



MERRYLANDS

PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

AUTUMN TERM – FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2026

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL – MRS PRYER

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week's highlight has been our wonderful celebration of the Berlesduna Academy Trust's 10 year anniversary. To mark this special milestone, the children enjoyed a celebratory tea party lunch in our beautifully decorated marquee, complete with balloons and bunting. The festivities continued this afternoon with an ice lolly treat for every child, which was received with great excitement!

Earlier in the week, a number of children worked alongside Mrs Didham on a special Trust-wide art project. Schools across the Trust each decorated letters and numbers which will be combined to create a display spelling "Berlesduna 2026", showcasing the creativity and collaboration of all our schools.

Many of you will remember that, back in July, all of the children took part in a very special aerial photograph, forming the number 10 to commemorate the Trust's anniversary year. We are delighted that this fantastic photograph is now proudly displayed in our main foyer, serving as a lasting reminder of this important occasion and our place within the Berlesduna family of schools.

It has been a great week of celebration, reflection and community, and we are proud to be part of the Trust's ten-year journey.



School Attendance Target: 95.00 %



This week's attendance: 94.66%

The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Mrs Cooper/Mrs Christie's Class with 99.11%

The class with the best attendance in KS2 was Mrs Thour's Class with 100%

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

Nest: Henry J

Nursery: Zoe C

Reception, Mrs Anthony: Safiya H

Reception, Mrs Fairman/ Miss Stanhope: Theo P-B

Reception, Mrs Bagridge: Teya F

Year 1, Mrs King: Conor F

Year 1, Mrs Sullivan: Harley Y

Year 1, Mrs Andrade: Heesha S

Year 2, Mrs Didham: Felicia P

Year 2, Miss Milne: Kareem O

Year 2, Mrs Christie/Mrs Cooper: June L

Year 3, Mrs Almond: Bodhi-F H

Year 3, Miss Gilmore: Zyana E

Year 3, Mrs Camoccio: Mya M

Year 4, Miss Lee: George C

Year 4, Miss Miller: Fox M-P

Year 4, Miss Atkin: Stella C

Year 5, Miss Day: Kayden-L H

Year 5, Miss Medina: Louie L

Year 5, Miss Osborne: Olivia-R W

Year 6, Miss White: Samuel S

Year 6, Mrs Thour: Haleemah A

Year 6, Mr Taylor: Nina-F A

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	Skylar W
Year 1	Albert P
Year 2	Zoe W
Year 3	Scarlett B
Year 4	Stella C
Year 5	Evelyn R
Year 6	Chloe W

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

October - Black History Month & Oracy Month

08.10.2026—Trust Poetry Slam Competition

13.10.2026— Reception –Year 6 Parents Evening 3:40pm-19:30pm

14.10.2026— Reception— Year 6 Parents Evening 3:40pm-17:30pm



RESPECT

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BOOK OF THE WEEK



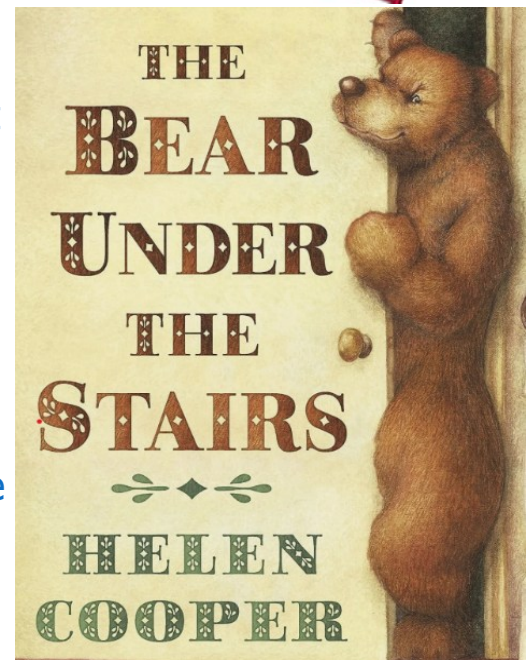
Our class book for CC/CCh is *The Bear Under the Stairs* by Helen Cooper. It tells the story of a little boy called William, who is convinced that a hungry grizzly bear is living in the dark cupboard under the stairs.

The children really enjoyed the story and shared their favourite parts:

Sadie said, "I liked it when William's mum went under the stairs to see what was there!"

Mykhailo said, "I liked it when William threw the food into the cupboard and it started to smell!"

Jaxon said, "I liked the ending when William received a cuddly teddy bear as a present."



YEAR 6 WAT TYLER TRIP

On Monday, 19 children from Year 6 attended an enrichment day at Wat Tyler Country Park. They took part in pond dipping, finding many interesting minibeasts including water boatmans, beetles and a variety of larvae and nymphs prior to them transforming to damselflies, dragonflies and mosquitoes through metamorphosis.

In the afternoon, the children enjoyed the adventure playground, viewed a salvaged thatched cottage and supported each-other to hit target boards during soft archery! It was a fun-packed day to start the week and wonderful to witness many examples of our core values at Merrylands, particularly perseverance.



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YEAR 1 LIBRARY ART DISPLAY

Our Year 1 children have been busy creating some wonderful artwork inspired by their current Science topic, Animals.

They have explored different animals and used their creativity to produce colourful and Imaginative pieces of art.

Their fantastic work is currently on display in the Laindon Library for the next 2 weeks, so please take a moment to have a look and celebrate their creativity and learning.



LAINDON WOMBLES

Mr Reeves from the Laindon Wombles visited the school to deliver an informative presentation about littering. He shared fascinating facts about the different items he finds and explained how long they take, if ever, to biodegrade. The Eco-Warriors will be using his presentation to share these important messages with their classmates. We look forward to working closely with Mr Reeves and the Laindon Wombles throughout the year as we continue our efforts to care for our local environment.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Albert A in Year 5 has been training extremely hard over the last couple of weeks at his kickboxing classes, ready for his upcoming fight in November. This week he received student of the week for his determination and hard work.

Well done Albert!



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ISLE OF WIGHT 2026

Year 6 had a fantastic week in the Isle of Wight. They had a blast experiencing lots of fun things such as fossil hunting, crazy golf, a farm visit, a visit to Osborne House, a boat trip around the Needles and a night time walk to Shanklin Chine.

They were also very lucky with the weather. They ended the week with a bang— attending a disco on Thursday night to celebrate the marvellous week they had. Welcome back Year 6!



On Monday 5th October 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.



Lighter Bites



OUR LIGHTER LUNCH
OPTIONS OF JACKET
POTATO & HAM OR CHEESE
BAGUETTE ARE AVAILABLE
TO ALL PUPILS.

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL
BE NO HAM BAGUETTE
AVAILABLE ON MEAT FREE
MONDAYS.



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

WEEK 1

MACARONI CHEESE
VEGETABLE PASTA BAKE
DESSERT -
FRUIT & YOGURT

CHICKEN FAJITA WRAP
QUORN FAJITA WRAP
WITH CRISPY CUBE POTATOES & SALAD
BAR
DESSERT - APPLE SPONGE CAKE WITH
ICING & SPRINKLES

BUTCHERS PORK SAUSAGES
QUORN SAUSAGES
WITH MASH POTATO, PEAS, CARROTS,
YORKSHIRE PUDDING & GRAVY
DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY & FRUIT

HOMEMADE CHICKEN CURRY
VEGETABLE CURRY
WITH BROWN RICE & MIXED VEGETABLES
DESSERT - FRUIT OR YOGURT

BIRDSEYE FISH FINGERS
CHEDDAR WHIRL
WITH SMILEY FACES & SWEETCORN
DESSERT - CHOCOLATE SWIRL MOUSSE
FRUIT OR YOGURT

MEAT FREE MONDAYS

Jacket Potato or
Cheese Baguette

Jacket Potato,
Ham or Cheese
Baguette

Jacket Potato,
Ham or Cheese
Baguette

Jacket Potato,
Ham or Cheese
Baguette

Jacket Potato,
Ham or Cheese
Baguette

WEEK 2

CHEESE & TOMATO PIZZA
WITH TRI COLOUR PASTA IN A
HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & SALAD
BAR
DESSERT - FRUIT & YOGURT

BIRDSEYE FISH FINGERS
VEGETABLE FINGERS
WITH POTATO WAFFLES & PEAS
DESSERT - HOMEMADE LEMON DRIZZLE
CAKE OR FRUIT

BUTCHERS ROAST CHICKEN
QUORN FILLET
WITH ROAST POTATOES, CARROTS, GREEN
BEANS, YORKSHIRE PUDDING & GRAVY
DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY
FRUIT OR YOGURT

HOMEMADE BEEF BOLOGNESE
VEGETABLE BOLOGNESE
WITH SPAGHETTI & PEAS
DESSERT - FRUIT OR YOGURT

BUTCHERS CHICKEN NUGGETS
VEGETABLE NUGGETS
WITH CHIPS & SPAGHETTI HOOPS
DESSERT - STRAWBERRY SWIRL
MOUSSE
FRUIT OR YOGURT

