



"WORKING HARD AND CARING FOR EACH OTHER"

Merton Abbey Primary School Newsletter May 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy month at Merton Abbey. May got off to a spectacular start with the visit of children's author Michael Rosen for *Book Clubs in Schools'* 10th birthday celebration. Just as dramatic was the Colour Run organized by the Friends of Merton Abbey on Friday last week – really great fun for everyone who was able to be involved.

May is also the month when Year 6 children take their SATs (national tests). Well done to our children for their hard work, courage and determination throughout the year and for approaching tests so confidently. I am pleased that there have been so many special events for the children – so that they can have real moments of joy in school – as well as working hard in their lessons and preparing for exams.

Finally, don't forget to complete the parent survey which will be open until Tuesday 20 May at 5pm:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H5PHN7L>

Michael Bradley, Headteacher



Book Clubs in Schools Turns 10! A Day to Remember at Merton Abbey Primary School

On Thursday 1st May, we had the absolute pleasure of hosting Riverside Radio's Morning Breakfast Show to celebrate the 10th birthday of Book Clubs in Schools. It was a huge honour for Merton Abbey Primary School to be chosen as the host, and the event created a real sense of excitement throughout the day.

Our pupils truly rose to the occasion, with several confidently taking to the microphone to share their experiences of being part of a school Book Club. In particular, listeners heard about our Year 4 pupils' collaborative Book Club with King's College School, Wimbledon, and the fantastic work of our Year 6 Picture Book Club leaders, who regularly read with our Year 1 children. The children spoke with such enthusiasm and clarity – they were a true credit to the school, and we couldn't have been prouder of them.

But that wasn't all the excitement for the day!



We were incredibly fortunate to welcome some very special guests, including the Mayor of Merton and the celebrated author and poet, Michael Rosen. Michael Rosen led a wonderful assembly that had pupils and staff alike completely engaged. His storytelling, humour, and genuine love of reading left everyone inspired and entertained.

Michael Rosen also kindly signed a number of books for the school library, and some lucky children who brought in their own copies had the chance to meet him and have their books personally signed – a very special moment that they'll remember for years to come.

It was a fantastic day full of inspiration, joy, and a shared love of reading. Most importantly, it reminded us all of how books can

connect us, build confidence, and spark creativity — both in and out of the classroom.

Here's to 10 wonderful years of Book Clubs in Schools — and many more to come at Merton Abbey!

Aisling Dougan,
Assistant Headteacher



Nursery Eid Celebrations

During the second half of the Spring Term, the nursery took part in making Eid decorations with the rest of the school.

The children who attend morning class made stained glass windows with Mosques represented on them, with the Reception class students. The children who attend the afternoon class made moon and star decorations with crayons, paint and gem stickers. The photo shows some of the children working in the nursery class with their parents to make the decorations.

Catherine Cowan, Nursery Teacher



A visit from an author!

Merton Class were very excited to receive a special visit from the well-known author Michael Rosen!

Michael Rosen came into our classroom to talk to the children, especially about how he gets his ideas for the stories he writes. He also read *'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'* and asked the children for their ideas about the story. He listened to the children and answered all their questions but best of all he shared his love of stories. We will remember this visit for a very long time!

Catherine Morrell, Reception Teacher



Gardens at Merton Abbey

The Gardens at Merton Abbey Primary School are consistently voted the most beautiful of any primary school in London (by us!) Now that the warmer weather has arrived, the gardens need regular watering to keep the plants alive over the summer and we need your help. We are looking for a few volunteers who could help water the gardens early in the morning before it gets too hot. We supply the hose and the flowers. All you need to do is turn up and turn the water on and spend a relaxing hour watching the flowers burst into bloom. If that sounds like a great start to your day then please email Michael Barry our head gardener and make an appointment for your first "training session".

mbarryuk@gmail.com

Y3 trip to The Baitul Futuh Mosque

As part of the Year 3 RE curriculum, Nelson Class visited The Baitul Futuh Mosque - the largest mosque in Europe. Every child was impressed by both the exterior and interior design

of the mosque. We even heard some children say, "It looks like a palace!"



We received a warm welcome with a nice surprise – refreshments for everyone. Then, the children were invited to visit the library. The children showed curiosity by asking interesting questions, which made the visit even more engaging. During the tour, we looked at the features of the mosque, such as the minaret, dome, mihrab and the prayer hall. The children also had a tour around the shop, where everyone looked at the unique designs of head coverings.

It was a lovely educational trip that offered the children a learning opportunity and first-hand experience of Islamic places of worship.

Monika Brown, Year 3 Teacher



Friends of Merton Abbey

It's been a busy time for Friends, organising lots of exciting events. We started off our Easter celebrations with a bonnet parade. We were blown away by the creativity that the children showed with some truly wonderful, original designs. Thank you to everyone who supported our bake sale either by donating baked goods or coming down to buy yourself

a treat. We rounded off the week with an Easter egg hunt. The enthusiasm across the school was just lovely to see and a big thank you to local solicitor firm Peacock and Co for their very generous donation of over 200 Easter eggs, meaning every child left for the holidays with a treat!

On Friday we ended the week in the most colourful way with our Colour Run! It was just SO much fun and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We were also really pleased to be able to pay for the Year 6's to have a well deserved ice cream in Wimbledon on Friday as a treat for working so hard towards their SATs. We are very proud of them.

It won't be long now until the Summer fair and we are always on the hunt for raffle prizes so if it's something you can help with please let us know.

There is lots more in the pipeline so keep your eyes peeled and if you haven't already, make sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram. As always we truly appreciate everyone's support towards our events.

Izzy Harvey-Trott, Friends of Merton Abbey



Talking Tales

Years 1 and 2 have embarked on a new two-year project this year called 'Talking Tales', in collaboration with the Polka Theatre. This initiative aims to promote oracy in the classroom.

Each half term, we focus on different aspects of oracy, including communication, debate, and

storytelling. The children participate in workshops organised by our Polka practitioner and the teacher, targeting specific areas where we want them to gain more confidence. The children absolutely love these workshops and become fully engaged in all the activities. We have been impressed by the positive impact it has already had on their learning.

Clare Whitehead, Year 1 Teacher



Recycle Club

The much awaited 'Recycle Club' started on Wednesday 7th May at the After School Club. Students were very excited to learn about different things you can make from rubbish items and how to recycle plastic and textiles waste.

Mrs Kerr shared her professional knowledge and the recycling programme of events over Summer Term

Week 1: Students shrunk crisp packets to make keyrings. Lookout for those decorated bookbags in school! Shout out to Camilla Annabelle, Lawrence Maya and Dhaniskha...great work!

Week 2: Plaited bracelets from scrap wools. Students mastered plaiting 3 thread plaited cord to make a cool bracelet. Well done to my regular recyclers.

Week 3: Robots' Aliens' Monsters - Recycling creations from all types of waste plastic

Plastic Water Bottles, Bottle Tops, plastic tubes and even washing machine parts!

Watch this space for the amazing results in 3 weeks!

Dates for your Calendar:

Scholastic Book Fair

Tuesday 20 – Thursday 22 May from 3:30 pm

Eid Celebration

Tuesday 10 June at 3:30 pm

School Class Photos

Tuesday 17 June

Summer Fair

Sunday 6 July

Term dates

Spring Term 2025

Last day: Friday 4 April 2025

Summer Term 2025

Half term: Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025

INSET day: Monday 2 June 2025

Last day: Tuesday 22 July 2025

Autumn Term 2025

First day: Monday 1 September 2025

Last day: Friday 19 December 2025

Half term: Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October 2025

INSET days:

Monday 1 September 2025

Friday 24 October 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