



MERRYLANDS

PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

AUTUMN TERM – FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2026

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL – MRS PRYER

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a great first full week back at Merrylands. The children have started new topics across the curriculum and have been working hard in their lessons. The new children in Reception and Nursery have settled in really well and are engaging enthusiastically with the opportunities available to them both inside and outside the classroom.

Yesterday, some children from Years 3 and 4 attended the rearranged Basildon District Sports competition. They represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating excellent sportsmanship throughout the event. We are now awaiting the final results from the organisers.

We are continuing to use BoomReader this year to record reading at home. Please encourage your child to read five times each week and ensure this is recorded on BoomReader. Please note that only your child's school reading book should be logged on BoomReader. We will continue to celebrate children who read regularly at home through rewards and prizes.

If you experience any issues accessing BoomReader or need your parent/carer login details again, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Next week, we are looking forward to celebrating International Day of Democracy on Tuesday. Each class will be selecting their School Councillors and Eco-Warriors.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.



School Attendance Target: 95.00 %

This week's attendance: 95.72%



The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Mrs King's Class with 99.44%

The class with the best attendance in KS2 was Miss Day's Class with 99.60%

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

ASC: Ronny O'D

Nursery: Bella A

Reception, Mrs Anthony: Arlo A

Reception, Mrs Fairman/

Miss Stanhope: Ryan K

Reception, Mrs Bagridge: Logan M

Year 1, Mrs King: Arthur S

Year 1, Mrs Sullivan: Harper G

Year 1, Mrs Andrade: The Whole Class

Year 2, Mrs Didham: Jacob D

Year 2, Miss Milne: Olivia L

Year 2, Mrs Christie/Mrs Cooper:

Juvan A

Year 3, Mrs Almond: Max L

Year 3, Miss Gilmore: Roxanne O

Year 3, Mrs Camoccio: Belle D

Year 4, Miss Lee: Piper M

Year 4, Miss Miller: The Whole Class

Year 4, Miss Atkin: Lily-M C

Year 5, Miss Day: Maira J

Year 5, Miss Medina: Elbiee T

Year 5, Miss Osborne: Dorit T

Year 6, Miss White: Lenny B

Year 6, Mrs Thour: Hana G

Year 6, Mr Taylor: Dan J

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	Ava-Jade L
Year 1	Evie P
Year 2	Jack I
Year 3	Sophia S
Year 4	Freya-R H
Year 5	Ellie L
Year 6	Sophia B

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

15.09.2026 - International Day of Democracy

October - Black History Month & Oracy Month

01.10.2026- National Poetry Day

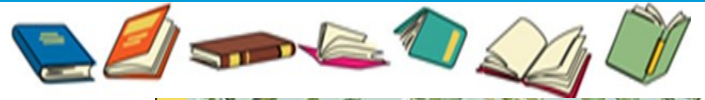


RESPECT

KINDNESS

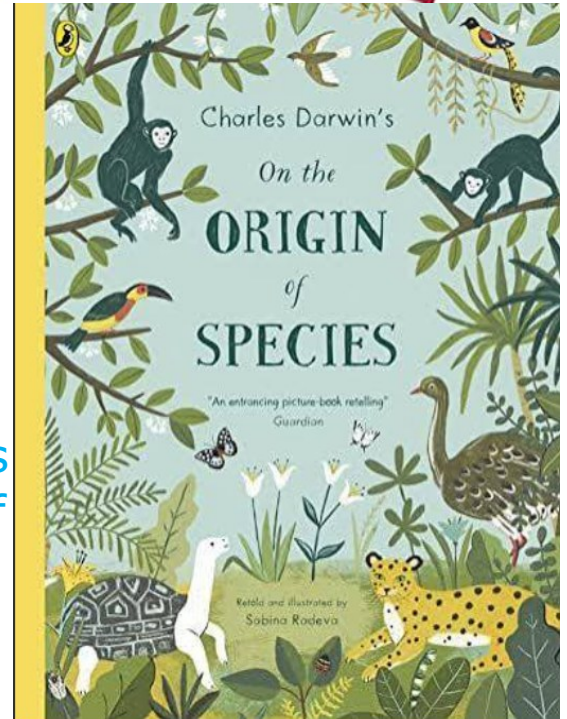
PERSEVERANCE

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Year 6 have started reading the 'Origin of Species' which links to our topic of Evolution and Inheritance.

It is a child-friendly version of Charles Darwin's genius book where he highlighted and wrote about the Theory of Evolution to explain life on Earth, the survival of the fittest and variation. It is a beautifully illustrated book with lots of interesting pictures to look at that have sparked some fun and creative discussions.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Alice I in Year 4 completed the Summer reading challenge in less than a week over the summer holidays. Well done Alice!



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Sportsperson of the Term...

Michelle Agyemang MBE

Who is Michelle Agyemang MBE?

Michelle Agyemang MBE is an English professional footballer who currently plays as a forward for Arsenal ladies in the Women's Super League (WSL). She was born locally, in South Ockendon (which is in Essex), on the 3rd February 2006. She joined Arsenal at the age of just six and was the youngest Lioness on the team during the 2025 Euros.

What has Michelle achieved?

Michelle made her senior debut for Arsenal at the age of 16, in November 2022. On her senior debut for England, in April 2025, she scored a stunning volley 41 seconds after she came on to the pitch. Michelle was part of the England squad which won the UEFA Euro 2025, where she was named the young player of the tournament. She scored crucial late goals during the quarter-finals and semi-finals to help the Lionesses retain their title. She won BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year in 2025 and was awarded an MBE in 2026 for her services to sport.

Colour Command



What you need: 4 - 6 different coloured socks or items

How to play:

- Lay out 4-6 different coloured pairs of socks in a circle formation and stand in the middle.
- Ask a helper to call out 2 colours and see if you can use your speedy feet to get quickly to the correct colours in turn.
- Return to the middle of the circle and repeat with a new call.

Top tips:

- Start in the ready position, feet shoulder width apart and knees bent, ready to react.
- Head and shoulders facing forwards
- Turn your hips and move your feet to each colour.



www.getset4education.co.uk

RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSEVERANCE



On Monday 14th September 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





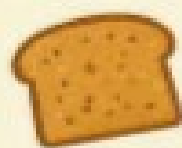
A HEALTHY LUNCHBOX

FUEL YOUR DAY, FEEL YOUR BEST!



1. MAIN

Choose wholegrain foods like wholemeal bread, pasta or rice.



3. FRUIT

Fruit gives you vitamins and helps keep you healthy.



2. VEG

Add a rainbow of vegetables for vitamins, minerals and energy!



4. TREAT

It's OK to have one small sugary treat.

One treat is plenty!



DON'T FORGET A DRINK!

Water is the best choice to keep you hydrated and help you concentrate.



A balanced lunchbox = more energy, better focus and a happier, healthier **YOU!**

