



MERRYLANDS

PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

SUMMER TERM – FRIDAY 3RD JULY 2026

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL – MRS PRYER

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another busy and successful week at Merrylands, with lots of sporting events, Year 6 rehearsing for their end-of-year play, and children continuing to work hard in their lessons.

On Thursday, I had the pleasure of spending time with our Year 5 and Year 6 children who attended the Basildon Districts event. The day included a wide range of running and field events, and it was wonderful to see every participant giving their very best effort. The children represented our school brilliantly, showing resilience, enthusiasm and excellent sportsmanship throughout. We are incredibly proud of them all.

Earlier in the week, some of our Key Stage 2 children attended the Berlesduna Trust Swimming Gala. They returned with an impressive 20 medals, and I am delighted to share that they achieved 2nd place across the Trust. This was a fantastic achievement. Well done to everyone who took part.

Year 6 also enjoyed their Sports Day this week. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to compete against their peers in their final Sports Day at primary school and to create some lasting memories together. The children showed great enthusiasm and support for one another throughout the event. Congratulations to Miss White's class, who were the overall winners.

As the warm weather continues, please ensure that your child comes to school each day with sun cream already applied, a named water bottle and a sun hat. These simple measures help us to keep everyone safe and comfortable while enjoying outdoor learning and activities.

Looking ahead to next week, we have another exciting week planned. We are looking forward to the Year 1, 2 and 3 Sports Day, a visit from the library team to launch the Summer Reading Challenge, visits from our new Nursery children, and the Nest/ASC Activity Morning, which we are sure will be enjoyed by all involved.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.



School Attendance Target: 95.00 %

This week's attendance: 91.96%

The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Mrs King's Class with 97.44%

The class with the best attendance in KS2 was Mrs Almond's Class with 97.04%

If your child is absent, contact must be made to the School Office EVERY school day that your child is absent.



RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

STAR OF THE WEEK CERTIFICATE

FOCUS: PERSEVERANCE

Nursery: Whole Class

Nest: Frank R

Reception, Mrs Anthony: Tysha B

Reception, Mrs Sullivan: Bluey B

Reception, Mrs Bagridge: Skylar-Rose H

Year 1, Mrs King: Oliver B

Year 1, Mrs Camoccio: Kareem O

Year 1, Mrs Andrade: Luena M & Archie J

Year 2, Mrs Didham: Maisie H

Year 2, Miss Milne: Rosie P

Year 2, Mrs Christie/Mrs Cooper:

Bodhi-Fox H

Year 3, Mrs Almond: Morgan T-J

Year 3, Miss Gilmore: London-Violet H-L

Year 3, Miss Medina: Macie L

Year 4, Miss Lee: Aisosa O

Year 4, Miss Miller: Hunter T

Year 4, Miss Atkin: Niah W

Year 5, Miss Day: Dan J

Year 5, Mr Taylor: Keira B

Year 5, Miss Osborne: Haleemah A

Year 6, Miss White: Akira T

Year 6, Mrs Thour: Joey K

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	Isabel J
Year 1	Leonidas G
Year 2	Ocean L
Year 3	Freya T
Year 4	Beau M
Year 5	Haleemah A
Year 6	Alice H

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

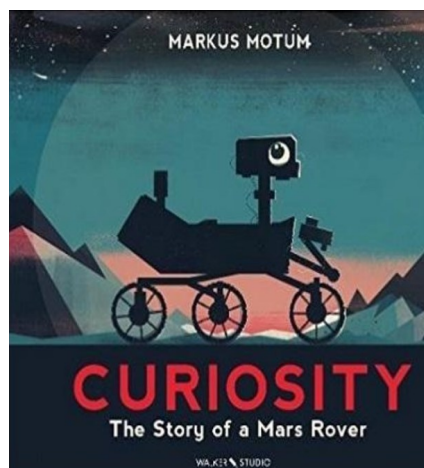


RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Year 5, Miss Osborne's class have been reading the book 'Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover' by Markus Motum.

This book is a true story about the journey of a rover that was created by NASA and sent to Mars. The children have been using this book to support their English lessons and it has inspired some lovely pieces of writing and very interesting discussions about space.

We are looking forward to completing the story and finding out more about this amazing rover!

Lillie-Ann said, "I like this book because you learn lots of cool facts about how the rover works"

NETBALL & FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Well done to all the girls and boys that participated in the Trust Football and Netball competition.

Despite the warm, sunny weather the children put in a great effort and showed lovely teamwork skills



with superb words of encouragement.

The netball team came 4th and the football team came 7th.



SWIMMING GALA

On Wednesday 1st July, some children in KS2 attended the Trust Swimming Gala. The whole team placed 2nd and the children left with 20 medals in total. A fantastic result of hard work, determination and sportsmanship.

Well done everyone!



RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE



On Monday 6th July 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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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



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviour.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and miming of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release calendar aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of spending flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to do, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including iGH, Techradar, and plenty more.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26/>