 6	Freya W

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

MAY

- 20.05.2026 - Wild about Maths Workshop - KS1
- 21.05.2026 - Wild about Maths Workshop - KS2
- 21.05.2026 - Reception Pirate Day
- 22.05.2026 - Inset Day
- 25.05.2026 - 29.05.2026 - May Half Term



RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

BOOK OF THE WEEK

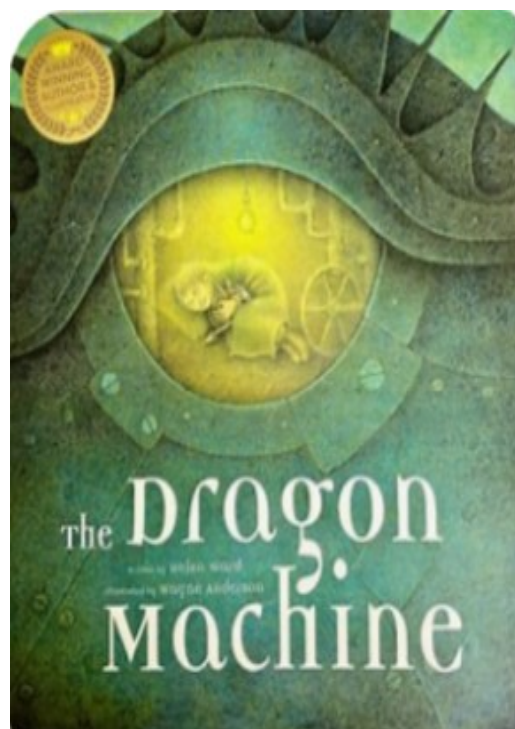


In Year 2, Mrs Cooper and Mrs Christie's class recommend 'The Dragon Machine' by Helen Ward. It is a story about a lonely boy called George who begins to see dragons everywhere, even though no one else notices them.

As the dragons cause chaos, George decides to build a flying machine to take them back to a place where they belong. The story explores imagination, friendship and how being noticed can change how we feel.

Robert said, "I like the dragon machine because it is as big as the moon."

Max said, "I really enjoyed the story because I love dragons and stories about dragons."



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Sportsperson of the Half Term...

Keely Hodgkinson

Who is Keely Hodgkinson?

Keely Hodgkinson is a British professional athlete who competes in athletics. She was born on the 3rd March 2002 in Wigan, England and was a keen swimmer when she was younger - nervous to compete in running events. Her father promised to buy her a new pair of running shoes if she gave running a try. She is a resilient athlete who, at 13 years old, Hodgkinson had an operation to remove a tumour on the side of her head. After the operation, she became deaf in one ear and temporarily struggled to walk or run. She now competes in the 800m event.

What has Keely achieved?

In her career so far, Keely has achieved many things. In 2021, she became the youngest British person in history to win a European indoor gold medal. In the same year, she also broke the record for the under-20 indoor 800m as well as the Women's 800m British record set by another of her idols, Dame Kelly Holmes. She has won Olympic gold and Olympic silver medals too.



Stick Lunge



What you need: 2 players and stick e.g. a broomstick / mop

How to play:

- Players take it in turns to perform a lunge action.
- Knees low, back straight, chest facing forwards.
- Lift the stick horizontally in front, with arms locked straight.
- The other player attempts to destabilise the lunge by pushing and pulling the stick at the ends.
- The player lunging tries to stay balanced and controlled in their lunge position throughout.
- Count for 30 seconds and switch over.
- Repeat with the opposite leg forward.



www.getset4education.co.uk

RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

On Monday 18th May 2026 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.

L
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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

BUTCHERS CHICKEN NUGGETS
VEGETABLE NUGGETS
WITH CHIPS & BAKED BEANS
DESSERT -
WAFFLES & GOLDEN SYRUP

BEEF MEATBALLS
QUORN MEATBALLS
WITH FUSILLI PASTA IN A
HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE
DESSERT - HOMEMADE GOLDEN OAT
FLAPJACK

BUTCHERS ROAST CHICKEN
ROAST VEGAN FILLET
WITH ROAST POTATOES, YORKSHIRE
PUDDINGS, PEAS, CARROTS AND GRAVY
DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY & FRUIT
YOGURT

BEEF CHILLI
VEGETABLE CHILLI
WITH RICE AND SWEETCORN
DESSERT - HOMEMADE LEMON
DRIZZLE CAKE

FISH FINGERS
CHEESE OMELETTE
WITH POTATO WAFFLES & PEAS
DESSERT - ICE CREAM
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT

WEEK 2

PEPPERONI PIZZA
CHEESE & TOMATO PIZZA
WITH PASTA IN HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE
& SALAD BAR
DESSERT - CHOCOLATE SWIRL MOUSSE
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT

BATTERED CHICKEN PIECES
QUORN DIPPERS
IN SWEET & SOUR SAUCE WITH RICE &
SWEETCORN
DESSERT - HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE CHIP
CAKE

BUTCHERS PORK SAUSAGES
VEGAN SAUSAGES
WITH MASH POTATO, YORKSHIRE
PUDDING, SEASONAL VEGETABLES &
GRAVY
DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY & FRUIT YOGURT

CHICKEN FAJITA WRAP
VEGAN FAJITA WRAP
WITH CRISPY CUBE POTATOES AND
SALAD BAR
DESSERT - HOMEMADE OAT FLAPJACK

FISH FINGERS
VEGETABLE FINGERS
WITH CHIPS & BAKED BEANS
DESSERT - HOMEMADE SPONGE CAKE
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT

WEEK 3

BREADED CHICKEN BURGER
QUORN BURGER
WITH CHIPS & SPAGHETTI HOOP
DESSERT - STRAWBERRY MOUSS
FRESH FRUIT + YOGURT

SPAGHETTI CARBONARA WITH
CHEESE SAUCE & BACON PIECES
VEGETABLE PASTA BAKE
WITH PEAS
DESSERT - HOMEMADE
FLAPJACK

ALL DAY COOKED BREAKFAST
ALL DAY QUORN BREAKFAST
WITH HASH BROWNS AND
BAKED BEANS
DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY & FRUIT
YOGURT

STICKY BBQ CHICKEN
STICKY BBQ VEGAN PIECES
WITH RICE & SWEETCORN
DESSERT - AMERICAN PANCAKES
WITH GOLDEN SYRUP
FRESH FRUIT + YOGURT

FISH FINGERS
CHEDDAR WHIRL
WITH SMILEY FACES & PEAS
DESSERT - HOMEMADE ICED SPONGE
CAKE WITH SPRINKLES
FRUIT & YOGURT



Summer Term

The Essex SEND Local Offer 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 SEND 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 Manningtree, Great Dunmow, Silver End, Rayleigh

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



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Every switch helps fund school trips, equipment & activities!
No cost to you - just big savings & big support for our kids.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMING SERVICES



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch content, including video and music, online (immediately faster referred to as live) or streaming video on demand). Recent reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of all households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe streaming.

COSTLY

Subscription services can be costly. As the most common subscription, most households have at least one streaming service, and most families have one or more subscriptions for television, music, and other services. Some services charge by month for out-of-home viewing. Other services offer free trials for new users, but these trials often end with a charge before the trial ends. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney+ raised a price increase upon subscribing to that and reported for 2020.



EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Screen time has contributed to a rise in behavioral and psychological issues among children and adolescents. Studies found that 4- to 10-year-olds averaged 19 hours per week on all screen-time activities, including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with how easy it is to watch, makes it easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.



ILLEGAL STREAMING

Sharing passwords or using modified IP addresses to access streaming content without permission is illegal. While streaming services have some parental controls in place to detect account sharing, when accounts sharing is identified, platforms will either an opportunity to pay for an extra member or will cut the user to zero after their trial.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many streaming services allow users to create profiles for each child or teenager under the age of 18. These profiles allow parents to set content restrictions, including ratings of programs and ads, and settings, including content based on age ratings. For example, if a user's profile is set to restrict content to G or PG, the user will not see content with ratings of PG-13, R, or NC-17. However, some streaming services may allow users to bypass these restrictions, such as by using a VPN or a proxy server.



BINGE WATCHING

Parents and educators should be aware for children – especially young people – to continue watching episodes without a break. This habit of watching a vast amount of content in one sitting, with binge-watching come a form of social media that, both of them, provides, and often late night and early morning hours, and impact their health and mental well-being.

HARMFUL STEREOTYPES

Many programs, such as reality shows, have stereotypes and preferences, and generate negative attitudes in young people. It is important to be aware of the content that is being shown, especially if it is something that could negatively impact their health and mental well-being.



Advice for Parents & Educators

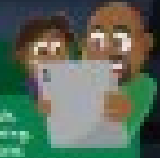
SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS

Streaming services often provide an option to create individual profiles for each child or teenager. These profiles allow parents to set content restrictions, including ratings of programs and ads, and settings, including content based on age ratings.



TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS

Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and how algorithms recommend content based on their viewing history. Encourage them to talk to you about what they are watching and to talk to you about what they are watching and to talk to you about what they are watching.



MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN

Monitor and talk often. If you are watching live or on-demand programming, and you are watching it, you should be able to see what they are watching. You should be able to see what they are watching and to talk to you about what they are watching.



SET TIME RESTRICTIONS

Many streaming services offer the opportunity to set time restrictions, or set content restrictions to your children's profiles. You can also set time restrictions, or set content restrictions to your children's profiles. You can also set time restrictions, or set content restrictions to your children's profiles.



Meet Our Expert

Dr. Kristin Matthews is an online safety consultant, educator, and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. Her research includes research papers that explore research for the education community, comparing internet use and viewing behavior of young people to their video and music.

