MERRYLANDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Autumn Term – Friday 23rd October 2026

Message from Head of School – Mrs Pryer

Dear Parents/Carers,
We have reached the end of a busy first half term, and it has been a fantastic start to the academic year. The children have worked extremely hard in their lessons and made excellent progress across the curriculum. It has been wonderful to see them embrace new challenges, demonstrate our core values of respect, kindness and perseverance, and approach their learning with enthusiasm and determination.

As always, we have been collecting team points throughout the term, and I am delighted to announce that this half term's winners are Yellow team in Early Years and Key Stage 1, and Yellow team in Key Stage 2. When we return after half term, all totals will be reset, and we look forward to finding out which teams will win next term.

We have lots to look forward to in the second half of the autumn term, including Children in Need Day, Anti-Bullying Week, Christmas performances, Christmas dinner and the pantomime. Thank you once again for your generous donations, which have helped make the pantomime possible again this year.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the term and I hope you and your child(ren) have a wonderful half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 3rd November 2026.



School Attendance Target: 95.00 %



This week's attendance: 92.52%

The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Mrs Anthony's Class with 96.30%

The class with the best attendance in KS2 was Miss White's Class with 96.62%

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

STAR OF THE WEEK CERTIFICATE
FOCUS: RESPECT

Nursery: Evie-R H
Reception, Mrs Anthony: Sylvie-H B
Reception, Mrs Fairman/ Miss Stanhope: Alaia S
Reception, Mrs Bagridge: Ruby L-T
Year 1, Mrs King: Ollie B
Year 1, Mrs Sullivan: Lottie S
Year 1, Mrs Andrade: Sienna C
Year 2, Mrs Didham: Millie F
Year 2, Miss Milne: Lexi A
Year 2, Mrs Christie/Mrs Cooper: Emma O
Year 3, Mrs Almond: Tiago C
Year 3, Miss Gilmore: Betty-R B
Year 3, Mrs Camoccio: Rosie P
Year 4, Miss Lee: Theo M
Year 4, Miss Miller: Lola W
Year 4, Miss Atkin: Isaac C
Year 5, Miss Day: Emma E
Year 5, Miss Medina: Billy M-S
Year 5, Miss Osborne: Mark O
Year 6, Miss White: Eva P
Year 6, Mrs Thour: Zac A
Year 6, Mr Taylor: Rayyan M

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	Violet W
Year 1	Mason H
Year 2	Aryah-M S
Year 3	Bodhi-F H
Year 4	Daria C
Year 5	Ruby F
Year 6	Rayyan M

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

26.10.2026— October Half Term
02.11.2026—Inset Day
03.11.2026—Back to School



BOOK OF THE WEEK

In Reception, Mrs Anthony's class have been enjoying reading two books about autumn - The Sun Thief and The Leaf Thief by Alice Hemming & Nicola Slater.



These are both funny books about a squirrel who thinks that a thief has stolen first the sun and then his leaves - his friend Bird helps him by explaining the seasonal changes.
There are also other books in this series which we are looking forward to reading later in the year!



YEAR 2 LIBRARY ARTWORK DISPLAY

Year 2 have been busy exploring the natural world through art! Inspired by our Science topic, Animals and Their Habitats, the children headed outdoors to forage for natural materials and use their finds to create beautiful, nature-inspired artwork. They explored different textures, shapes and colours, letting their creativity flourish while developing a greater appreciation for the world around them.

We are delighted that the children's wonderful creations will be on display at Laindon Library for the next two weeks. Why not pop in and take a look at Year 2's fantastic work? We are so proud of their creativity and enthusiasm!



ECO-SCHOOLS LITTER PICK

On Tuesday 20th October 2026, the Eco-Schools team worked alongside Mr Reeves from the Laindon Wombles on a community litter pick!

Together the children collected an impressive amount of rubbish, including plastic bottles, bottle tops, crisp packets, and many other items. The experience helped us to understand the importance of looking after our environment and taking pride in keeping our local community clean and tidy.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Mr Reeves for giving his time and supporting us with this valuable activity as well as the adults who joined us.





HARVEST DONATION

We would like to say a huge thank you for all of the donations for our Harvest Appeal. The donations, weighing a total of 211.9kg, were collected on Tuesday morning. We received this thank you certificate and email from the foodbank:

"This is to thank you, the entire team, and the pupils at Merrylands Primary School and Nursery for your generous Harvest Festival donation.

Basildon Foodbank truly appreciates your thoughtful contribution as always. Because of supporters like yourselves, we can continue to provide food parcels to those in our community who desperately need them.

Thank you again for your generosity."

On Tuesday 3rd November 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.

LUNCH TIME

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.

SALAD BAR

	WEEK 1	MEAT FREE MONDAYS	WEEK 2
MONDAY	MACARONI CHEESE VEGETABLE PASTA BAKE DESSERT - FRUIT & YOGURT	Jacket Potato or Cheese Baguette	CHEESE & TOMATO PIZZA WITH TRI COLOUR PASTA IN A HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & SALAD BAR DESSERT - FRUIT & YOGURT
TUESDAY	CHICKEN FAJITA WRAP QUORN FAJITA WRAP WITH CRISPY CUBE POTATOES & SALAD BAR DESSERT - APPLE SPONGE CAKE WITH ICING & SPRINKLES	Jacket Potato, Ham or Cheese Baguette	BIRDSEYE FISH FINGERS VEGETABLE FINGERS WITH POTATO WAFFLES & PEAS DESSERT - HOMEMADE LEMON DRIZZLE CAKE OR FRUIT
WEDNESDAY	BUTCHERS PORK SAUSAGES QUORN SAUSAGES WITH MASH POTATO, PEAS, CARROTS, YORKSHIRE PUDDING & GRAVY DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY & FRUIT	Jacket Potato, Ham or Cheese Baguette	BUTCHERS ROAST CHICKEN QUORN FILLET WITH ROAST POTATOES, CARROTS, GREEN BEANS, YORKSHIRE PUDDING & GRAVY DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY FRUIT OR YOGURT
THURSDAY	HOMEMADE CHICKEN CURRY VEGETABLE CURRY WITH BROWN RICE & MIXED VEGETABLES DESSERT - FRUIT OR YOGURT	Jacket Potato, Ham or Cheese Baguette	HOMEMADE BEEF BOLOGNESE VEGETABLE BOLOGNESE WITH SPAGHETTI & PEAS DESSERT - FRUIT OR YOGURT
FRIDAY	BIRDSEYE FISH FINGERS CHEDDAR WHIRL WITH SMILEY FACES & SWEETCORN DESSERT - CHOCOLATE SWIRL MOUSSE FRUIT OR YOGURT	Jacket Potato, Ham or Cheese Baguette	BUTCHERS CHICKEN NUGGETS VEGETABLE NUGGETS WITH CHIPS & SPAGHETTI HOOPS DESSERT - STRAWBERRY SWIRL MOUSSE FRUIT OR YOGURT


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ACADEMY TRUST
Aspiration • Family • Success
PLAY PRACTISE PROGRESS ROCK!
SMALL STEPS BIG RESULTS!
BERLESDUNA
BATTLE OF THE BANDS
TT ROCK STARS
NOVEMBER SHOWDOWN 2026
LOUDER FASTER SMARTER TOGETHER!
TIMES TABLES BUILD BRIGHTER FUTURES
CAN YOUR SCHOOL BECOME BERLESDUNA'S TIMES TABLES CHAMPION?
TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER – FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2026
TOP SCHOOL
TOP CLASS
TOP INDIVIDUAL ROCKSTAR
MOST IMPROVED ROCKSTAR
EVERY CORRECT ANSWER COUNTS!
TT ROCK STARS
PLAY • COMPETE • CLIMB • BE A ROCKSTAR!
MATHS BUILDS BRIGHTER FUTURES