

MERTON COURT

news

SPRING 2019



IN THIS ISSUE

- Puppy News
- Community Links
- Old Mertonians
- Past Events
Autumn 2018
- Charities
- School Events
Spring 2019
- Culture Boxes
- Friends of Merton
Court Events
Spring 2019
- Safeguarding

Merton Court School

38 Knoll Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4QU

Telephone: 020 8300 2112

Email: office@mertoncourtprep.co.uk

www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk



OPENING OF OUR STUNNING NEW DANCE STUDIO & ASTRO

The West End actor, Rob Compton was on hand to cut the opening ribbon for our brand new dance & drama studio and astro turf pitch. Rob plays the nasty Mr Wormwood in the hit show 'Matilda' and following his inspirational speech, invited guests, including parents, S4, FOMC and contractors involved in the build, were treated to two great numbers around 'Matilda' the stage show, performed by Musical Theatre Club.

As a special treat afternoon tea with scones and cake were served on the new Astro. Yum!





Puppy news

Bonnie and Buddy are gradually getting used to their roles as wellbeing dogs. They took part in the Junior Production - here they are dressed in their Christmas reindeer outfits. *“Who let the dogs out, who who?”*.



Community links

Children from S4 and J2 visited Froggnal House Nursing Home to entertain the residents and staff with Christmas carols and a Nativity play.



Sidcup Rotary Club – ‘ROSET’ Scheme

Sidcup Rotary Club is offering annual awards of £250 to school pupils who apply to them to help with purchasing equipment for Sports, Drama, the Arts or help with travel, coaching or lessons.

Do visit Sidcup Rotary website for an application form or contact Mr Price via the School Office.



Past Events Autumn 2018

▶ **ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

Well done indeed to all of our current S4 children for their effort and hard work, with very strong academic results so far this year. At the end of term, sixteen pupils were recognised with scholars' ties, for very high scores in the Bexley, Bromley Super-selective and Kent procedures.

We were very pleased also to see our strong academic position confirmed again this year, achieving 42nd place in the Sunday Times Top 100 Independent Prep Schools (best in Bexley Borough).

▶ **MUSIC & DANCE ACHIEVEMENTS**



A big well done to Chase Collard who will be appearing in the film 'Cats'.

'Cats' is being directed by Tom Hooper, with Andrew Lloyd Webber and Steven Spielberg as Executive Producers.

Chase had an amazing week filming before Christmas at Leavesden Studios playing a 'mouse sister' in a scene with Rebel Wilson. She is singing in the film and is due back for another two days filming in March, as well as another day for PR shots. Good luck!

▶ **ART**



Eye catching art made by Senior Art Club

'Bugs Life' claimed an honourable second prize at the ISA National Art Competition in November 2018. The 3D project was made using recycled materials and was designed to raise awareness of the ever growing problem of plastic waste.

▶ **SPORT AND ACTIVITIES**

MERTON COURT SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Was very well attended with 297 Entries, 231 Personal Bests and one School Record broken – Joshua Hill: 50m Front Crawl.

Senior Boys Champion: Max Postlethwaite

Senior Girls Champion: Maisie Chambers

Junior Champion: Joshua Hill

Most Improved Swimmer: Billy Bunney

ISA London South Regional Championships:

Well done to all who attended.

Individual Winners

50m Butterfly	<i>Max Postlethwaite</i>	1st
50m Breaststroke	<i>Tom Eagle</i>	1st
50m Freestyle	<i>James Belton</i>	1st
50m Freestyle	<i>Joshua Hill</i>	1st

Team Winners

Y5 Boys Freestyle Relay	<i>James Belton Tom Eagle Leo Jayasinghe Oliver White</i>	1st
--------------------------------	---	-----

Y4 Boys Freestyle Relay	<i>Joe Brady Tom Ellershaw Joshua Hill Alexandros Kapatos</i>	1st
--------------------------------	---	-----

Girls winners: Merton Court

Boys winners: Merton Court

Overall winners: Merton Court



Past Events Autumn 2018

ISA National Finals:

Medals

Y6 Boys 50m Butterfly	Max Postlethwaite	3rd
Y4 Boys 50m Freestyle	Joshua Hill	1st
Y6 Boys Medley Relay	Max Postlethwaite	2nd
Y6 Girls Medley Relay	Maisie Chambers	3rd

Very well done to our Year 4 and Year 5 Boys Freestyle Relay Teams, who swam very well and finished a very close 4th. Also a very well done to everyone who has represented the school in swimming this term.



MERTON COURT NETBALL



Colfe's Netball Tournament Year 5 Girls Team:

Amy Casey, Darcey Flynn, Dolly Parsons, Ella Fay, Miley Blanks, Evie Gannon, Isabelle Booker and Sloane Joseph.

Runners-up

Blackheath Prep School Netball Tournament

Year 6B Team:

Ayda Kaurban, Ayo Ogunremi, Isabel Fung, Isabella Wright, Kirstin Elias, Lyra Danful, Dolly Parsons and Isabelle Booker.

Runners-up

This season our S4 Netball Squad is taking part in the Netball League and will compete against 7 other schools.

Merton Court are currently unbeaten and top of the League – Well done!

CROSS COUNTRY AT FARRINGTONS

On Friday 28 September 2018, 32 children from S1-S4 represented Merton Court in a Cross Country Event at Farringtons School, with another 10 schools attending from Bexley and Bromley Boroughs.

Farringtons Cross Country results:

- Y3 boys Charlie Wilson – 2nd Place
- Yr 5 Boys Oliver Delamain – Winner
- Y6 Boys Harrison Brookes – Winner
- Yr 6 Girls Emily Summers – Winner

CROSS COUNTRY RELAYS AT MERTON COURT

In October Merton Court hosted our annual Cross Country Relays for Year 5 and Year 6 with nine other schools taking part from Bexley and Bromley Boroughs.

Exceptional performances from:

Our Year 5 Boys team: Oliver Delamain, Artie Hall, Herbie Smith and Leo Jayasinghe **(Runners-up)**.

Our Mixed Team Relay: Oliver Delamain, Evie Gannon, Harrison Brookes and Emily Summers **(Winners)**.

THE KENT JUNIOR SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Was held at Detling on Saturday 17 November 2018. 25 children represented Merton Court with 98 schools taking part. Well done to everyone who made the effort to go along and get involved. Exceptional performance was given by Emily Summers who came second.



Emily, along with Harrison Brookes have qualified for the National Primary Schools, Cross Country Championships, to be held in March 2019 at Prestwold Hall, Leicestershire. Good luck to both of them.

Well done also, to House Cross Country winners in school:

- S1 Isaac Uba, Nini Aiyeola
- S2 Joseph Brady, Summer Cambden
- S3 Oliver Delamain, Evie Gannon
- S4 Harrison Brookes (Pochin Cup Winner) and Emily Summers (Pochin Plate Winner)



► CHARITIES

The Autumn Term charity was 'Wooden Spoon'. Donations from the Junior Production 'Rock-a-bye-baby' totalled £5438.08. 'Wear a Christmas Jumper Day' raised £486.905 along with the S4 cake sale £120.45, a donation of £500 and Christmas cards made by Ashley and Safia (£70.32) raised an amazing **£1637.90**.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity!

► REMEMBRANCE

S3 (Yr 5) led our Annual Remembrance Service in a thoughtful and moving way to help our school community to better understand why we wear our poppies on Poppy Day.



Our service was attended by Sidcup Rotary Club Members. They wrote to tell us this:

"We were impressed by the dignity and discipline of the children, the research that they had done and the quality of the presentations. Before processing outside for the last post and final reflection, the children held up banners featuring their national flags and the message in their native languages calling for "Peace".

At the end, each child silently removed the poppy from their lapels and placed it in the school memorial garden."

...continued on page 6 ►► 5

HOUSE EVENT WINNERS			
MATHS	- MODERN	MERIT SHIELD	- SCHOOL
CROSS COUNTRY	- MERTON	CHESS	- MERTON
RUGBY	- MERTON		

Chess Winners:

J3 Rafi Smith	S2 Ashley Hamad
S1 Rishi Khosla	S3 Herbie Smith
S4 Mahaan Lidder (King's Trophy Winner)	

The St Ledger Most Improved Rugby Award went to Sam Cross.

Badges:

S2 Cross Country	Joseph Costello, Summer Cambden
S2 Netball	Zahra Sameen, Charlotte Tobitt
S2 Rugby	Joe Brady, Leonard Chandran
S2 Swimming	Joshua Hill, Daphne Postlethwaite

Captains:

Football:	Archie Bird
Hockey: Girls	Alyssa Casey
Boys	Joshua Arishe
Dance:	Samuel Pang, Chase Collard
Skiing:	Emily Summers, Harrison Brookes

Past Events Autumn 2018



Following the service, Yuv Pindoria was awarded the ‘Shipmates’ Remembrance Cup for his contribution to the Remembrance Service and Tom Eagle was awarded the British Legion Diamond Jubilee Poppy Project Award for his beautiful project.

Thank you once again for your donations to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal with donations totalling £462.04.

Bexley Remembers

“Merton Court Prep, in Sidcup, was proud to be part of ‘Bexley Remembers – 1914-18’, a Borough-wide project, commemorating the lives of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the Great War, and who are remembered on Sidcup’s War Memorial.

Merton Court pupils particularly studied and researched the short life and untimely death of Private Thomas Highgate, one of three brothers on the Sidcup memorial, who was shot at dawn for desertion, in France in 1914.

At its poignant Remembrance Service, the school also remembered their twenty-two ‘Lost Boys’ from the First War and their twenty-four from the Second War, hosting British Legion members, local community representatives (including Sidcup Lamorbey historical society), parents, pupils and staff, where wreaths and poppies were laid at the school’s hand-crafted artillery shell memorial.”



► **FESTIVAL OF SPEECH AND DRAMA**

Well done to all of the children who took part in our Festival of Speech and Drama last term. Particular commendations were awarded to the winners of the Form Poem Sections (Seniors – S2C and Juniors – J2H). **Sofeen Siddiqui & Claudia Shaffie** won the **Price Silver Jubilee Cup** for Original Verse and **Emily Summers** won the **Massey Mime Cup**. ‘**Best of Festival**’ for an excellent contribution to the Festival entering four categories were **Ashiya Amin & Aoife O’Mahony**.

► **PRIMARY MATHS CHALLENGE**

As usual all children in S4 entered the National Primary Maths Challenge, organised by The Mathematical Association, with excellent results. **Gold Award winners** were **Alyssa Casey, Samuel Pang and Sofeen Siddiqui**. **Amber Moore and Max Postlethwaite** gained **Silver Awards** with **Ashiya Amin, Leon Etemi, Aoife O’Mahony and Kiana Patel** achieving **Bronze Awards**. All Gold Medal winners go through to the Primary Maths Challenge Bonus Round on the 6 February – we wish them the best of luck!

► **‘PARENTS COUNT TOO’**

Many thanks to all the parents who attended the ‘Parents Count Too’ Early Years Maths workshop; it was lovely to see so many of you there and to listen to and share ideas. If you were unable to attend but would like copies of the handouts, please see a member of the Early Years Team.



School Events Spring 2019

► This term is English Term and our focus is **grammar, punctuation and spelling (GaPS)**.

“Grammar is the study of how we make sentences”.

The three areas of focus are:

- Punctuation – which marks grammatical boundaries (beginnings, ends, clauses).
- Words/grammatical accuracy – identification of different types of words to make simple phrases and sentences, and more complex ones.
- Vocabulary/language strategy/Standard English.

English Week will be the week commencing **Monday 25 February**. It will also be our annual ‘Digital Detox’ Week; a time when we encourage families to switch off something electronic for an agreed amount of time and read, play a game or talk to each other, instead of being glued to a screen.

On **Monday 25 February** we will have our annual **House English Competition** (S1-S4).

Tuesday 26 February will be our **‘Spelling Bee’** competition – children will be tested on their year group spelling lists to find the champion speller.



► **Friday 1 March** will be **Harry Potter Dressing-up Day** along with **Charities Day**. Children should dress up according to their chosen character from the Harry Potter books and we will be having a special whole school parade in the Hall. Each class will also be having fun with activities relating to this theme.

► **World Book Day** is on **7 March**, to celebrate this we are also asking if you have any age appropriate fiction or non-fiction books (up to 11 years) that are in a clean and good condition which you wish to donate to our school library. Sharing favourites is a great way of improving your reading and also to keep up our library reading stocks. All donated books will have an ex-libris sticker put into the inside front cover with the name of the donor. So why not have a good post-Christmas clear-out to make space on your shelves for all those new books you are going to read in 2019?

We will also continue with the **‘Million Word Challenge’**. Please take the time to encourage your children to continue reading beyond the bell and promote the Million Word Challenge (Million Word Challenge Reading Goals are available from form teachers).

► **Parents/carers** are most welcome to come along to coffee mornings and watch children’s assembly presentations in our School Hall. It is also a great forum for lively discussion on related academic and pastoral issues.



These Coffee Mornings are as follows:

S1 Friday, 18 January

J1 Friday, 15 February

J3 Friday, 25 January

S4 Friday, 8 March

J2 Friday, 1 February

S3 Friday, 15 March

S2 Friday, 8 February

► **PROSPECTIVE PARENTS’ OPEN OPPORTUNITIES**

Open Evening: Wednesday, 1 May 5.00pm-7.30pm

Open Morning: Saturday, 28 September 9.15am-12 noon

Open Day: Wednesday, 13 November 9.15am-2.30pm

School Events Spring 2019

▶ **NSPCC 'DANCEATHON' – Friday, 25 January**

As you know this term we are supporting the NSPCC. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is a charity campaigning and working in child protection in the United Kingdom and the Channel Islands and relies heavily on fundraising events so please support where you can. Our first fundraiser this term will take place next Friday. This will be a 'Danceathon' to be held in our new Dance Studio. The children will be able to show off their best moves to top tunes throughout the day. Please support this special event by allowing your children to collect sponsors over the next few weeks.

▶ **S4 BRING AND BUY SALE – Friday, 15 February**

Do you have any unwanted Christmas presents or have you had a spring clean over the holidays? If so S4 would welcome your donations. We suggest all children bring in no more than £5 (in change) to spend at the Sale (Juniors especially, please keep it safe in a named purse or wallet).

This is a S4 'Fundraiser' in preparation for their Spanish residential trip to Tossa de Mar in June.

▶ **CHARITIES DAY – Friday, 1 March**

Please support our chosen charity this term, NSPCC. Please bring a donation of £2 and come dressed as a character from the famous Harry Potter books. Also on this day, there will be a cake sale and, just for fun on this special occasion, sponsored no homework (optional)!

▶ **S4 CYCLING PROFICIENCY WEEK – 5-9 March**

An opportunity for S4 to prepare for Secondary School and gain cycle confidence.

▶ **VICTORIA COLLEGE SPEECH EXAMS
– Monday, 11 March**

Remember that a little bit of practice every day makes all the difference. Good luck to everyone taking part.

▶ **FESTIVAL OF DANCE (Individual & Choreographic)
– Thursday, 21 March – 9.00am onwards**

Why not enter this very popular event?

Children will have the chance to perform solos, duets, trios or in groups in their chosen category to show off their skills. Categories will be given out later this term.

▶ **FESTIVAL OF DANCE (Form) – Friday, 22 March
(Juniors 1.40pm & Seniors 2.15pm)**

Children will have the chance to perform with their form in the chosen category to show off their skills. Categories will be revealed later this term.



▶ **S4 GROVES PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION**
 – Tuesday, 26 March

Remember that a little bit of practice every day makes all the difference. Good luck to everyone taking part.

▶ **BREAKTIME HOCKEY – S1-S4**

Our annual Hockey 6-a-side Tournament will take place on weekday breaktimes with the finals on **Wednesday, 27 March at 11am**. All senior children have now been allocated a team. They should watch the Games notice board for details/updates and talk to their team captains/vice captains to see when they need hockey sticks. It is not essential for children to buy their own sticks unless they wish to, as we have spares in school. Personal sticks should be clearly named, and may be kept in school. Our uniform suppliers 'OZ' also stock hockey sticks. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear. Here's to a great competition!

▶ **PRIZEGIVING – Friday 29 March**
 (Juniors 9.15am & Seniors 11am)
 School finishes 12noon

▶ **MERTON COURT 'TINY TOTS & TODDLERS' CLUB**

Mrs Langton will be co-ordinating these afternoon sessions on **Wednesdays** that run from 1.30pm until 2.30pm from Wednesday, 16 January until Wednesday, 20 March. The cost is £5 per session including refreshments. If you have a pre-school child (or know anyone who has) and would like a social opportunity and a safe, structured first introduction to our school environment, please contact the School Office or Early Years directly (020 8309 5299).

▶ **UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE**

All children should be wearing full winter uniform this term including our school regulation coat available from 'OZ Schoolwear'.

Hair bands should be of a reasonable size and in school colours only (red, yellow, grey or black) or school scrunchies available from 'OZ' Schoolwear.



Please note that Earrings are not permitted to be worn in Games, PE and Swimming.

Rucksacks are for Senior children only as Junior lockers are not big enough to store them.

The wearing of Apple watches, Fitbits or similar to school is not permitted.

Please see our uniform booklet for all uniform requirements.

▶ **HEALTH & SAFETY**

As always Health & Safety is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns regarding Health & Safety in and around school please contact a member of our staff.

Please do check our up-to-date website:

www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk

for any dates and future events throughout 2019 and beyond. If you wish to access some great photos of last term's and this term's events, visit the secure 'Parents' section. Please email office@mertoncourtprep.co.uk or telephone the school office if you require the password.

Old Mertonians news

We heard from **Sebastian Stewart's (OM 07-11)** father that Seb is at Nottingham University studying Chemistry and really enjoying it. He asked if Seb still held the school record for Year 5 Freestyle 100m swimming – he does indeed!

Mr Price also bumped into the parents of **James Vick (OM 02-10)** and learnt that James is at Loughborough University studying Engineering and playing rugby for the University. James, (who is now 6' 7" tall!) also was a very good swimmer and still holds three school records – Year 1 25m Freestyle, Year 2 25m Freestyle and Year 3 50m Freestyle.

Philip Hunt, son of Dr. R W G Hunt OBE (OM, 1932-1936), emailed with the sad news that his father had passed away at the age of 95.

Robert Hunt was born in Sidcup and attended Merton Court school before aged 14 heading to boarding school, at St Lawrence College, Ramsgate. He recalled having to start the Merton Court school term three weeks late due to being in quarantine due to his sister having measles! Also included in his memoirs were the following recollections of lessons at Merton Court, 'Mr D...gave excellent geography lessons – we had to find a list of names on maps, and I have loved maps ever since. Mr B...gave history lessons so boring he used to go to sleep himself!' In 1932 he joined, at the invitation of a school friend, the local Bible Class of The Crusaders Union, led by Captain Downes, 'I loved the meetings with their tuneful choruses and enthralling talks' he later wrote.

He attended Imperial College of Science and Technology, London and gained first a BSC (First Class) and an ARCS in Physics, then a DIC in Technical Optics, followed by a PhD and a DSc. He worked in the Research Laboratories of Kodak Ltd and played a major part in the development of the Kodak S1 Printer for printing colour negatives.

In 2009 Robert was awarded an OBE, for services to the Field of Colour Science and to Young People through Crusaders.

Tim Palmer (son of **Roy H Palmer** 1891-1966) emailed this colour picture of a Merton Court pupil. It is a cartoon

from a family-produced magazine dated 1902. The boy in question is Roy Palmer and is one of the four sons of the editor of The Church Times, who lived in Sidcup. His elder brother (the editor) was typical of Merton Court, and the accompanying text read: "...a typical schoolboy. Uncombed, unkempt (so were we all) with inky fingers and full of animal spirits. Such are but characteristics common to every schoolboy. But Merton Court has a style peculiar to itself, and Master R.H.P has a strongly developed taste for repartee and Worcester Sauce, and also a most captivating twinkle in his eye. Both the football and the cricket teams often find him useful, and the other day saw him carry off prizes for the sack-race and the three-legged race at the school sports.

His motto is: "While there's life there's soap (worse luck!)"



A fantastic momento for our school archive.



CULTURE BOXES

A way to see, touch and feel real artefacts from countries, cultures and religions all around the world.

To continue celebrating our diversity we are beginning to compile culture boxes from every continent of the globe!

How can you help?

If you have any *small* artefacts that you would like to donate to the school please send these to your child's class teacher with the culture, religion or country that they are from clearly labelled.



Artefacts suitable for donation are:

Masks, textiles, musical instruments, pottery, carvings, utensils, clothes, art and any other small religious or cultural items.

All donations are appreciated!

Friends of Merton Court Events Spring 2019

FOMC thank you for all your support at their events last term.

This term's events are:

▶ **Family Disco – Friday 1 February (6-8pm)**

DJ Dave is back again to get everyone in the party mood. Tickets £5 per adult and £3 per child. Hot dogs/snacks/drinks available to purchase on the night.

▶ **Adult Comedy Night – Friday, 1 March (7pm)**

This ever popular annual event is back! £25 per ticket, includes Fish & Chips (Veggie option available at the time of booking) and the FOMC Bar will be open for drinks.

Next term's events include:

▶ **Prom on the Pitch – Thursday, 11 July (5-9pm).**

Michael Jackson theme, more details to follow soon. As always, FOMC extends a warm welcome to all of our new parents who may wish to get involved. Remember, you don't need to be on the committee to help at any of these events.



PLAYSCHEME 2019



Easter Playscheme 2019
Monday 1 until Friday 5 April.

Summer Playscheme 2019
Monday 15 July until Friday 9 August.

Booking forms will be sent out the week after half-term. Please try and book in good time, since it is often over-subscribed. The playscheme team will be ready to provide an exciting variety of themed activities over the Easter and Summer holidays.

Safeguarding news

This term we are following the NSPCC's Speak Out, Stay Safe programme. Representatives from the NSPCC will be carrying out interactive and child friendly Assemblies and then S3 and S4 will have the opportunity to have specially trained staff conduct workshops with them on how to keep themselves safe from harm.

The whole school will then take part in a sponsored Danceathon on Friday 25 January to raise money for this worthy charity.

We will also be continuing with the programme for our Digital Leaders.

The following children have been assigned to year groups to offer support and guidance.

- J3 **Maisie Chambers and Oliver Stepin**
- S1 **Alyssa Casey and Joshua Arishe**
- S2 **Kirstin Elias and Sam Pang**
- S3 **Aoife O'Mahony and Mahaan Lidder**
- S4 **Fifi Siddiqui and Damien Osei-Bonsu**