



Newsletter – 5th December 2025



CELEBRATING GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Overall whole school attendance this week: 93.26%

Well done to class 3T for achieving the highest attendance this week.



The Christmas excitement has begun!

We started the week with hundreds of very excitable sparkly children! As you can probably guess, we have been hearing all about the antics of the Naughty Elves and sharing the joy. There is so much magic and excitement for the children at this time of year and its a time we truly cherish sharing with them. December is always incredibly busy, inside and out of school for everybody, so please do remember to check the calendar so you do not miss anything.



Advent of Giving

Thank you so much for the donated items for hampers which have been sent in so far. Our advent of giving continues to run until Monday 15th December so if you would still like to donate a little something, you still have time. We will be making up the hampers and delivering to the Food Bank and Porch Pantry before the end of term.



School Council's Christmas Drawing Competition

With the full support of our Art Learning Ambassador Woody, School Council this week have launched their Christmas Drawing Competition. The categories are for Nursery and Reception, Years 1,2,3 and Years 4,5,6. School Council will be encouraging their peers to enter and will be collecting all entries between now and the final deadline of Tuesday 16th December. Thereafter, School Council will judge the categories and decide on the 1st and 2nd place. Each 1st place entry will feature on the church programme for our event on Thursday 18th December. Parents are welcome to attend the church, timings and further information are on the calendar and on our diary overview.

Christmas lunch - Friday 19th December

We are looking forward to enjoying our annual Christmas Lunch. The cost of the meal will be £2.50, as usual, but for pupils in Rec, Yrs 1 & 2 and those in receipt of free school meals this will be free. Parents are able to pre-book the meal in advance on Parentpay or pupils can book in the classroom on the day, in the usual way. Pupils will be encouraged to wear their Christmas outfit/jumper on the day and every child will receive a Christmas cracker with their meal or packed lunch. The cost for the cracker will be £1 and payment should be made for this, via Parent pay.

Please note there will not be any jacket potato or cold lunch options on the day.



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Cross Country Event – report by Morgan D (Year 6)

On the 26th November 2025, pupils from Years 5 and 6 went to a cross country event at the Northern Gateway Sports Park. There were around fifteen schools who attended this event. There were four races which each lasted approximately 5-8 minutes and were both hard and intense! Each race was about 1.5k long. The conditions were a bit of a challenge with the cold and it being so slippery. Many people slipped over and you could even see other people hurdling over them so they didn't slip over too! There were about 130-160 people in each race from schools all over Colchester.

All of the school teams were cheering and shouting positive things with everyone being so supportive. Pupils from our school were placed really well with our best score being placed 14th (well done Molly!). Everybody returned from the race with a smile on their face; they were proud even if they did not get highest placed position, they still were thrilled because people made them feel good about themselves.

Year 5 Boys - Joseph J, Connor L, Henry S, Frank L, Aidan C, Etienne T.

Year 5 Girls - Jess H, Ava D, Darcie C, Lilia H, Beau B, Georgia K.

Year 6 Boys - Laiton B, Max H, Morgan D, William H, Maahi A, Theo P

Year 6 Girls – Olivia L, Olivia P, Baylee-Blue B, Molly W, Eliza P, Angelique E-R.



Well done to all the participants and to Morgan for a great write-up.



Year Three Charter Hall Visit

On Tuesday, Year 3 visited Charter Hall for the 'John Williams at Christmas' concert. They were able to experience listening to a live orchestra playing songs from films such as Star Wars, Jurassic Park and Harry Potter. Year 3 were impeccably behaved and engaged throughout the whole performance and particularly enjoyed listening to the talented soloists, seeing new instruments they had never seen before and joining in with a sing along from 'Home Alone'. A big thank you to all of the parents for helping transport the children to the trip.

Rugby

A group of 10 Year 5 & 6 pupils participated in a tag rugby competition this week. They played 8 games, winning 4, drawing 2 and losing 2. They are still waiting to hear of their overall position but they received lots of positive feedback on their performance and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Well done to all involved and to all parents who supported the children with this event.





Can we help you?

The current economic climate is presenting challenges and is affecting everyone in different ways. If your financial situation has changed you may now be entitled to additional support including free school meals, contributions towards trips and some school uniform provision. There is guidance for eligibility and the process does not require you to fill in a lot of paperwork or any online forms, this is something we can do for you. All families from Reception to Year 6 may apply. If you would like any additional information or would like to apply please contact Mrs Lee by emailing office@merseaschool.org



REMEMBER the Online Safety Parent Workshop – FREE ONLINE SESSION – I am sure you will find this really informative. I bet you will say ‘I had no idea..!’ on some of the things shared – it really is so helpful.

The 2 Johns will be back on **Thursday 11 December, 8.00pm** with one of their popular online sessions. This is your chance to hear the latest insights, tips, and must-know updates to help keep children safe online — just in time for the holiday season. Save the date and register now by scanning the QR code via this link.



Would you like a Nursery place for your child in January?

We have a few spaces for 3 – 4 year olds
Please contact Mrs Taylor in the school office via nursery@merseaschool.org
for more information or call 01206 382736.

Can you help?

If you are having a sort out and have any of the following in good condition which you would like to donate to us, we would be most grateful for:



- *Toy cars
- *Toy animals (not cuddly toys)
- *Construction toys
- *Colouring books
- *Top Trumps cards and playing cards
- *Tea sets, dolls clothes, role play toys, dressing up clothes.



Please see the attachments regarding our Spring term before and after school clubs and booking arrangements.



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Stars of the Week



Nursery	This week everyone in the Nursery is celebrating Summer for her beautiful, wholehearted singing and actions in our Christmas Nativity performance. Summer completely immerses herself in the songs and inspires others to sing along, with as much enthusiasm as her. Thank you for being our singing superstar Summer.
Rec 1	We are celebrating Macen D as he has been working really hard on his pencil control and this week has been writing his name independently. Well done Macen all that hard work is paying off. Keep up the good work.
Rec 2	This week R2 are celebrating Oakley R. Oakley has made a huge effort with his reading at home and is learning 3 blend sounds in a word. He is developing confidence and loving reading too! We are SO proud of him.
1M	Madden P for working really hard and always making good choices being a great role model to his friends. Well done Madden!
1E	1E are celebrating Lachlan J for sharing his fantastic scientific knowledge with the class about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. Lachlan was able to explain clearly the meaning of each and give an example of an animal to fit each category. Well done Lachlan, keep up the hard work!
2E	Louisa-Mae B for her excellent maths work this week. We have been building arrays to help us visualise multiplication and division questions and she has been amazing at building and explaining her arrays. Well done Louisa-Mae.
2B	2B star of the week is Jacob for his independence in English and Maths. Jacob has been working hard on doing things on his own and has been motivated to do lots of calculations and write lots of sentences. Well done Jacob.
3D	I would like to celebrate Robyn S for super participation in PE. She always listens carefully to the instructions and performs the skills with ease. She remembers skills from previous weeks, in both gymnastics and netball, and happily demonstrates when asked. Robyn is able to recall the vocabulary used and what it means.
3T	Artie D has been having a fantastic week, he has worked hard in all subjects but has shown a particular interest in improving his maths work, taking it upon himself to learn topics we haven't even covered yet and doing further reading to stretch his amazing brain even further!
4W	Phoebe-May M for being super efficient and helpful around the classroom and for showing impressive engagement in English lessons where she knows the plot of our class story in great detail. Well done, Phoebe!
4R	Star of the week for 4R is Roman. He has worked exceptionally hard to include all our features that we have learned in his writing. He has helped his learning partner and really challenged himself in maths.
5E	5E would love to celebrate Ava D this week for being a ray of sunshine in class, Ava is always kind, caring and hard working. She loves to help others and often supports her peers when they experience a challenge. Ava felt incredibly proud of her efforts in maths this week and it was lovely to see her so happy and proud. Well done Ava!
5/6W	Mrs Wyatt would like to celebrate Etienne T for his fantastic progress across all subjects and for his wonderful attitude and sportsmanship in PE. Very well done, Etienne—keep up the great work!
6H	Baylee-Blue for always thinking carefully about how she presents her work and for always getting on with it quietly in class. This brilliant behaviour is exactly what we like to see at school. Well done, Baylee!
6Y	Orla M is being celebrated for fantastic work in English this week. Her amazing word choices and phrases created a very poignant WW1 poem. Well done Orla.