

MERTON COURT

news

SPRING 2024



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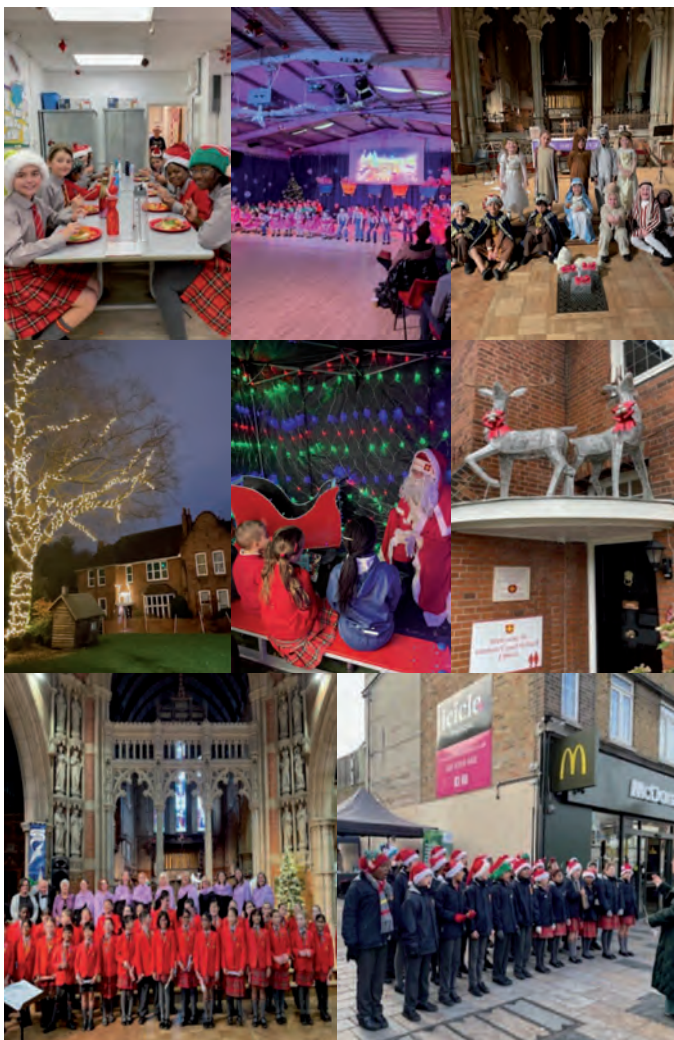
www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk



Goodbye 2023

Wishing you a very happy and successful 2024!

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break.
Welcome back to a super busy Spring Term.





New FOMC Uniform Shop & Café

We look forward to the opening of the new FOMC Uniform Shop which will also be a social hub for parents, especially as the weather improves in the Spring, along with refreshments and uniform sales.

Safeguarding

Filming and Photography

Merton Court operates a 'No phone zone policy' and we have noticed recently that some parents/carers have been videoing and photographing productions and school events.

The school will in future take photographs and videos where appropriate and upload to yeargroup google drives for parents to view.

Please respect our policy which is for the safety of all our children and enjoy each performance in the moment.

Morning Drop Off

If you arrive late to school please ensure you bring your child to the School Office door in person and not just drop at the gate and let them walk into school on their own. We MUST see a parent or carer drop off at all times. If you are dropping your child in Rectory Lane Car Park and not using the 'drop off

lane' then please do not leave your child to walk up the car park on their own. If you arrive before the gates open, your child must be registered into Breakfast Club. Please do not leave your children unattended at either Rectory Lane gate or Knoll Road gate as they are unsupervised.

Medication

A gentle reminder that medication of any type should not be sent into school with your child. If your child is prescribed medication by a doctor or pharmacist you will need to complete an Administration of Prescription Medication Form which can be provided from the School Office or found on our Parents section of the website. We CAN NOT administer any unnamed medication.

SnowDays (or indeed any emergency closures)

In the event of school being closed due to snow this term, teachers will provide online education for the children via Zoom. This will be in the form of a 9am morning registration to set work for the children to complete through the course of the day. Teachers will then re-engage with the children at 11am and 2.30pm. Zoom details for each yeargroup will be provided.

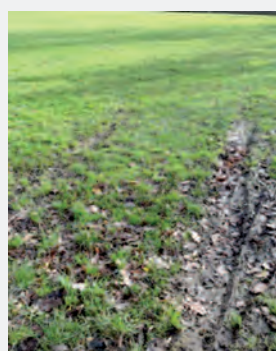
Tooled Up

Just a reminder about our fantastic platform 'Tooled Up Education'. If you have not registered please visit <https://www.tooledupeducation.com/register> School's unique PIN can be obtained from the School Office.

Staff News

We would like to welcome **Mrs Charlotte Jahaj** back from maternity leave, Mrs Jahaj will become our SENDCo. **Mrs Karen Faulds** becomes our SENDCo Consultant.

Congratulations to **Mrs Jo Tatum** who gave birth to a daughter at the beginning of the year. Both mother and baby are doing well.



– this photo shows the result! Please avoid driving onto our pitches, as it is time consuming to get drivers off if they get stuck and also expensive to repair, especially when it renders pitches unplayable.

Extra Curricular Activities

A huge well done to Ava who we have just heard is a finalist in the Independent Schools Association Young Musician of the Year Competition 2024. The Finals will be held at the end of January in Oxford.



It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of a much-loved colleague and great friend of the School, **June Sparrow** (far left next to a very young Mr Christy and a very serious looking Mr Price!), who taught at Merton Court in the 90's.

Please Keep off the grass!

At the end of last term, a parent thought it would be a good idea to drive onto our Lower Modern field



Past Events Autumn 2023



► **ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

We are very proud of our Year 6 (S4) children for their effort and hard work, with very strong academic results so far this year, and who continue to sit assessments for Secondary Transfer. Well done particularly to four of our S4/Year 6 children gaining a 'Top 180' score in the Bexley Test; Trisha, Ava, Tomi and Anay, and to Sophia who achieved full marks in the Kent test – no mean feat!

At the end of last term, we awarded a total of 22 scholar's ties (for academic, drama & sports scholarships or awards) in recognition of success in Independent school assessments and also for strong success in the Bexley & Kent Selective and Bromley Super-selective procedures. A very good S4 year to date....



► **ISA ART EXHIBITION WINNERS**

This year Merton Court received two first place awards at the ISA National Art Finals in EYFS 3D Group Art and KS2, individual 3D Art.

► **SPORTING SUCCESS**

Well done to the 24 children from S2, S3 and S4 we took over to Colfe's School in October to take part in the Cross Country:

Maxim	1st	Gold medal
Max	2nd	Silver medal
Anushree	2nd	Silver medal

S2 boys did really well in winning team gold: Maksim, Max, Luka, and Rahul.

Well done also to our U11 Netball Tournament when they went to Farringtons with nine other schools. Merton Court were Runners-up.

Silver medals were awarded to Tomi, Chinweoke, Jessie, Sanaya, Ivy-Rose, Ava, Emily and Siyenna.

In the Autumn term, we traditionally organise a very popular inter-schools Cross Country Relays event ourselves for S3 and S4 with 12 other schools attending. S3 girls finished 3rd – well done to Georgia, Olivia, Serena and Eden for their bronze medals.

Congratulations also to everyone who took part in the Merton Court Swimming Championships. 368 entries from 86 children, achieving 282 Personal Best times.



— TROPHIES AWARDED TO: —

Senior Boys Champion (Trophy)	James Mott
Senior Girls Champion (Trophy)	Emily Stupart
Junior Champion (Trophy)	Sofia Sukevicius
Most Improved Swimmer	Timi Olupitan

Well done also, to House Cross-country winners in school:

- S1** Mark Mikulich, Hollie Duff-Bruce
- S2** Maksim Agapov, Anushree Kominek
- S3** Billy Corrigan, Serena Odiah
- S4** James Mott (Pochin Cup) and Jessie Gayler (Pochin Plate)

Also a huge well done to all our children who attended the Independent Schools Association National Swimming Finals at the Olympic Pool, Stratford:

Individual Medals

Anushree	50m Breaststroke	3rd Medal
Sofia	50m Front Crawl	3rd Medal
Eamonn	50m Backstroke	1st Medal
Serena	50m Breaststroke	1st Medal
Serena	50m Front Crawl	2nd Medal

Team Medals

Luka	Freestyle Relay	2nd Medal
Eamonn	Freestyle Relay	2nd Medal
Serena	Freestyle Relay	2nd Medal

A particular well done to Serena who broke a school record for Year 5 Girls 50m Breaststroke and Mr Price was there helping to give out the medals.



Lucas Sukevicius won the St Ledger Most Improved Rugby Award, Eleanor-Marie Hammerton won Person Showing Most Promise in Rugby and Siyena Pamnani won Most Improved Netballer.

Well done to our yeargroup Chess Winners:

J3/Yr 2	Gabriella Mahomed-Cuervo
S1/Yr 3	Preehan Chaturvedi
S2/Yr 4	Aarav Katukuri
S3/Yr 5	Eason Li
S4/Yr 6	Savva Malkov

HOUSE EVENTS WINNERS

English:	Modern
Cross-country:	Merton
Rugby:	Merton
Merit Shield:	Merton
Chess:	Modern

S2 Badges for sporting excellence were awarded at prizegiving to:

Maksim Agapov and Amalia Randhawa

– Cross Country

Edith Griffiths and Anushree Kominek – Netball

Max Gayler and Phoenix Jones – Rugby

Eamonn O'Neill and Sofia Sukevicius – Swimming



Past Events Autumn 2023



► **NEW RESPONSIBILITIES IN SCHOOL**

Head Boy and Head Girl are **William** and **Tomi**
Senior Prefects are **Lucas** and **Amelia**.
Football Captains are **James** and **Eleanor-Marie**
Hockey Captains are **Savva** and **Molly**

► **CHARITIES**

Our charities for the Autumn Term were 'Centre-pieces', a local mental health recovery charity and 'Cancer Research UK'. We were delighted to have raised **£514.51** for 'Centrepieces' with the proceeds coming from our 'Book Character Dressing Up Day'. For 'Cancer Research UK' we raised a fantastic **£1,575.50** from the proceeds of our Junior Christmas Production and Christmas Jumper Day.

► **REMEMBRANCE**

Our Annual Remembrance Service was led by S3 (Yr 5), in a thoughtful and poignant way in order to help our school community better understand why we wear our poppies on Poppy Day. Following the service, Aalia Dhillon was awarded the Royal Naval Association 'Shipmates' Cup for her contribution to the Remembrance Service and Michael Mitev-Rathnayake was awarded the British Legion Diamond Jubilee Poppy Project Award for his beautiful poppy project.

Thank you once again for your kind donations to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal totalling a fantastic **£712.78**. *(More pictures on pages 8 & 9)*

► **FESTIVAL OF SPEECH, DRAMA AND MIME**

Well done and thank you to all of the children who took part in the first of our termly festivals for the year. Jessie Gayler was the winner of the Massey Mime Cup. Lucas Sukevicius was the winner of the Original Verse Cup and Kayla Feyita was awarded 'Best of Festival'. Also particular commendations to the winners of the Form Poem – S3P and J2MS.

► **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our lovely Harvest Festival with donations going to the Manna Project and our local foodbank. S4 led our service in St. John's Church, Sidcup.



► **S3 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO FRANCE**

S3 once again embarked on their annual trip to France as part of their work on Remembrance. It was an early start on Thursday 14th October, ready for a busy few days in France. Over the three days, the children visited Vimy Ridge, Langemark German Cemetery, Sanctuary Wood, Wellington Quarry and Orchard Dump where

we were met by the local Mayor and paid our respects to a past pupil, Marcel Simon. The highlight of our trip was being given the honour of laying a wreath at Menin Gate during the Last Post Ceremony. We ended our stay with a visit to Nausicaa Marine Centre which the children and staff enjoyed immensely.



Past Events Autumn 2023



REMEMBR





ANCE 2023



Past Events Autumn 2023



► ENGLISH WEEK

During English Term we continued to promote a love of reading and of books, as we know that this is fundamental to children’s academic success. As a starting point our displays and assemblies took inspiration from the beautiful ‘A Child of Books’ by Oliver Jeffers & Sam Winston. In English week (Monday 9th – Friday 13th October) the Senior children participated in the House English Quiz, which was ultimately won this year by ‘Modern’. On Tuesday, Juniors and Seniors competed in our annual Spelling Bee, which established a spelling champion for each year group. On Thursday we had our ‘Donate a Book to the Ukraine Day’; we asked you & your child to select a cherished book to share with others in the Ukraine. These books have now been sent to the Ukraine and your kindness is much appreciated. Finally on Friday we had a fabulous book character dressing-up day, which was well supported by children and staff. Donations went to ‘Centrepieces’, a local charity which exists to promote mental health recovery through the arts and to promote a better understanding of mental health to the wider public. Thank you all for your continued support!

► CHRISTMAS 2023

A big thank you to our Senior Choir who were very privileged to be asked to sing with the Military Wives at St John’s Church in Sidcup. Well done to all our Early Years and Junior children for their great performances in our Junior Christmas Production, and S4’s entertaining carol singing. Our children took part in some lovely Christmas activities, as we have displayed on the front of this term’s newsletter. We would like to say a particular well done to our S4 (Yr 6) children for their beautiful Carol singing in Sidcup High Street for Alzheimer’s UK. We had a lovely email from the organisers thanking our children and letting us know we raised £550 on the day. Thank you to all of our School Community for a lovely end of term’s Carol Service, particularly our choirs and the J2 tableau.



House English Spelling Bee Winners:

J2 Aedan Ryan	S2 Anushree Kominek
J3 Lucy Sheppard	S3 Jada Yuan
S1 Samar Jain	S4 Anay Banerjee

School Events *Spring 2024*

Prospective Parents' Open Opportunities 2024

– *Open Morning:*

Saturday 20 January 9.15am – 12noon

– *Open Evening:*

Wednesday 1 May 3.30pm – 6.30pm

A reminder that any parents wishing to look round the school with a view to sending their child here will be able to do so - shown around by a member of our School staff. Anyone wishing to look around the school is welcome to make an individual appointment with Mrs Langton or the Admissions Team followed by an individual chat with Dominic Price our Headmaster.

Coffee Mornings

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

S4 Friday 9 February

J3 Friday 8 March

S3 Friday 19 January

J2 Friday 12 January

S2 Friday 1 March

J1 Friday 2 February

S1 Friday 23 February

Science Week – 'A Brief History of Time...?'

Monday 29 January – Friday 2 February

The topic for British Science Week this year is 'Time' as it is key to so many discoveries in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Evolution looks at how plants and animals change over a long period of time, the Earth's movements show us why we have seasons and different time zones. This particular focus provides an excellent opportunity for us to create a link between Science and History. Taking their current History topic, each year group will look at scientific advances and discoveries that occurred during that time. Some year groups plan to investigate forensic archaeology and the science

behind that, e.g., carbon dating. Others will explore and learn about dinosaurs and castles, inventions and medicine through history, how the Romans, Vikings, Victorians and the Islamic World have all contributed to science or else find out about the bomb damage that London suffered during the WWII.

Most year groups have also organised either a school trip or a workshop to further engage in their chosen topic. These trips and workshop bring an excellent opportunity to enhance learning and to provide our young learners with unforgettable 'hands-on' experiences.

Each year group will prepare an assembly and a coffee morning to share their findings with you and with the rest of the school. Our hall displays will reflect all our learning and discoveries in preparation for yeargroup assemblies.

Science Week commences on Monday, 29th January with House Science for the Seniors. On Tuesday, we will have our traditional Spelling Bee competition with a Science focus. On Thursday, we will have a guest speaker talking to the children about Forensic Archaeology and on Friday, we will be dressing up as famous scientists or historians, whilst raising money for our chosen charity this term.

S4 Cycling Proficiency Week

Monday 4 – 8 March

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

S4 Bring and Buy Sale – Friday 15 March

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 £10 (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.

School Events *Spring 2024*

Festival of Dance (Individual & Choreographic) Thursday 21 March

Festival of Dance (Form) – Friday 22 March

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.

Groves Public Speaking Competition

Tuesday 19 March

S4 battle it out for the coveted Groves Public Speaking Trophy, with a wide variety of chosen topics that they will present to S3.

S1-S4 Breaktime Hockey League

The finals will be on **Tuesday 26 March**. 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!

'Rise and Shine' Music Breakfast

Thursday 25 January (8.45am & 11am) and Friday 26 January (8.45am)

We are hosting a 'Rise and Shine' Music Breakfast as a fundraiser for new instruments for our music department and to showcase the terrific musical talent we have at Merton Court. All the children will be entertaining you during the breakfast with performances by our Junior and Senior choirs, School Orchestra, Guitar club along with songs and solos from some of our musically gifted children. Tickets available now via ParentMail App.

S4 'Strictly Merton' Night

Friday 1 March

S4's 'Strictly' fund-raiser for their Spain trip is back! And what a treat we have in store for you...Celebrity Compère, Fabulous Judges, Paso-doble, Sultry Sambas and Cheeky Cha Cha Chas (Darling!), all courtesy of S4. Tickets for this FAB-U-LOUS evening extravaganza on sale very soon!

Prizings

Friday 27 March Juniors – 9.15am Seniors – 11am

Please do remember that all children must be wearing their full winter uniform for prizegiving, including blazers!

Playscheme 2024

Easter Playscheme 2024 Tuesday 2 April – Friday 5 April

Summer Playscheme 2024 Monday 15 July – Friday 9 August

Information will be sent out the week after February half-term for Easter playscheme and the week after May half-term for the Summer playscheme. Bookings and payment must all be made through your ParentMail app. 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 Easter and also during the Summer holidays.





Sincere thanks to FOMC for a wonderful evening of fun and fireworks at our annual Bonfire Night. Equally our FOMC Christmas Bazaar was thoroughly enjoyed by children, staff and parents.



**SOME DATES
FOR FOMC EVENTS THIS YEAR**

- Family Disco – Friday 2 February*
- Comedy Night – Friday 8 March*
- May Ball – Saturday 18 May*

Old Mertonians news

It was lovely to catch up with **Oscar Allen (OM 2010-2018)** who popped in to see us. He is currently studying Psychology, Business and Drama at 'Chis and Sid' Sixth Form.

It was also lovely to see **Danielle Allen-Chokkar (OM 2002-2011)** who studied English at UCL and **Keaton Allen-Chokkar (OM 2009-2016)** who is currently at Warwick University reading Economics. Along with **Mason Balnaves (OM 2009-2016)** who is at Sussex University reading Politics, at our Christmas Carol Service.

And thank you to **James McNulty (OM 1991-1992)** who sent us a lovely photo/Christmas card of his new family.

Congratulations to **Herbie Smith (OM 2012-2020)** who still represents Kent County for tennis. This year Herbie won the Kent County 14U Boys tennis single and doubles tournaments. Here he is, with his biggest fan, Rory (J2).



It really is great receiving updates from past pupils. Please do contact us if you have news to share.





Future Summer Term Dates for Your Diary:

Summer Terms Begins

Thursday 18 April

S2 Hilltop Residential Trip

Friday 26 & Saturday 27 April

Individual & Class Photographs

Monday 29 April

Open Evening for Prospective Parents

Wednesday 1 May

Bank Holiday

Monday 6 May

S2 Information Evening

Wednesday 8 May

S3 Information Evening

Wednesday 15 May

FOMC May Ball

Saturday 18 May

May Half Term

25 May – 2 June (inclusive)

Festival of Music (Individual)

Thursday 6 June

Festival of Music (Class Performance)

Friday 7 June

S4 Residential to Spain

Monday 10 – Saturday 15 June

J1 & S1 Parents' Evenings

Monday 10 June

EY, J2 & J3 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 11 June

S2 Parents' Evenings

Monday 17 & Tuesday 18 June

S3 Parents' Evening

Monday 24 & Tuesday 25 June

Junior Sports Day

Thursday 27 June

Senior Sports Day

Friday 28 June

Musical Showcase Afternoon

Friday 5 July

Summer Prizegiving

Wednesday 10 July

Prom on the Pitch 'All that Jazz!'

Thursday 11 July

End of Term

Friday 12 July at 12 noon

Please do check our up-to-date website – www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk for any dates and future events throughout 2024 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.

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.

