



"WORKING HARD AND CARING FOR EACH OTHER"

Merton Abbey Primary School Newsletter November 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Autumn Term is racing ahead and in school the children are already practising for their end of term Christmas performances. It has been a busy term so far with many classes having visited the Polka Theatre to see a performance and all the Key Stage 2 classes attending the spectacular *String Fever* concert at the Wimbledon Theatre.

One other highlight this month was Merton Abbey's *Early Years Showcase*. This was a training event for fifty teachers and support staff from all across Merton who had come to see how the Reception and Nursery classes are taught in our school. The training was exceptionally well received and I am grateful to Miss Morrell and our Early Years team for the work they put into it.

Please look out for the dates of your children's performances in the coming weeks. I know how much the children appreciate the opportunity to perform to you and your family.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Bradley, Headteacher

Update from the Governors

This term there have been some changes to our Governors group.

After nine years, including the last year as Chair of Governors, Cypren Edmunds, chose to stand down from the board. We're incredibly grateful for everything Cypren has done for the school and hope that he will keep in touch with the school and our work.

In September we elected Robin Pembroke as our new Chair, and Bianca Sanasi as our new Vice-Chair.

- Robin is a co-opted Governor, having been an associate governor at Merton Abbey for the last year. He is a Lecturer at Kingston University, and digital strategy consultant to GOV.UK. He brings extensive experience of leading teams and organisations through change in the public and private sector.
- Bianca is one of our parent governors with one child who has completed their time at the school, and one who is in nursery.

In recent months we have also welcomed other new governors to the board:

- Natasha Laker joins as a parent governor in the spring term with Bianca. Natasha also has a child at the school and extensive education funding and governance experience, working for Merton's education Department.
- Lisa Kerr joins as an associate governor this month. Lisa's grandchildren are at the school, and Lisa runs a Recycling Club during After School Club.

Finally, we were delighted that Mamie Barden continues in her position of Clerk of Governors, providing critical support for our governance processes. You will probably be aware Mamie had successfully served as co-chair with Frances Cresswell for six years and has a wealth of knowledge and experience.

You can find a full list of our governors and more background on our roles on the school website.

Robin Pembroke, Chair of Governors



Harvest Festival

On Tuesday 7th October we celebrated our annual Harvest Festival. It was a great assembly with lots of different contributions from the classes. These ranged from some beautiful harvest art using pencils and pastels to two very catchy songs about different foods. It was great to see so many parents attending and thank you for all the generous donations, Wimbledon Foodbank collected around 8 full bags of produce.

Lynsey Eversden, Assistant Headteacher



Friends of Merton Abbey

We have got off to a glowing start this year with the return of our 2 glow parties last week. It was wonderful to see the children having such fun together and some of the amazing costumes. We also had our MacMillan coffee morning at the start of the term which was a success, raising £165 for the charity. Thank you, as always, to everyone who is involved in organising these events and also to every single person who turns up on the day to support us.

Coming up next, we are jingling our way to our Christmas Cheer event on the 5th of December. This is one of our main events so we hope to see lots of you there! If you or anyone you know has a little small business that would like to have a stall at the fair please get in touch with us at

mertonabbeyfriends@gmail.com

Izzy Helmore Friends of Merton Abbey



Year 2 Library Visit

Year 2 visited Colliers Wood library. There, they discussed their favourite book, the library's theme: Space, and talked about what they knew about The Great Fire of London. They then explored their section for fiction and non-fiction books. It was a great morning to inspire them about reading and to use their local library.

Year 2 Polka Theatre Trip



Year 2 went to the Polka Theatre to see Grandad Anansi. It's an uplifting and humorous intergenerational adventure that explores themes of storytelling, family, heritage, and the bittersweet emotions of love and loss, as the grandfather prepares to return to his homeland of Jamaica. The

production was praised for its vibrant celebration of Jamaican culture, Windrush generation experiences, and its engaging mix of storytelling, song, and dance. The children loved it when Grandad fired a water pistol into the audience at the start

Mark Oglesby, Year 2 Teacher

Christmas Cheer Donation Request

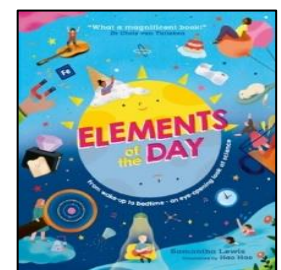
Lisa Kerr, one of our grandparents and a school governor, has kindly asked for the following donations for merchandise to sell at our Christmas Cheer, empty and clean:

- Sweet packets the size of sharing skittles or M&Ms
- Noodle packets
- Crisp packets or other bright, plastic packaging
- Plastic bags, Bright carrier bags or any other plastic bags
- Plastics with letters on like packaging or parcel wrap.

On behalf of Lisa Kerr, Grandparent & Governor



Meet Author Samantha Lewis and Explore the Elements!



- Introduce the idea of atoms

- Explore the mind-bending scale of the atom, using a spoonful of sugar
- Explain the concept of an element – and tell the tale of the man who discovered one in his wee!
- Reveal the secret to strength in your breakfast with a jaw-dropping demo

We would like to encourage all parents and carers to purchase a copy of *Elements of the Day* before the event so that children can bring their books along to be signed by Samantha Lewis.

Follow @samanthalewisauthor on Instagram for updates.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Elements-Day-illustrated-non-fiction-childrens/dp/000871259X>

<https://www.samanthalewis.org/elementsoftheday>



Recycle Club

The Recycle Club students designed and made recycled robots over the summer term in the After School Club. They have waited patiently for their robots to be displayed in the reception area this term. The display looks amazing as it shows the high levels of creativity the students have utilised and the sense of humour each individual robot conveys.

Mr Bradley said that the robots, with their arms open wide, are welcoming visitors to the school. They are indeed, and they are a display of what you can do with waste plastic and imagination.

Well done to the following students: Camilla, Annabelle, Amelia, Anwuli, Sara, Dexter, Tommy, Sorcha, Lyanna, Ifunanya and Isabella.

If you want to take part in our recycle projects, The Recycle Club runs as part of the ASC on Wednesdays. Our next project is making wallets, pencil cases and bag charms from plastic carrier bags.

Lisa Kerr, Grandparent & School Governor

Year 1 P.E lessons with King's College Students



Year 1 have been enjoying participating in P.E lessons with Kings College students this term. The Kings College students prepare and set up all the activities. The children are always really excited to see the four different activities they will be trying each week. It is wonderful seeing the children having so much fun.

Clare Whitehead, Year 1 Teacher

Term dates

Autumn Term 2025

Last day: Friday 19 December 2025

Spring Term 2026

First day: Monday 5 January 2026

Last day: Friday 27 March 2026

Half term: Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February 2026

INSET day:

Monday 5 January 2026

Summer Term 2026

First day: Monday 13 April 2026

Last day: Monday 20 July 2026

Half term: Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2026

INSET days:

Monday 13 April 2026

Monday 20 July 2026