

Merdon Junior School Newsletter No. 1

12th September 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to the start of the new academic year. We have been so impressed with the behaviour and learning attitudes the children have shown so far. It has been lovely to be in the classrooms and on the playground and see what a positive, calm start the children have made. Our new Year 3 children have started their time with us very positively and seem very much at home with their new teachers and in their new school. Well done Year 3!

Our challenge to the children has been to work out what our new school ACT values are; we started by only giving them the first letter! They have correctly identified that our new school values are:

Aspirational
Connected
Thoughtful

We will be looking at these more with the children over the coming weeks, and how we demonstrate these as learners, as people and in the world around us.

As part of our work on being aspirational, connected and thoughtful towards the world, we will be opening the copse up at lunchtimes, with one year group using it each day. If you have any donations of wellie boots that we could have for the school, that would be much appreciated. Please can these be given in at the office. If your child would like to bring their own wellies in on their allotted day they can, but they will be responsible for keeping them on their peg. Also, we would welcome any donations of cargo nets that the children could use for den building, or any outdoor wooden equipment for den building.

Learning this Week

Year 3

Year 3 this week have jumped straight into their History topic by investigating the question "Was Stone Age Man simply a hunter-gatherer?" They also took their learning outside and worked in teams to collect picture clues to put into chronological order. The children enjoyed retelling the story of Little Red in English and exploring 3 digit numbers in maths. They have been geologists in Science, making close observations and drawings of different types of rocks. The teachers have been very impressed with the way the children approached their learning this week.

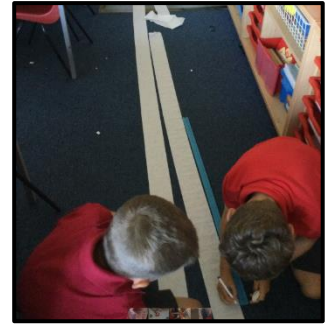


Year 4

This week, Year 4 have had an exciting start to the new term with lots of engaging learning across the curriculum. In English, we began reading our new class book, *The Story of the Blue Planet*, and have already been thinking about the characters and the important messages in the story. In Science, we've started our new topic on sound, exploring how it is made and how it travels. We've also kicked off our History topic by learning about our local area and how it has changed over time. It's been a great start, and we're looking forward to discovering more in the weeks ahead!

Year 5

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to the new academic year! We launched our History topic of Ancient Egypt by investigating pyramids and making origami boats and then testing to see how many multilink they could hold before they sank. In Maths we have studied place value, working with numbers up to one million. We have represented our numbers using different concrete equipment. Our English text this half term is 'Secrets of a Sun King', the children had to solve a hieroglyphics puzzle to work out the title. We have started to read the text and will be writing a diary from the perspective of the main character. As the hook to our Science topic of Rocks and Fossils, the children made a timeline of the creation of Earth using toilet roll! This week we have also started our Listen to Me Music lessons where the children will be using iPads to create and play music.



Year 6

Year 6 have had a fantastic start to the year, demonstrating their **aspirational** spirit in every aspect of their learning. As thoughtful artists, they've been exploring their creativity through beautiful clover and mushroom artwork, as well as stunning self-portraits in the style of Julian Opie. Their work in PSHE, mirroring the style of Shaun Tan, reflects their connectedness to both their own wellbeing and the world around them. In English, the children have been thoughtfully considering how to invite a reader into a garden by building a bank of descriptive expanded noun phrases. In science, the children have been exploring both inherited and environmental characteristics of humans, looking at the variations within Year 6. Out in the playground, the children applied this knowledge by creating living graphs, then had a go at translating their findings onto paper in the classroom.

Be Inspired



We are very proud of Oshadhee! She has been training at Lakeside Weightlifting for almost a year, joining from the Wild Weightlifting Warriors project in October last year. She has taken part in regular weekly training and some local weightlifting competitions. Last weekend she competed at the British Age groups championships, the highest level a youth athlete can compete at in the U10 58kg category, and won gold! Her super grit and determination in training paid off on the day. We are so proud of her and her other teammates that also competed at the weekend, bringing home a collection of medals.

Lakeside Weightlifting have space for a few more warriors. If you would like to find out more their website is <https://www.lakesideweightlifting.com/>

We hope you all have a lovely weekend,

Tom Johnston and Claire Sambles

Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher

Star of the Week

Goldfinch Class – The Star of the Week in Goldfinch Class is Rex. Rex has shown us all week that he can be aspirational in his learning. He has been a really engaged learner and has offered his ideas at every opportunity. Thank you for your enthusiasm and super listening Rex!

Robin Class – This week's Star of the Week in Robin Class goes to Harry for a fantastic first two weeks in Merdon. You are an aspirational role model to Year 3's and the whole school!

Butterfly Class – Poppy has been awarded Star of the Week for always being kind and thoughtful to everyone in the class.

Sunflower Class – Fyfe has been an aspirational learner, always trying his absolute best and being a thoughtful role model to his peers. I have been blown away by Fyfe's positive attitude and kindness in class. Well done Fyfe, you are a super member of Sunflower Class and it has already been such a pleasure to teach you!

Centipede Class – This week's star of the week is awarded to Emily for always approaching maths lessons with high aspirations and a 'can do' attitude. No challenge is too big for Emily and she takes a proactive approach in overcoming these. Keep it up!

Dragonfly Class – Sophie has fantastic connections with her friends; she is a wonderful support. Sophie has also shown a positive attitude to learning, which is helping her to be aspirational.

Mushroom Class - Alice has been truly aspirational this week, showing great determination to always try her best in every area of the curriculum. She has made an excellent start to Year 6 and continues to shine as a thoughtful and kind learning partner. Well done, Alice!

Clover Class – Kai has shown a connection to his learning, particularly in Maths when he was linking his ability to calculate problems with explanations of why he did what he did. He also showed some lovely group work in English with his table partners, collaborating respectfully to successfully complete the task in hand. A great start to Year 6 Kai, well done!

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns about a child our DSLs are: Mr Johnston, Miss Sambles and Mrs Caine. Please contact us immediately via the school office or call Hampshire Children's Services on 0300 555 1384 if it is an immediate concern out of school hours.

Diary Dates

INSET dates: 24 October 2024, 5 & 6 January 2026, 1 June 2026

17th September – Yr 6 visit to the HILT for Community Police Event

25th September – Yr 5 Swimming begins

Week beginning 29th September – Yr2 Open Day tours begin - [Click here for details](#)

7th October – School Photographer – individual and sibling photographs

3-5th November – Yr 6 Residential to Hooke Court

More calendar dates to follow when confirmed:

Clubs have now started. A full list of clubs that are now running are on the [school website](#). We have attached the flyers for the clubs that still have a few places.

Academic Year 2025-2026

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