



# Merton Abbey Primary School Newsletter March 2025



**"WORKING HARD AND CARING FOR EACH OTHER"**

## Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of term has come around so quickly and our newsletter shows how busy the children and the teachers have been in school.

The governing board has also been busy and we now have two new parent governors: Natasha Laker and Bianca Sanasi. Congratulations to them both!

The governors and I are looking forward to working with Natasha and Bianca in their important role, bringing the perspective of parents to the work of the governing board.

As we approach the Easter holidays, there will be some exciting celebrations for Easter organized by the *Friends of Merton Abbey* on Tuesday 1 April. Once again, I would like to thank the *Friends* for all their hard work to organize fun events for all the children to take part in.

We are also looking forward to our Eid celebration which will be held at the end of the school day on Thursday 3 April. We hope you will be able to join us.

**Michael Bradley, Headteacher**



## World Book Day 2025: A Celebration of Imagination and Creativity!

What an amazing day we had celebrating **World Book Day 2025!** Excitement was in the air as children and teachers alike dressed up as their favourite book characters. From magical wizards to brave adventurers, the costumes were nothing short of spectacular. We were absolutely blown away by the creativity and effort that everyone put into their outfits, especially as many of the costumes were home-made!



This year was extra special as it marked the first-ever prize for Best Dressed! Our winners really stood out: Maya in Year 4, who wowed us all with her Nanny McPhee costume, and Anabel in Year 6, who brought the BFG to life in a truly magical way! They both captured the essence of their characters perfectly.



However, the fun didn't stop there. The competition was so fierce that we couldn't just pick two winners! We also had to award Runner-Up prizes to some incredibly creative costumes that were full of imagination and detail.





World Book Day is a wonderful reminder of the magic that books bring to our lives. It's a chance to celebrate the incredible power of reading, spark our imaginations, and encourage a love of stories that lasts a lifetime. We can't wait to do it all again next year! Happy reading, everyone!



**Aisling Dougan, Assistant Headteacher and Year 6 Teacher**



**Ramadan celebrations in Merton Class**

Over the past week, as a school we have been learning about the month of Ramadan. The children have really enjoyed taking part in art activities and learning more about Ramadan.



It was lovely to have some of our parents in class taking part in the Ramadan art activities and a special thank you to Ubaydah's mum and Jannat's mum and dad for talking to the class explaining what Ramadan means to them.



**Catherine Morrell, Reception Class Teacher**

**BritishScience Week 2025**

Last week, we celebrated British Science Week with the theme 'Change and Adapt.' The children had the opportunity to hear from guest speakers about their professions and take part in various science activities.



Clinical analysts enriched our children's understanding of DNA structure and provided a practical task to reinforce engagement and understanding of mutation. Y5 and Y6 children went on an exciting journey into molecules during a session with a PhD chemistry researcher, and a former Merton Abbey pupil.



Inspired by the visit from the nutritionist, the children learnt how eating healthy food helps us stay strong and the importance of changing habits to maintain a balanced diet. Throughout the week, the children also had the opportunity to take part in science activities delivered by their teachers. Learning about climate change, the science behind the lava lamp, the principles of chromatography, and how to care for pets were just some of the activities the children enjoyed.



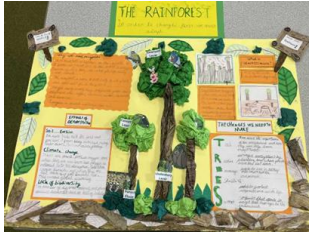
**Monika Brown Y3 Teacher and Science Lead**

**British Science Week 2025 Poster competition**

This year's poster competition was another success, with children putting in great effort, creativity and unique ideas to design high-quality posters.



The Student Council faced a challenging task in selecting the winner from each year group. The standard of entries was exceptional, making the decision even more difficult. The competition highlighted the incredible talent and enthusiasm of our children. Well done to every child who participated and showcased their creativity!



**Monika Brown**  
Year 3 Teacher and Science Lead



### Merton Abbey Choir

The new Merton Abbey choir recently had their first performance. The thirteen children from Years 4, 5 and 6 sang at the annual SingFest held at St Mark's Church. The songs performed celebrated the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Oliver* at Wimbledon Theatre. They sang Food, Glorious Food; Be Back Soon; and Consider Yourself. They also performed 'You're the Voice' by John Farnham. They were absolutely brilliant. Despite being the smallest choir there, they sang the songs with passion, expression and joy. They did Merton Abbey so proud. Also, thank you to the adults who came to support them. Our school had the biggest support there!

**Mark Oglesby**



### Year 4 - An Exciting Trip to Colliers Wood Library

Year 4 had an exciting trip to Colliers Wood Library, where they engaged in a fascinating discussion about Cleopatra as part of their history topic. The children explored her life and legacy, deepening their understanding of ancient Egypt. It was a fun, interactive way to learn beyond the classroom!

**Lisa Laker, Year 4 Teacher**



### Years 2 and 3 Trip to the Polka Theatre - Chiffonade

Years 2 and 3 children attended the production of *Chiffonade* at the Polka Theatre. The children were treated to an abstract, Kafka-esque performance where the dancer slowly emerged from a large, organic pod. Initial confusions slowly evaporated as comical movements of swirling arms and legs, and colourful banners, captured their attention. The highlight of the performance was the performer splashing water over the children; clearly a nod to Arthur Pita's Royal Ballet adaptation of Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*.

At the end of the play, the children participated in an engaging question and answer session. This allowed the children to deepen their understanding of different types of theatre, and appreciate how theatre can express ideas and emotions in a variety of ways.

**Mark Oglesby, Year 2 Teacher**  
**Monika Brown, Year 3 Teacher**



### East Merton Swimming Competition

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March, five children from Year 6 (Jasmin, Isabella, Joshua, Hamza and Aarush) competed against several local schools in the East Merton Swimming Competition. Each child swam an individual race in their fastest stroke (either front crawl, backstroke or breaststroke). The children also competed in two mixed relay races.

Each child swam their best in every race. Jasmin finished her front crawl race in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Isabella came 2<sup>nd</sup> in her backstroke heat. She went on to win her breaststroke heat and won a silver medal in the breaststroke final. Everyone at Merton Abbey are extremely proud of all the children for their excellent sportsmanship, determination and resilience throughout the competition.

**Philip Lawlor, Year 5 Teacher and PE Lead**



## Your Invitation to Enter the Wimbledon Family Ballot!

Launched in 2023, the Wimbledon Family Ballot is working to provide more children, young people and families in Merton and Wandsworth with the opportunity to enjoy The Championships. Entering the Family Ballot means that families can apply to purchase tickets for family groups (up to groups of 5) and enjoy world-class tennis on the No.1 Court. This is a unique opportunity, as guests are typically limited to two tickets per household.

Local state schools have been invited to participate in the initiative. How the ballot works: - Families can enter [HERE](#). – by using the link, families need to sign up to MyWimbledon and then will be eligible to apply for tickets. - Please note this website and the Family Ballot will only be live from Monday 24 March until 11.59pm on Monday 7 April. All entries must be made during this window.

## Dates for your Calendar:

### Easter Bonnet Parade

Tuesday 1 April at 9 am

### Friends Easter Bake Sale

Tuesday 1 April at 3:30 pm

### Eid Celebration

Thursday 3 April at 3:30 pm

## Term dates

### Spring Term 2025

Last day: Friday 4 April 2025

### Summer Term 2025

INSET day: Tuesday 22 April 2025

First day: Wednesday 23 April 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