MERRYLANDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Autumn Term – Friday 6th November

Message from Head of School – Mrs Pryer

Dear Parents/Carers,
Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half term break. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school with such enthusiasm and a positive attitude towards their learning.
We have had a fantastic first week back, with lots of exciting learning taking place across the school. A particular highlight was the Year 5 Volcano Workshop, which brought their geography learning to life through a range of engaging and memorable activities.
This week also saw a number of Curriculum Showcase sessions take place across the school. Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended. It was a pleasure to welcome you into school and share the excellent learning that is taking place in our classrooms.
There has been some wonderful learning happening across all year groups this week. In Nursery, children have been learning about firework safety and how to stay safe during celebrations. Reception pupils have been comparing quantities in mathematics, developing their early number skills. In Year 1, children have been exploring the important message that everyone is unique and special as part of their PSHE learning. Year 2 have been learning about the countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom, while Year 3 have been investigating the different food groups in science.
In Year 4, children have been developing their French vocabulary by learning the names of different rooms within a house. Year 5 have been learning about how the Earth moves around the Sun and how this creates day, night and the seasons. Meanwhile, Year 6 have been strengthening their writing by using relative clauses to add greater detail to their writing.
Next week, we will be marking Armistice Day, providing an opportunity for the children to learn about the importance of remembrance and to reflect on those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.



School Attendance Target: 95.00 %



This week's attendance: 95.12%

The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Mrs King's Class with 98.57%

The class with the best attendance in KS2 was Miss Medina's Class with 99.01%

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: KINDNESS

Nursery: Andreea B
Nest: Frank W
Reception, Mrs Anthony: Summer A
Reception, Mrs Fairman/ Miss Stanhope: Lily L
Reception, Mrs Bagridge: Teddy P
Year 1, Mrs King: Beau D
Year 1, Mrs Sullivan: Matteo S
Year 1, Mrs Andrade: Dottie-R C
Year 2, Mrs Didham: Archie J
Year 2, Miss Milne: Ollie B
Year 2, Mrs Christie/Mrs Cooper: Buster F
Year 3, Mrs Almond: Georgina P
Year 3, Miss Gilmore: Erika G
Year 3, Mrs Camoccio: Iris H
Year 4, Miss Lee: Arthur P
Year 4, Miss Miller: Rocco N
Year 4, Miss Atkin: Freddy C
Year 5, Miss Day: Maisie C
Year 5, Miss Medina: Sofia S
Year 5, Miss Osborne: Heidi D-O
Year 6, Miss White: Keira B
Year 6, Mrs Thour: Joel O
Year 6, Mr Taylor: Megan P

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	Nellie-R R
Year 1	Jeremiah S
Year 2	Buster F
Year 3	Chiral D
Year 4	Freya-R H
Year 5	Mark O
Year 6	Samuel S

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

13.11.26 - Children In Need (Yellow, Spots or Pudsey Non Uniform)
16.11.26—Anti Bullying Week
30.11.26—St Andrews Day Dinner



BOOK OF THE WEEK



In Nursery, the children are reading "The Leaf Thief" by Alice Hemming and illustrated by Nicola Slater.

The squirrel in the story believes someone is stealing all the autumn leaves from his tree.

The book tells a fun loving story about how the seasons change and why the leaves are being "stolen" from the squirrel's tree.

PUPIL VOICE MEETING



On Thursday 22nd October 2026 Keira B and Zac A, (Merrylands' Head Pupils), set off to Felmore Primary School and attended a pupil voice meeting about British Values. They got to meet new pupils from other schools across the academy. Together they discussed British Values and how we need to encourage these values throughout the school and our community.

"We will try to incorporate these values into our daily routine at Merrylands. It is important to implement strong values at the core of our day to day lives" - Keira and Zac, Head Girl and Head Boy.

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.

Book Balance

Get Set 4 Education

What you need: your favourite story

How to play:

- Using your favourite story, pick out three characters and create a balance that represents each one e.g.



- Read through your story or ask someone else to!
- Each time the character is mentioned, hold the balance you have created for five seconds.
- Make this harder by holding your balance until the next character is mentioned!

RESPECT KINDNESS PERSEVERANCE

On Monday 9th November 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.

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

manor mission church

CHRISTMAS MARKET

AT MANOR MISSION CHURCH, LAINDON

Saturday 28th November
10am – 2pm



All money raised goes towards the Building Fund to provide a new building for the community.

@manormissionchurch

Manor Road, Laindon, SS15 6PA