



MERRYLANDS

PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

SUMMER TERM – FRIDAY 26TH JUNE 2026

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL – MRS PRYER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Despite the extremely hot weather this week, the children have continued to work hard in their lessons and have produced some really good work.

In Nursery, the highlight of the week has undoubtedly been *Dinosaur Day!* The children enjoyed taking part in a special workshop, alongside a wide range of engaging dinosaur-themed activities. It was wonderful to see their curiosity and excitement brought to life through such a memorable experience.

Across the rest of the school, there has been some fantastic learning. Children in Reception have been developing their understanding of numbers from 10–20, while Year 1 have been writing recounts following their recent trip to *Call of the Wild*. Year 2 have explored their new text, *A Walk in London*, sparking lots of discussion and imagination. Year 3 have been learning about angles in maths, while Year 4 have been investigating shapes and lines of symmetry. Year 5 have been developing their confidence in adding and subtracting decimals, and Year 6 have been applying their knowledge through problem-solving in maths.

Next week, we are looking forward to the Family Fun Afternoon on Friday 3rd July. Please remember to purchase your ticket and join us for crazy golf, bouncy castles and games.

Thank you for your continued support this week. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.



School Attendance Target: 95.00 %



This week's attendance: 82.96%

The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Mrs Didham's Class with 89.39%

The class with the best attendance in KS2 was Mrs Almond's Class with 94.44%

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: RESPECT

Nursery: Maya N
 Reception, Mrs Anthony: Lottie S
 Reception, Mrs Sullivan: Daisy H
 Reception, Mrs Bagridge: Dominic D
 Year 1, Mrs King: June L
 Year 1, Mrs Camoccio: Austin B
 Year 1, Mrs Andrade: Millie F
 Year 2, Mrs Didham: Leo B, Sebastian W
 & Kane S
 Year 2, Miss Milne: Theo W
 Year 2, Mrs Christie/Mrs Cooper:
 Shiloh S

Year 3, Mrs Almond: Holly W
 Year 3, Miss Gilmore: Lily-M C
 Year 3, Miss Medina: Freya-R H
 Year 4, Miss Lee: Lillie S
 Year 4, Miss Miller: Francesca A
 Year 4, Miss Atkin: Lucas M &
 Teddie C
 Year 5, Miss Day: Megan P
 Year 5, Mr Taylor: Teddy K
 Year 5, Miss Osborne: Hana G
 Year 6, Miss White: Millie C
 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.

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|-----------|-------------|
| Reception | David G |
| Year 1 | Francesca B |
| Year 2 | Thomas H |
| Year 3 | Ayan B |
| Year 4 | Chidubem E |
| Year 5 | Hesha P |
| Year 6 | Rosie G |

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

08.07.2026 - Meet the Teacher (Pupils Only)
 10.07.2026 - Reports Sent Home
 15.07.2026 - End of Year Celebration Event
 16.07.2026 - Year 6 Leavers Assembly (09:30-11:30am)
 & Leavers Party (1:00pm -3:20pm)
 20.07.2026 - Inset Day
 21.07.2026 - Start of School Holidays



RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

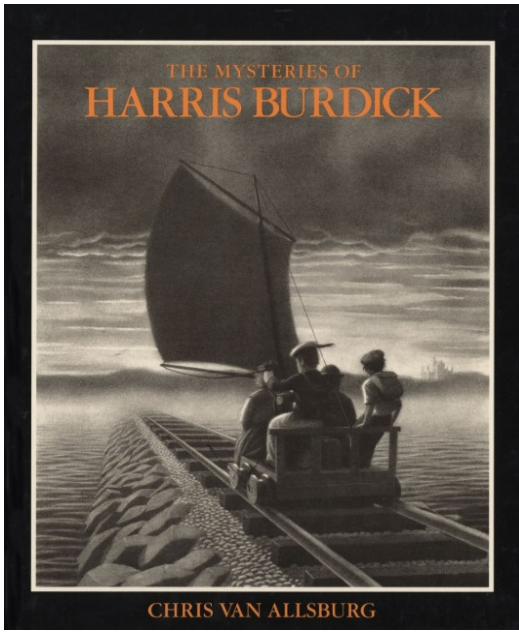
BOOK OF THE WEEK



Year 6 have started reading, 'The Mysteries of Harris Burdick' by Chris Van Allsburg in English. It is a set of 14 black and white images with a title and one line of text for each photo. Van Allsburg had found a box of drawings belonging to the Wenders family.

He stated: They were remarkable, some bizarre, some funny, some downright scary. In the hope that other children will be inspired by them, the Burdick drawings have been reproduced here for the first time.

Lucas L said, "I like that it's a mystery; it's almost as if you are being asked to solve problems."



ACHIEVEMENTS

Dexter earned his Chief Scout's Acorn Award this week. Dexter has worked incredibly hard to earn this award by completing tasks such as helping others, learning about his local community, growing and nurturing plants, learning to swim independently, and so much more!

Well done Dexter!



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 3rd 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.



I Spy...



Head to the park and play eye spy with a twist along the way. 'I spy something beginning with T', players race to be the first to touch something beginning with the letter T.



RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE



On Monday 29th June 2026 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
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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



EXCELLENCE IN SAFEGUARDING

Following the school's safeguarding review in October 2025, we were delighted to receive the Excellence in Safeguarding Commitment Award. This recognition reflects our strong safeguarding culture across the school and our commitment to ensuring every child feels safe, valued and supported.



Excellence in Safeguarding COMMITMENT Award

Awarded to

MERRYLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

in recognition of its commitment to expert, independent external scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements through engagement with Brightcore Consultancy's safeguarding review process.

This award reflects a proactive commitment to safeguarding assurance, transparency, and the strategic improvement of safeguarding across the setting.

Review conducted on:

13TH OCTOBER 2025



Oliver Welsby Oliver Welsby, Director & Lead Consultant

SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

for young people

7

You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosy around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though: they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos; this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday