

# MERTON COURT

## news

SUMMER 2023



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## IT'S GONE!

*The huge Covid tent at the front of the School, which along with the one by J2, we took down over the holidays.*

*It was Easter 2020 when we realised how much Covid was influencing our lives...*

Our three large static tents really helped us to get through the worst of the pandemic – as temporary dining room, assembly hall, teaching spaces and wet play areas. We now plan to repurpose these tents, the one from the front lawn will become a covered sports space on School field and the one by J2 will be used for Forest School.

We aim to re-instate our front lawn back to its previous self, whilst also finishing off the re-tarmac-ing of the front drive including new railings, a fenced refuse area and a waiting area for parents, at our top gate.

## Improvements in School Spring 2023

Over Easter, we completed a weed, feed, spike and roll on our Merton & Modern fields ready for Summer. We also completed new outdoor toilets for use during break and lunchtime play, adjacent to the Junior Astro.

**Thank you FOMC!** – Our new parkour, part-funded by Friends of Merton Court has been a great success.



Also part-funded by the FOMC, we have two new tented, covered areas in our Remembrance Garden which will be great for the whole school and J2 particularly to use, along with the whole school, especially in summer.



## The Bees have been busy...



Sadly, due to the erratic weather last season and this, bees across the country have really suffered with greater than average loss of life. We were no different, losing one of our hives in February. However we managed to extract honey from that hive. Our other hive is incredibly healthy and we now visit it once a week, to ensure we try to avoid a swarm. Here is our S4 Bee Committee helping out.

## Tooled Up

We would like to remind parents of our fantastic platform 'Tooled Up Education', a very useful resource, to turn evidence-based research into impactful real-life tools to help children thrive. We would encourage you to access this at home to benefit from all this has to offer, along with Dr. Kathy Weston's 'Wednesday Wisdom'. It really is a great help for parenting solutions.

If you have not yet registered please visit <https://www.tooledupeducation.com/register>

## ParentMail Payments

This term we will be using Online Payments on IRIS ParentMail – an online payment service which allows you to pay for school items quickly and easily on your smartphone, tablet or computer. This system will inform you about items you need to pay through IRIS ParentMail, predominately trips and playscheme. You will be able to pay electronically, using credit or debit cards as well as PayPal and PayPoint. If you have not already done so, we would highly recommend you download the free IRIS

ParentMail App so that you can make easy, online payments on the go. To do this, simply search for "ParentMail" in your App store. Please note, your bank statement will display either 'Merton Court School' or 'IRISPAY', dependant upon your payment method. If you need any additional information or assistance, please use the help site:

[www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp](http://www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp)  
or please contact Mrs Goodwin in Accounts via [accounts@mertoncourtprep.co.uk](mailto:accounts@mertoncourtprep.co.uk)

## Music Department

We are delighted to welcome our new singing teacher, Mrs Easom, to Merton Court this term.

There has been a fantastic interest in music lessons post-Covid and particularly since Mrs Tyler started in January, especially for piano lessons. We have organised an additional day of piano teaching and the waiting list has reduced. We hope to be able to offer lessons to everyone waiting in the Autumn Term.

If you are interested in your child having singing or instrumental lessons next term, please fill in the google form; <https://forms.gle/u2tC87cL3Bp8V1AfA>

In the Autumn Term we are planning to introduce a

new music initiative for Trumpet and will be investing in some new instruments. We are also having a musical instrument amnesty. If you have any previously loved musical instruments that you no longer use and would like to donate, please contact us via the form; <https://forms.gle/6ERBzHoj56uCst5u7>

## Parking Reminder

Please may we remind all parents to be considerate when parking in our Rectory Lane car park as well as on Knoll Road. There is ample parking in our Rectory Lane car park so we would please ask that you do not park over other cars already in the car park as this causes a narrow entrance for other cars coming in and also restricts the pathway to the gate. We will be instituting a 'drop-off' lane and reinstating two disabled driver bays in the next few weeks to make things easier. Please also continue to observe our one-way system. This is particularly important at busy times.

## Nut-Free

Please remember that School is a **nut-free** environment – please avoid bringing ANY nut-based products for mid-morning snacks.



## Sporting Achievements Spring 2023

### S2 SPORTS BADGES:

<b>Football</b>	Alex Greenslade & Eden Lorkins
<b>Netball</b>	Nuralayn Aly & Eva Lawrence
<b>Swimming</b>	Zachary Obasohan & Poppy Cormack
<b>Hockey</b>	Tiago Constantinou & Maysa Aly
<b>Cross-Country</b>	Billy Corrigan & Georgia Collings

### Well done also...

'Most improved swimmer' last term was awarded to Elias Okoroafor.

'Most Improved Hockey Player was Aryan Shaikh. Louie Aletta won Hockey Player of the Season and the 'Passmore' Hockey Shield was awarded to Latika Chandran.

### ► CROSS-COUNTRY

On Tuesday 21st February, 19 children represented Merton Court at the ISA London South Regional Cross-Country Championships at Radnor House. Georgia Collings won Gold at the regionals, and following their performances, Anushree Kominek, Maksim Agapov, Georgia Collings and Rafi Smith qualified for the ISA National Cross Country Championships at Workshop College on Saturday 4th March. Georgia Collings went on to win a Silver medal at the Nationals – fantastic stuff!

On Wednesday 1st March, we hosted our annual very well-established South London Inter-Schools Cross Country fixture, inviting ten other schools.

#### A huge well done to the following runners:

Anushree Kominek	Gold
Maksim Agapov	Gold
Georgia Collings	Gold
James Mott	Bronze
Rafi Smith	Silver

#### Our S1 (Year 3) Boys won Gold

Maksim Agapov, Luka Malkov, Max Gayler and Yuvraj Garcha

#### S1 Girls also won Gold

Amalia Randhawa, Sofia Sukevicius, Annabel-Jemima O'Keefe and Anushree Kominek

An excellent result!

On Monday 13th March St. Dunstan's held their inter-schools Cross Country Relays.

S1 girls finished 3rd (Amalia Randhawa, Sofia Sukevicius, Serah-Joseph Dirwai and Anushree Kominek) winning bronze medals.

### ► BREAKTIME 6-A-SIDE HOCKEY LEAGUE

A great competition as ever... 3rd place were Pravit's Pringles and 2nd place went to the Ferocious Fireflies. The winners were The Karate Kids. The captain was Aryan Shaikh and vice-captain was Latika Chandran and their team was William Chislett, Jessie Gayler, Safia Shiraz, Adrian Popov, Isaiah Obasa, Harry Brown and Kirat Kallar.

Harry Lorkins was the top goal scorer with 12 goals. Well played everyone!

### ► SWIMMING

#### Kent Schools Swimming Association Results

10 children from S3 and S4 represented Merton Court at the KSSA swimming gala on Saturday 18th March in both individual and relay events.

#### Individual medals were awarded to:

##### 50m Breaststroke

Olivia Byrne, Jessie Gayler, Amrit Lalli, Callum White

##### 50m Butterfly

Isaac Fitzsimmons, Callum White

##### 50m Backstroke

Louie Pompei, Ava Willoughby

##### 50m Freestyle

Jessie Gayler, James Mott, Emily Stupart

#### Kent Relay medals were awarded to:

##### Boys Freestyle team runners-up

Callum White, James Mott, Isaac Fitzsimmons, Rafi Smith

##### Boys Medley team runners-up

James Mott, Amrit Lalli, Isaac Fitzsimmons, Rafi Smith

##### Girls Medley team runners-up

Jessie Gayler, Ella Mott, Olivia Byrne, Emily Stupart





In May these teams went to represent Kent in the next round in Guildford.

► **NETBALL**

Another win for Merton Court at the U10 Netball tournament at Farringtons on Friday 17th March 2023. Ava Liu, Chinweoke Emezie, Ella Mott, Emily Stupart, Indy Anderson, Isabella Costello, Jessie Gayler, Sophia Ni, Tomi Carew came away with a lovely trophy and gold medals.

► **FOOTBALL**

Congratulations to our boys' football team for winning the Bexley Schools Mini Cup! The team took a 1-0 lead in the first half with an outstanding long range effort from Noah, followed by two second half goals from Louie, the first an excellent header from a corner, the second a quality volley to finish an accurate pass from Rafi.

Well done to the whole squad, and to all of the boys who played in the previous rounds.

Thank you to Mr Mullin and Mr Patnell for their time and effort coaching the team.

Well done to Max, Louie, James, Noah, Isaac, Eddie, Karam, Rafi, Danny & Ashley who received the Team Winners Cup and gold medals.



► **SKIING**

**Kent School's Ski Race, Sunday 7 May 2023**

On Sunday 7th May, two teams participated in the Kent Schools' Ski Races at Chatham Ski Slope. Noah, Max, Callum, Oliver, Sophie, Edith, Toby and Charlie came home with 5 Bronzes, 6 Silvers and a Gold!

Special congratulations to Noah who was the fastest skier of the day – winning Gold, a trophy and a cheque for £150 from the Winter Sports Foundation – a fantastic achievement!



► **S4 GIRLS V STAFF 'FUN' NETBALL MATCH**

Well done everyone who took part in the Girls v Staff 'Fun' Netball match at the end of last term. Fun...mmmm...at least two staff received yellow cards in a fiercely fought match, with MC staff just managing to sneak a win. Well done to everyone who played and supported.

Past Events Spring 2023

**HOUSE EVENTS WINNERS**

English: Modern	Football: School
Hockey: Modern	Swimming: Modern
Netball: School	Merit Shield: School

**HEADMASTER'S AWARD WINNERS**

Junior J2M/S and Senior S3B

► **CHARITIES**

Our chosen charity for Spring Term was Round Table Children's Wish (a charity for ill and terminally-ill children and young adults). We raised £591.12 from the proceeds of our 'Favourite National Costume Dressing Up Day' and our Charity Committee were very proud to present a cheque to them.



► **FESTIVAL OF DANCE**

Congratulations to all of those who took part, for some fantastic performances, particularly the category winners.

**J1** – *Aedán Ryan & Rae Cousins*

**J2** – *Elsie Tang & Lucy Sheppard*

**J3** – *Prehaan Chaturvedi*

**J3 Group Performance** –

*Sachit Jain & Samar Jain*

**S1J/L** – *Amalia Randhawa*

**S1M** – *Sofia Sukevicius & Ivy Willoughby*

**S1 Group Performance** –

*Anushree Kominek & Rahul Vyas*

**S2** – *Sophie Smith*

**S2 Group Performance** –

*Emma Tang, Chandani Dhesi & Nuralayn Aly*

**S3B** – *Oliver Copus & Amelia King*

**S3P** – *Isabella Costello*

**S3 Group Performance** –

*Ella Mott, Indy Anderson & Jessie Gayler*

**S4B** – *Honor Hastings, Olivia Byrne &*

*Nano Deepak*

**S4C** – *Ava Willoughby*

**S4 Group Performances** –

*Ethan Truong & Dominic Davies,*

*Ava Willoughby & Honor Hastings*

*Louie Aletta & Eddie Hammerton*

'Best of Festival' was awarded to Ava Willoughby (S4) and 'Dance Cup' was awarded to Honor Hastings (S4). 'Best Class Dance' went to J3C in the Juniors and S2T in the Seniors. Well done everyone!

► **SPELLING BEE**

Congratulations to our English Spelling Bee champions last term: Sheen Yang (J3), Anushree Kominek (S1), Altana Khundoeva (S2), Samarah Harunani (S3) and Aryan Shaikh (S4).

► **GROVES PUBLIC SPEAKING AWARD**

S4 Finalists: Prisha, Dominic, Rohan, Shaheer, Ethan, Adrian & Yunshu. They all presented and debated some very interesting topics including The Universe, Phobias, Myths, Technology, Chess, Computer Hacking and A Three-Day Week. The overall winner of the trophy was Yunshu who delivered an excellent talk on the pros and cons of a 'Three-Day Working Week'.



► **ISA NATIONAL STEAM COMPETITION FINAL 2023**



In March, Ritvik (S3), reached the final of the very popular Independent Schools Association National STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Mathematics) Competition. He presented his water-propelled

rocket to the ISA panel of judges and we are pleased to say that he was runner up and highly commended in the KS2 category. Ritvik spoke confidently about his design, the challenges he faced and how he used trial and error, trying to find out the best amount of water within the rocket to successfully launch the rocket very high into the sky. It was extremely impressive to hear him discuss his understanding of the science behind thrust and what the rocket needed for safe landing as well as take-off. We were delighted to award Ritvik his Highly Commended Certificate for his wonderful entry at Spring Prizegiving. Congratulations also to our DT Co-ordinator, Mr Castleton for all his organisation and help to all entrants from Merton Court.

► **BROMLEY FESTIVAL**

Well done to our Junior Choir who gained ‘Honours’ and were the winners in the children’s choir section at Bromley festival this year. Well done also to S3 and S4 Senior Choir who achieved ‘Honours’ in their section, coming third, in a fiercely fought competition. Both Junior Choir and Senior Choir are open to new members this term; children should speak to Mrs Tyler if they are interested.

► **S4 SUCCESSES**

Well done to S4 (Year 6) for their particular successes at Secondary Transfer this year and their continued hard work. Twenty-five school Scholars’ ties have now been awarded in recognition of outstanding academic, dramatic and sporting achievement in external Secondary Transfer examinations and Independent School entrance procedures.

► **DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL VISITORS**

**Michael Mainelli**

We were delighted to welcome Professor Michael Mainelli, Alderman for Broad Street and past Sheriff of the City of London 2019-2021 to our School.



A time innovator in education, this is a quote from his speech at the Mansion House recently: “In the Netherlands, there is a much higher degree of student involvement in running institutions. Community governance is seen as training. One unnamed Dutch university graduate said to me, “Dad, I learned so much helping to run the school, such as every meeting needs an agenda.” Note that I spend about five years getting my UK graduate employees to grasp this basic skill. Note too that so many systems are wrapped up and delivered in one package, organisational theory, teamwork, management. I was pleased to hear at Merton Court, a southeast London primary school, that the council chairman was a student, and the student held the gavel, not the headteacher.”

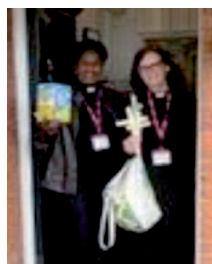
**Louie meets Louie, Louie & Louis!**

We were also delighted to welcome our MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup, Louie French who came along to talk to S4 (Year 6) about his parliamentary role and the important issues of democracy and mutual respect when discussing emotive issues. Louie Aletta and Louie Pompei in S4 were particularly pleased to see him! Our MP also had time to unveil J1’s new ‘Buddy Bench’ where children can sit if they need a friend, some advice or need cheering up. He also visited Early Years, and met one of our newest Early Years children – Louis!





Past Events Spring 2023



▶ OTHER IMPORTANT EASTER VISITORS

We were also delighted to get a visit from the Easter Bunny and from our local Vicar, Reverend Cathy, who delivered Palm Crosses to the School community.

▶ S4 CYCLING PROFICIENCY IN MARCH 2023

S4 took part in Bikeability, learning to control their bikes in different situations in order to prepare themselves for riding to school in Year 7. They were all taken out onto quiet roads in our local area where they experienced real-life conditions. All children became more confident as the week went on and, more importantly, they all achieved their level 2 certificates!



▶ EASTER BONNETS & EGG DESIGNS

Our annual Easter Bonnet competition was a huge success at the end of the Spring Term with the children making some beautiful Easter Bonnets for the parade, with Easter eggs for prizes – yum! Well done to all entrants, for their egg-cellent efforts!

**Junior Winners:**

<i>EY – William Holmes</i>	<i>S1 – Anya Sandhu</i>
<i>J1 – Dylan Humphreys</i>	<i>S2 – Oscar Chislett</i>
<i>J2 – Constance Todd</i>	<i>S3 – William Chislett</i>
<i>J3 – Oliver Cranston</i>	<i>S4 – Latika Chandran</i>

▶ MERTON COURT FAMILY SKI TRIP 2023

We took a party of 68 to the excellent PostHotel in the pretty Austrian village of Pfunds for the Easter week. We skied in Nauders (Austria), then in Schöneben (Italy), Samnaun (Switzerland) and Ischgl (Austria). We enjoyed two glorious days of sunshine before the snow arrived – and it didn't stop! By the final day we were skiing in champagne powder. By the end of the week most of the party had skied black runs or had been taken off-piste into the deep fresh-





snow: it was the best snow most of us had ever skied! Evening events included swimming in the hotel's lovely indoor pool, an Easter egg hunt, bingo with Frau Shouty, Phil's legendary quiz, games night, town trail, and a live band! Next year, we will be returning to Pfunds for another week, skiing in three different countries. The trip is sure to sell out quickly.



► **MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND MFL WEEK Monday 27 Feb – Friday 3 March** was where we celebrated our fabulous multicultural community. In January S4 hosted 'Breakfast on a Plate', where many were entertained by incredible performances from all the children whilst enjoying a breakfast inspired by Jules Verne's 'Around the World in 80 Days' which celebrates its 150th year of creation. We shared our home languages and stories along with food and customs and sharing our fascinating heritage stories.

During MFL week there was an MFL Quiz alongside House English for S1 to S4 and a Spanish Spelling Bee for J3 to S4.

We held an MFL Celebration Day with year groups showcasing a different country, highlighting its history, music and food. Thank you to all the parents who



were able to support this event with fantastic artefacts and delectable treats.

We were also fortunate to welcome many bilingual parents to share their traditions and teach their languages too. Mrs Saran came to tell the Juniors about the Festival of Holi, Miss Cuervo sang in Spanish with the children and Mrs Mukina shared an African folk tale. The Seniors listened to Slovakian, Chinese and Hungarian tales, amongst others. Thank you to Ms Yap, Mrs Smith and all our parents who joined in. On Friday 3rd March, the entire school dressed up in international attire for a small donation to the Round Table Children's Wish charity. The costumes looked spectacular. Prizes were won for best outfits per yeargroup. Miss Retberg and Mr Brady won the best teachers' outfits. Well done everyone!

To finish off our MFL focus in May we welcomed the Freshwater Theatre Company into school, who performed familiar stories in Spanish. This was a great interactive experience for KS1 and KS2 children to enjoy.

► **MERTON COURT PUPILS' EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUCCESS**

A big well done to **Luca (S3B)** who has been on the podium three times this year so far, winning his last race at the British Motor-sports Championships.



Well done also to **Eshan (S4B)** and **Kavan (S3P)** who held a fundraiser to raise £199 for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal. After watching the events on News-round, they felt they

wanted to help.

**Great West End news also – Honor (S4B)** has successfully auditioned and will be making her West-End debut as Lily Potter in 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child' over the Summer Term.

Well Done! We'll all have to come and see you!

Past Events Spring 2023







## School Events Summer 2023

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 24 May  
Staff Training

Thursday 22 June  
ISA Regional Art Exhibition

On these dates there will be NO After School Club Facility or After School Clubs & Activities.  
Please collect your children at their normal end of school time.

### New Responsibilities in School Summer Term 2023

Dance Captains: **Layla Lawrence** and **Ethan Truong**

Athletics Captains: **Danny Gannon** and **Imani Ogboli**

Cricket Captains: **Rohan Vyas** and **Zara Pala**

Skiing Captain: **Noah Grecula**

Rounders Captains: **Louie Aletta** and **Ayla Rahij**

### S2 (Year 4) Hilltop Residential Trip

Friday 5 May – Saturday 6 May

We had already booked our date for Hilltop when King Charles III decided to choose that date for his Coronation. We went to Hilltop anyway, for a two-day residential which was fantastic! We were so lucky with the excellent weather on the North Norfolk Coast, challenging ourselves to try physically demanding activities, using trust and teamwork to great effect. The ‘Super Swing’ was the firm favourite!

### Science Week

Monday 22 May – Friday 26 May

This year, Science is paired up with Technology (ICT and DT) to be able to fully embrace the theme of ‘Connections’. Nearly all innovations in science, technology, engineering and maths are built on connections between people after all. This topic will



Hilltop Residential Trip







allow us to discover the different ways connections appear across all areas of science. For example:

- Evolution - how animals, plants, bacteria are all connected;
- How atoms connect to form chemical bonds;
- Exploring science and technology behind the internet; space exploration/inventions in trying to connect to the outside world;
- The connection between human actions and climate change;
- The human body: how our organs are connected and work together;
- Connections between plants, animals and humans;
- Materials: connection between the type of material and its uses;
- Animal Habitats: wild areas (e.g. long grass, logs) attract insects that attract other animals that eat insects and so on... Or explore the connection between human actions and their impact on animal habitats (positive and negative).

In **ICT**, each yeargroup will have a different focus this term to investigate connections:

- J3: Science animation
- S1: Programme a Mars explorer
- S2: Programme a virtual pet
- S3: Newton and gravity – cloning apples
- S4: Virtual-reality pets

Science term started with a **Science Workshop** called 'Silly Science' on Thursday, 27 April 2023 for all children in J2-S4.

To link with **Design and Technology**, we have organised a 'Techno-day' during Science Week (24 May) for the children to enter a competition with their own design of a 'Perfect Pet' - more details on that to follow. On 15 June, J1-J3 will also take part in a STEM – CONNECTONS – LEGO workshop. This workshop encourages young people to think about everyday technology and engineering challenges and get hands-on to solve them. An experienced facilitator will work with a class at a time to solve tricky challenges, using maths and engineering to model real-life solutions.

- **Monday 22 May:** *House Science S1-S4*
- **Tuesday 23 May:** *Spelling Bee; Orienteering S1-S4*
- **Wednesday 24 May:** *'Techno-day'* – Exhibition of models of a 'Perfect Pet'
- **Thursday 25 May:** *Dressing Up Day*  
Dress up in an animal costume – raise money for charity (Animal shelter in Ukraine)
- **Friday 26 May:** *Pet Day*  
A table will be set up to collect donations for pets for our Ukrainian Animal Rescue charity. Any item that could be used for caring for pets, e.g. tinned food, treats, blankets, toys, etc. are very much appreciated.

## School Events Summer 2023



### FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN SCHOOL:

#### **S4 Leadership and Teamwork Challenge**

(Week 1) Monday 5 June – Friday 9 June

(Week 2) Monday 19 June – Friday 23 June

One of our most popular and inspiring series of events in Year 6 is our Leadership and Challenge Weeks. S4 will be undertaking appropriately adjusted challenges which this year include; our 'Dragons Den' Business/Charity Challenge; an Environmental Challenge; a Performing Arts Challenge, a Rifle/Pistol Shooting Challenge; Cooking; First-aid, ever popular 'I'm a Yr6 – Get Me Out of Here!' and new this year – a music composition challenge!

#### **J3 to S1 Transition Talk**

Wednesday 7 June (7pm) in School Hall

J3 Parents are cordially invited to come into School to talk about transition from KS1 to KS2 and to meet the childrens' new form teachers for the coming academic year.

#### **Festival of Music**

(Individual) – Thursday 8 June

(Individual & Forms) – Friday 9 June

Children will have the chance to perform solo or duet in their chosen category to show off their music

skills. Categories and further details will be given out soon so please do get involved to help make Festival a real success!

#### **Parents' Evening**

J1 & S1 – Monday 12 June

EY, J2 & J3 – Tuesday 13 June

A chance to discuss progress with form teachers.

Information on how to book will be put on year group googledrives.

#### **S4 Residential Trip to Spain**

Monday 12 – Saturday 17 June

S4 children and staff are very much looking forward to their residential trip to Spain. It is a unique experience and ideal preparation for Secondary School. The children will take part in flamenco dancing, sports activities and local excursions, including The Dali Museum, 'El Parque Acuatico' (Waterworld), Sagrada Familia Cathedral and Parc Guell. As usual, this promises to be fun-packed week. Fantástica!

#### **House Rounders**

S1/S2 – Monday 12 June

S3/S4 – Wednesday 21 June

#### **S2 Parents' Evening**

Monday 19 & Tuesday 20 June

A chance to discuss progress with S2 form teachers.

#### **EY – J1 Transition Talk**

Wednesday 21 June (9am) in School Hall

This will be a transition coffee morning where Mrs Langton and members of the J1 teaching team will talk about successful transition into J1 and answer any questions you may have. There will also be an opportunity to visit our J1 classroom to see how much fun is being had!

#### **S3 Parents' Evening**

Monday 26 & Tuesday 27 June

A chance to discuss progress face to face with S3 form teachers.

**Sports Day**

**Juniors – Thursday 29 June**

*(EY/J1 @ 9.15am & J2/J3 @ 11am)*

**Seniors – Friday 30 June**

*(S1/S2 @ 9.15am & S3/S4 @ 1.45pm)*

Please note that this is a compulsory event for all children. Children should be dressed appropriately for this event in their white PE kit, including a school baseball cap and white trainers.

Parents are welcome to these Sports Day events that will take place in Yeargroups on Merton and Modern fields. Both of these days are normal school days, and therefore children should generally stay in school following the event. However, should you wish to take your child home after Sports Day please inform their Form Teacher and the School Office.

**House Cricket**

**S1/S2 – Monday 3 July**

**S3/S4 – Wednesday 5 July**

**‘Moving Up’ Day**

**Tuesday 11 July**

This will be an ideal opportunity in the last week of term for all children to meet their new teacher in preparation for the forthcoming academic year 2023-24.

**Breaktime Netball**

**S1-S4 on Wednesday/Thursday**

**Breaktime Football**

**J3 & S1 Tuesday/Friday**

**Breaktime Football & Netball League Finals**

**Tuesday 11 July**

We have returned to our normal breaktime league format and we are running our Football League for J3 & S1 on Tuesdays & Fridays. S1-S4 Netball League will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Both girls and boys will be involved in all leagues. Each team will have a unique alliterative name such as ‘Blazing

Birds’ or ‘Creepy Cookies’. Teamwork, communication, support for each other and ball skills will be key. The best four teams in each league will take part in the Play-offs and finals at the end of this term.

**School Prizegiving**

**Junior – Wednesday 12 July (2pm)**

**Senior – Wednesday 12 July (7pm)**

This year we will be hosting our prizegivings outdoors, on our large sound stage on the school field. Please watch the weather forecast, dress appropriately and if needs be, bring a brolly. Do bring the family!

**FOMC Prom On The Pitch  
and J2-S4 ‘Best of British’ Production**

**Thursday 13 July (6pm – 9pm)**

Prom this year we will be using our large sound stage and TV screen for a special production presented by J2/J3/S1/S2/S3 & S4 entitled ‘The Best of British’. Watch this space...

**Term will end  
at midday on Friday 14 July**



School Events Summer 2023

**SUMMER PLAYScheme 2023**

**Monday 17 July – Friday 11 August**

Our Playscheme Team will provide an exciting variety of themed activities over the summer holidays.

Booking forms will be sent out after May half-term.

Please remember to book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited.

**Coffee Mornings**

We look forward to welcoming parents/carers to coffee mornings this term to watch children's assembly presentations.

**S1 Friday 5 May**

**J3 Friday 16 June**

**S2 Friday 12 May**

**J2 Friday 23 June**

**S3 Friday 19 May**

**J1 Friday 7 July**

**Prospective Parents' Open Opportunities 2023**

**Open Morning: Saturday 23 September 2023 (9.15am-12noon)**

**Open Day: Wednesday 15 November 2023 (9.15am-2.00pm)**

A reminder that any new parents wishing to look around the school with a view to sending their child here will be able to do so, shown round by members of School staff.

Anyone wishing to look around the school is welcome to make an individual appointment to talk with Dominic Price (our Headmaster), via the Admissions Team.

**Merton Court 'Tiny Tots & Toddlers' Club'**

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Langton will be hosting Tiny Tots & Toddlers again on Thursday afternoons between 1.30pm and 2.30pm. Prospective parents are invited to bring younger children (adult accompanied) to our 'Tiny Tots & Toddlers Club' for a real taste of Merton Court. These sessions will be held in EY using the indoor and outdoor facilities. Entry will be via the gates to the lower (EY) playground. It is a wonderful opportunity for you to meet and chat with staff and other prospective parents who are about to join school. These cost £5 per

session, including refreshments. We look forward to welcoming you for tea/coffee and a chat.

**Early Years New Parents' Induction**

**Tuesday 11 July (9.00am)**

This is an opportunity for parents of children joining Early Years in September 2023 to come and meet with Mrs Langton and the Early Years teachers. It's a fabulous opportunity to chat with new parents and also to ask any last-minute questions, 'over a cuppa'.



Sincere thanks to FOMC for a great Comedy Night enjoyed by parents and guests in the School Hall.

With funds raised in the past six months, FOMC have supported our Music Department by buying a new piano for our Music Practice Room, available for children taking individual piano lessons.



**SOME FURTHER DATES FOR FOMC EVENTS THIS YEAR**

**Prom on the Pitch – Thursday 13 July**

**Bonfire Night – Friday 3 November**

**Christmas Bazaar – Friday 24 November**









Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news



Great to have **Lauren West (OM 2001 – 2010)** come into school to talk to our Year 6s (S4) about successful transition into Year 7. Following her time at Reading University, Lauren decided to go into teaching and is now Head of Year 7 at BETHS Grammar School. Her sister **Jessica (OM 2003 – 2011)** is in the Fashion industry, currently working for Hobbs.

**Aoife Hadland (OM 2014 – 2021)** had a stroke of luck whilst out riding last year – she was scouted by a trainer to become a Shetland pony jockey for the JPL team and won her first full race in March.



It was great to hear from **Nini Palmer (OM 2011 – 2015)** who is currently at Nottingham University doing E. Commerce and **Mikun Palmer (OM 2014 - 2021)** currently in Year 8 at Wilmington Grammar School of Girls.



Mr Price was delighted to see **Charlie Crisp (OM 1996 – 2004)** again, when visiting Brown's School in Chelsfield, on behalf of ISA London South. Charlie teaches Science there.

**Katherine Da Costa (OM 2008 – 2015)** is studying Maths and Chemistry at Nottingham University. Her brother **Jacob Da Costa (OM 2010 – 2018)** is studying for his GCSEs at Dartford Grammar.

We had news from a relative of a boarder at Merton Court. They are researching – **Leslie Kay Thompson (OM)** who went to the school in the 1920s. Does

anyone remember him? Please contact the School Office if you do.

We also had contact from the great niece of **Dr James Crombie (OM) & Mary Crombie (OM)** who were at the School at the turn of the century. She complimented us on the Crombie Brothers section in our website archive article 'The Lost Boys'.

Great to hear news from **Ben Turner (OM 1992 – 2001)** who completed his PhD at Imperial College and now works in the AI field. He is now married and his best man was **Michael Cascarino (OM 1996 – 2001)**! Ben's sister, **Fiona (OM 1993 – 2002)** is now working in a Multi Academy Trust in London, having attended the University of Reading.

**Felicity Cliffe (OM 1998 – 2006)** who has worked here for a number of years as a piano and cello teacher, leaves us to complete a Master's Degree in Music, majoring in Conducting at Royal Northern College of Music – how fantastic!

**Au-nhi Huynh (OM 2013 – 2016)** completes her time at Colfe's and is now planning to go to Oxford University to study Medicine.

Finally, good to catch up with the talented Pritchards! **Alice (OM 2009 – 2017)** is at the Central School of Ballet and **Henry (OM 2006 – 2014)** went to Brit School and now works as a music producer. He's just had a top ten hit with the artist 'Stranz'!



Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news

*Future Autumn Term Dates for Your Diary:*

**EY Taster Session** – Thursday 31 August

**New S4 (Year 6) Summer Sessions**

Thursday 31 August &

Friday 1 September (9am – 12noon each day)

**Staff Meeting** – Monday 4 September

**Staff INSET** – Tuesday 5 September

**Autumn Term 2023 Begins**

Wednesday 6 September

**New Parents – Meet and Greet**

Wednesday 6 September

**Clubs Registration**

Friday 8 September

**S3 Residential Trip to France & Belgium**

Thursday 14 – Saturday 16 September

**School Photos – Individual & Sibling**

Monday 18 September

**Prospective Parents' Open Morning**

Saturday 23 September (9am – 12 noon)

**Harvest Festival Service at St John's Church**

Friday 29 September (9am)

**Letterland Evening for EY, J1, J2 & J3**

Tuesday 3 October (6pm)

**Festival of Speech & Drama**

Thursday 5 October (Individual)

Friday 6 October (Form Performances)

**October Half Term**

14 – 29 October (inclusive)

**FOMC Bonfire Night** – Friday 3 November

**Remembrance Service** – Friday 10 November

**Swimming Championships**

Friday 10 November & Friday 17 November

**J1, S1 & S2 Parents' Evenings**

Monday 13 November

**EY, J2, J3 & S3 Parents' Evenings**

Tuesday 14 November

**Prospective Parents Open Day**

Wednesday 15 November

**FOMC Christmas Bazaar**

Friday 24 November

**Junior Production**

Thursday 30 November & Friday 1 December

**Christmas Jumper Day**

Friday 8 December

**Christmas Parties**

Monday 11 December

**Christmas Lunch**

Wednesday 13 December

**Carol Service at St John's Church**

Thursday 14 December (6pm)

**Autumn Prizegiving**

Friday 15 December

Juniors 9.15am & Seniors 11am

**End of Term** – Friday 15 December at 12 noon

Please do check our up-to-date website – [www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk](http://www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk) for any dates and future events throughout 2023 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](mailto:office@mertoncourtprep.co.uk) or telephone the school office if you require the password.

**School Policies**

Our statutory policies and a list of all our policies are on our school website – should you require a copy of any of these, please contact the school office.