



# MERRYLANDS

PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

SUMMER TERM – FRIDAY 5TH JUNE 2026

## MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL – MRS PRYER

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another busy week, with new learning topics starting across the school, alongside a workshop for Year 4 and a school trip for Year 3.

On Tuesday, we were very fortunate to welcome members of the cast from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, who will be performing at the Towngate Theatre next week. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a range of singing activities, as well as joining in with a Joseph song or two! Thank you to the Friends of Merrylands for organising this fantastic experience.

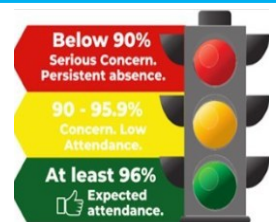
This week, we were also pleased to welcome our new Reception intake for a Stay and Play session. It was lovely to meet them and their families, introduce them to our school community, and give them the opportunity to explore the Reception classrooms and outdoor area ahead of starting in September.

As we enter the final term of the academic year, I would like to remind parents/carers that only small stud earrings and a watch may be worn at school. Earrings must be removed for PE, and smart watches are not permitted. In addition, long hair should be tied back using a small white, black, grey, or navy-blue hair tie. Decorative hair accessories, such as flowers and large bows, should not be worn. For further information, please refer to the uniform policy on the school website.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.



**School Attendance Target: 95.00 %**



**This week's attendance: 92.17%**

**The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Mrs Anthony's Class with 97.22%**

**The class with the best attendance in KS2 was Miss Gilmore's Class with 99.59%**

**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 CERTIFICATE

## FOCUS: KINDNESS

Nursery: Joshua A  
 Nest: Henry J  
 Reception, Mrs Anthony: Mya-M H  
 Reception, Mrs Sullivan: Daisy H  
 Reception, Miss Bagridge: Sofia S  
 Year 1, Mrs King: Percy S  
 Year 1, Mrs Camoccio: Klay C  
 Year 1, Mrs Andrade: Felicia P  
 Year 2, Mrs Didham: Zyana E  
 Year 2, Miss Milne: Presley W  
 Year 2, Mrs Christie/Mrs Cooper: Tyla B

Year 3, Mrs Almond: Eva P  
 Year 3, Miss Gilmore: Niharika G  
 Year 3, Miss Medina: Freya-R H  
 Year 4, Miss Lee: Dominic W  
 Year 4, Miss Miller: James C  
 Year 4, Miss Atkin: Robert M  
 Year 5, Miss Day: Megan P  
 Year 5, Mr Taylor: Kyle P  
 Year 5, Miss Osborne: Abdul Q  
 Year 6, Miss White: Lyla L  
 Year 6, Mrs Thour: Ella W

### 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	Raphael M
Year 1	Harry H
Year 2	Raigan-R E-G
Year 3	Morgan T-J
Year 4	Harrison H
Year 5	Rayyan M
Year 6	Jessica C

### UPCOMING DIARY DATES

#### JUNE

15.06.2026 - Nursery Sports Day - 2pm-3pm  
 15.06.2026 - Father's Day Sale  
 16.06.2026 - Reception Sports Day - 2pm-3pm  
 23.06.2026 - Year 1/2/3 Sports Day- 9.15am-11.15am  
 24.06.2026 - Year 4/5/6 Sports Day- 9.15am-11.15am  
 25.06.2026 - KS1 Infant Music Festival



RESPECT

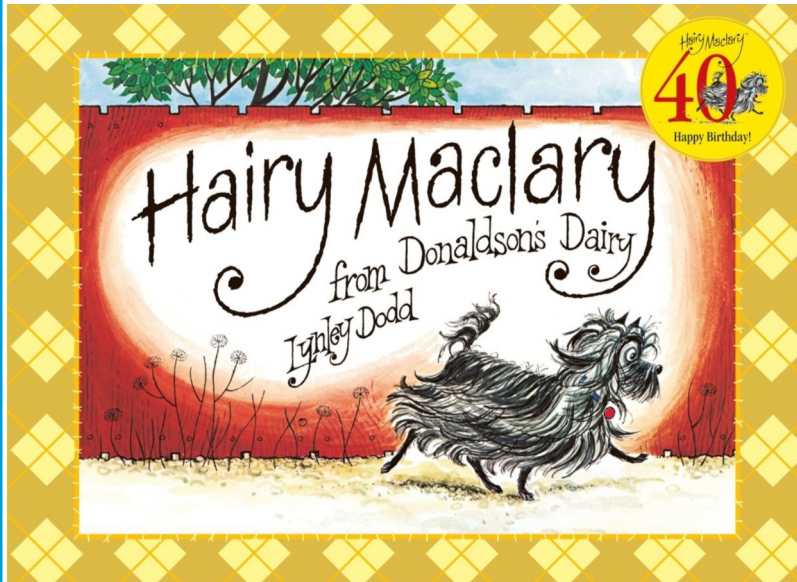
KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

# BOOK OF THE WEEK



In Reception, Mrs Anthony's class have been reading 'Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy' by Lynley Dodd. The children have loved all the different kinds of dogs in this story and have really enjoyed joining in with all the rhyming repeats!



Hairy Maclary is a small mixed breed dog. He and his gang of canine friends love to trot through their town looking for trouble. Hairy is boisterous and is full of bustle but will a confrontation with Scarface Claw scare him straight?

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION



## Sportsperson of the Half Term...

### Jake Jarman

#### Who is Jake Jarman?

Jake Jarman is a British Olympic gymnast who is from Peterborough. Jake was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2001- he started gymnastics at the age of 6 after a coach saw him performing tricks on the monkey bars at his local park. As a child, Jake was inspired by the British gymnast Louis Smith, who he used to watch compete on the TV.



#### What has Jake achieved?

Jake is an incredibly successful gymnast who became the first male artistic gymnast representing England to win four gold medals at a single edition of the Commonwealth Games. At this event, he was victorious in the men's team, individual all-around, floor exercise, and vault competitions at the 2022 Games in Birmingham, England. In addition to this, Jake is a two-time World Champion that became the first male British gymnast to win titles on two different apparatus – the vault and floor - when he stood on the top step of the podium at the 2025 World Championships. He also won a bronze medal at the 2024 Olympics for the floor.



## Roller Ball



**What you need:** two or more players, two objects for markers and a ball or pair of rolled up socks.

#### How to play:

- Place two markers 5m apart. One player begins standing next to one of the markers. They are the 'roller.' They roll the ball out in any direction and then run to the other marker and back as many times as they can.
- Each time they reach a marker they score one point.
- The other player must retrieve the ball and place it back on the start marker as quickly as possible.
- Four turns then change over.

**Who has the highest score?**



RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE



On Monday 8th June 2026 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



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





# **FATHER'S DAY GIFT SALE**

## **Monday 15th June 2026**

**On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June, we will be hosting a Father's Day Gift Sale.**

**During the school day, children will have the chance to purchase a range of gifts for sale.**

**Prices range from 50p to £4.00.**

**Please ensure children store their money safely in a purse/wallet or named envelope.**

**Children will need to bring a carrier bag with their name on to store their purchase(s)**



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

### 1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

### 2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

### 3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

### 4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

### 5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

### 6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

### 7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

### 8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

### 9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

### 10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

## Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday®

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