



Merton Abbey Primary School Newsletter July 2026



"WORKING HARD AND CARING FOR EACH OTHER"

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a pleasure to see the range of wonderful activities going on in and out of the classroom as we approach the end of the academic year.

Our Leavers' Assembly for Year 6 pupils was a wonderful celebration of the children's time in school with us. We wish our departing pupils every success as they move up to secondary school. It was also time to say good-bye to Mrs Patton, who is retiring after 34 years at Merton Abbey. We are grateful for her kindness, care and dedication for children and their families - whom Mrs Patton has got to know over the generations!

The Friends of Merton Abbey have had a fantastic year. The recent Summer Fair was a great community celebration. The Friends also organised a rather elegant prom for our Year 6 pupils. Thank you to our dedicated Friends who contribute so much to the life of the school. And remember that the Friends need your help for these events – please volunteer so that the experiences for your children are as great as they can be.

Wishing you a wonderful summer with your children. Happy holidays!

Michael Bradley, Headteacher



Nature Park Visit

This week, Merton Abbey School welcomed a visit from the Nature Park RHS (Royal Horticulture Society) team as part of our ongoing biodiversity improvement project and our participation in national research.

Children from EYFS, Year 3 and Year 4 worked closely with Nature Park professionals to investigate how many pollinators our plants attract and to explore the different habitats around our playground.

The team provided excellent feedback on our beautifully maintained outdoor spaces, the wide variety of plants we have growing on site and the enthusiasm and curiosity our children show towards nature through a range of outdoor science activities.

We are proud of our pupils' involvement in this important project and look forward to continuing our work to support biodiversity in our school.

**Monika Brown
Year 3 Teacher**



Pirate Day

Nursery and Reception classes took part in an exciting Pirate day. We have been learning about under the sea and travelling on the sea so we all dressed up and became very busy pirates. We counted golden coins, hunted for treasure and read lots of pirate stories. We have had a fantastic end to a wonderful year in Early Years!

**Catherine Cowan
Nursery Teacher**



Residential Trip

From 6th to 2th July, pupils in Year 5 and 6 visited Wick Court Farm in Gloucestershire. Wick Court Farm is owned by Farms for City Children and aims to provide children with a real experience of being on a working farm. Mrs Brown, Mrs Eversden and Miss O'Callaghan accompanied 25 children for the week and what a week it was! There was egg collecting, beekeeping, birdwatching and horse grooming. We fed each of the animals daily and made a lot of new friends, especially the chicks! The children also learnt a lot about biodiversity and food miles. A thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding trip for us all!

Lynsey Eversden
Assistant Headteacher



A Walk in London

As part of the English curriculum, Year 3 enjoyed an exciting trip to Central London to learn more about some of the city's most famous landmarks. Our tour began at Trafalgar Square, where the children explored the area and answered questions about its many features. From there, we

walked past Downing Street towards Big Ben, where the children performed their Big Ben rap and received a big round of applause from the Prime Minister's guards. We then arrived just in time to hear Big Ben chime a loud "ding-dong" at 12 o'clock. The highlight of the day came just before we reached St James's Park. To everyone's amazement, King Charles was travelling to Buckingham Palace, and his car stopped directly opposite us. He waved to us, making it an unforgettable moment. We truly couldn't have timed our visit any better!

Monika Brown
Year 3 Teacher



Morden Hall Park Visit

Year 4 really enjoyed their visit to Morden Hall Park, where they joined a hands-on workshop connected to our science lessons about classification. The children explored different land habitats and took part in a 'Habitat' investigation. They searched for, identified, and recorded various invertebrates, compared conditions in each environment, and discussed why different creatures live there. The children were especially excited to discover slugs, insects, large spiders, and even a frog hiding under a log. It was wonderful to see the children exploring with such curiosity and excitement.

Mrs Laker
Year 4 Teacher



Year 6 Choir at SingFest Festival

Our Year 6 choir delivered a truly fantastic performance at the SingFest festival on Monday, held inside the beautiful St Mark's Church in Wimbledon. The children filled the venue with music, starting with a brilliant, moving rendition of Coldplay's 'Yellow'. Next, they brought energy and fun to the stage with 'Bad Guys' from the film Bugsy Malone. Finally, they joined together with other schools for a powerful, moving performance of 'Believe'. What an unforgettable performance, Year 6!"

Mark Oglesby
Music Lead



Year 3 Explore London's Famous Bridges

Year 3 recently enjoyed an exciting geography trip to London to explore some of the city's most famous bridges. We started our trip at St Paul's Cathedral, where we were treated to a wonderful surprise - a visit to the viewing gallery! Our first bridge crossing was the Millennium Bridge, where we crossed the River Thames and could clearly see Tower

Bridge and London Bridge in the distance. After walking along the South Bank, we finally crossed Westminster Bridge before enjoying a long lunch in one of our favourite London spots, the beautiful St James's Park. To make the day even more special, the Friends of Merton Abbey treated everyone to a delicious ice cream. It was a wonderful way to end a fantastic day.

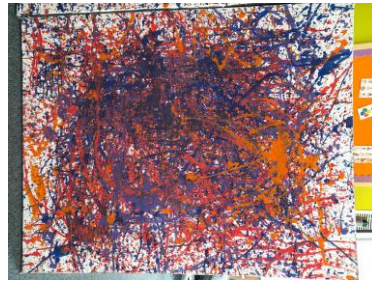
Monika Brown
Year 3 Teacher



Year 2 Library visit

Year 2 recently visited Colliers Wood library. They were inspired by the librarian, Tayo, to choose a variety of fiction and non-fiction books. Children had a great time in narrowing down their selection to take one home. Books on Sharks, Witches, Football and Fish were common themes.

Mark Oglesby
Y2 Teacher



Whole school Art Project

This year's Art Project is inspired by the artist Jackson Pollock. His action - painting approach allows children to produce artwork collaboratively using the colour scheme chosen by the teacher. Using two canvasses, children were free to apply paint in all directions and angles, as long as their brushes did not touch the canvas. Look out for your child's artwork on the school's website coming soon.

Mark Oglesby
Year 2 Teacher

Governors Report

It's been a busy year for the Merton Abbey Governors. Our board, a mix of parents, staff, local community members and specialists, has been working closely with the leadership team to support the school and help it thrive. We were delighted to welcome several new governors this year, and we're proud of the energy and commitment everyone has brought to their roles across our Teaching & Learning, Children Families & Communities, and Resources committees.

The most significant development this year has been the decision to move to a co-headteacher model; a positive step that will strengthen and future - proof the school's leadership alongside Mr Bradley for years to come. We received applications from an exceptionally high calibre of candidates, and are looking forward

to welcoming Mrs Trehwella when she starts with us next year.

We are very proud of the work the school does to be so inclusive and connected to the local community. The above national average outcomes personally recognised by the Secretary of State are something we can all celebrate. We're so grateful to the Friends of Merton Abbey, staff and all those involved in organising wonderfully celebratory and inclusive events like the Colour Run, Culture Day, and recent Summer Fair.

We're excited for the year ahead, and looking forward to celebrating our centenary in 2027.

Robin Pembroke
Chair of Governors

Attendance

The children's attendance has remained strong until the end of term. It is important for children to attend school until the last day so that they can take part in all the enjoyable activities that celebrate the end of the year. These activities also help the children to say goodbye properly to their teacher and get ready for moving up to the next class.

It is also extremely important to arrive in school for the first day of the new school year in September. Please remember that school starts on Thursday 3rd September for children in Year 1 to Year 6.

Michael Bradley, Headteacher

Term dates**Summer Term 2026**

Last day: Friday 17th July 2026

INSET day for staff: Monday 20th July

Autumn Term

INSET day for staff: Wednesday 2nd September 2026

First day for children *: Thursday 3rd September 2026

INSET day for staff: Friday 23rd October 2026

Half term: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2026

Last day: Friday 18th December 2026

Spring term 2027

INSET day for staff: Monday 4th January 2027

First day for children **: Tuesday 5th January 2027

Half term: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027

Last day: Thursday 25th March 2027

Summer Term 2027

INSET day for staff: Monday 12th April 2027

First day for children **: Tuesday 13th April 2027

Half term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027

INSET day for staff: Monday 7th June 2027

Last day: Thursday 22nd July 2027

Autumn Term 2027

INSET day for staff: Wednesday 1st September 2027

First day for children *: Thursday 2nd September 2027

INSET day for staff: Friday 22nd October 2027

Half term: Monday 25th to Friday 29th October 2027

Last day: Friday 17th December 2027

Spring Term 2028

Inset day for staff: Tuesday 4th January 2028

First day for children **: Wednesday 5th January 2028

Half Term: Monday 14th February to Friday 18th February 2028

Last day: Friday 31st March 2028

Summer Term 2028

INSET day for staff: Tuesday 18th April 2028

First day for children **: Wednesday 19th April 2028

Half term: Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2028

INSET day for staff: Monday 5th June 2028

Last day: Friday 21st July 2028

* Children in Reception and Nursery have different start dates in the Autumn Term

** Children in Nursery have different start dates in the Spring and Summer Term