

MERTON COURT

news

SPRING 2025



Omnia Strenue

IN THIS ISSUE

- Safeguarding
- Academic Success
- Sporting Achievements
- Charities
- Remembrance
- Christmas Celebrations
- School Events Spring 2025
- FOMC News
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Old Mertonians News

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Fond farewell to 2024 and Warm Welcome to 2025! Wishing you a successful and happy New Year.

We do hope you had a lovely Christmas break.

Welcome back to a fabulous, 'full-on' Spring Term, as we continue to celebrate the School's one hundred and twenty fifth academic year. Since its foundation in 1899, our School has seen huge social, historical and economic change.

Merton Court has always been a proprietor-run prep school and as such continues to exercise agility and flexibility of decision-making, in a very competitive market, responding dynamically and decisively to the possibilities and challenges that present themselves, over time.

Even with the current less-than-supportive political headwinds, we are committed to continuing our real 'value for money' experience here at Merton Court, through a myriad of opportunities for the children in our care and are proud to pledge continued outstanding educational quality and continued excellent educational provision.

Working together – parents, children and staff, with positivity, pride and purpose – let us ensure we keep up our 'go for it' attitude, expressed so well by our School motto 'Omnia Strenue' ('Always Striving'), in the certain knowledge that it will give us the inspiration to enjoy the wonderful events planned this term, with renewed enthusiasm and energy.

And let's celebrate this memorable milestone in true Merton Court style, as we enjoy the continuing history of our unique school.



Celebrating 125 years of experience, expertise & excellence!

VAT–School Fees

The imposition of VAT on School fees has required careful consideration and we have deliberately taken the market position of applying a below average sector fee increase of 7.5%. (The 2025 industry sector average according to the Independent Schools Council is 14%). We have done this to support our whole school community and to ease the ‘shock’ of what was relatively sudden decision-making by the new incoming government.

After School Club & Breakfast Club

With the advent of new technology, Breakfast Club and After School Club can now be pre-booked using the ParentMail app. Bookings will close three days prior to the bookable date. This change will help us to ensure appropriate staff ratios. There will also be ‘ad hoc’ spaces available, to be booked on the day, but these will be limited. Should you need one of these spaces, please call the school office before 2pm on the day required in order to book. Please refer to our letter sent at the end of Autumn Term for pricings.

SAFEGUARDING

Medication, Medical & Pastoral Forms

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 by the school office or found on our Parents section of the website. We **cannot** administer any unnamed medication. Should your child’s medical or dietary needs have changed recently, please do let us know so we can update our records.

Driving & Parking

Please drive slowly and carefully on school premises. In the afternoons, children may well have games or clubs on the school fields and we need to be mindful of their safety.

Our ‘drop off lane’ should be used to do just that; please do not block it by parking – however briefly. If your child is not old enough or able to exit the car by themselves, please drive into the car park, find a space and then walk them to their appropriate gate.

Please remember to park considerately. The disabled parking bays should only be used by those with mobility issues or a blue badge.

Many thanks for your continued help with this, especially for using our new ‘pedestrian path’ in our top Rectory Lane car park.

Attendance & Lateness

We just wanted to remind parents that when children arrive late or miss school days, they miss



‘Merton Court 1902: Can you see Edward and Effie Pearce sitting on their parents’ laps in this photo from 1902?’



Merton Court 1908. Can you spot how Effie Pearce has grown up? (She is in the back row, third from the right).

crucial learning opportunities that cannot be fully recovered. Being even a few minutes late can disrupt your child's morning routine and impact their entire day of learning. Late arrivals also interrupt the learning environment for other pupils and require teachers to pause.

Research consistently shows that regular attendance and punctuality are directly linked to:

- Higher academic achievement
- Stronger social connections with peers
- Better development of essential life skills

Every school day matters. While we understand that occasional absences due to illness or emergency situations are unavoidable, we ask that you:

- Ensure your child arrives at school before the bell goes at 08.45
- Schedule non-emergency medical appointments outside of school hours where possible
- Plan family holidays during normal school breaks
- Contact the school office in advance when your child must be absent. Please note due to Educational Welfare reviewing our attendance records on a termly basis we are no longer able to authorise any holidays taken during term time and under these circumstances any dates will be marked as unauthorised absence.

Remember that developing good attendance habits now will benefit your child throughout their academic journey and into their professional life. Your support in maintaining regular attendance is crucial to your child's success.

If you are experiencing any challenges that affect your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are here to support you and your child.

Snow Days (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. Please see the Emergency Closure Plan and Remote Learning Policy on the school website.

Tooled Up

Just a reminder about our fantastic platform 'Tooled Up Education', to help you with parenting tips that can help your child moving through school. If you have not registered please visit <https://www.tooledupeducation.com/register>. School's unique PIN can be obtained from the School Office.

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 do contact the school office.

Bee Committee

Our Bee Committee has been very busy cleaning out our three hives in preparation for the really cold weather. As well as honey, the bees also make something called 'Propolis' (which is also an ingredient in Royal Jelly) so this all needs cleaning off the frames, ready for next Spring. We also put 'fondant' (like icing sugar) in their hives to help them keep themselves well over winter.



After School Club

Please note there will be NO After School Club on the following dates:

Friday 16 May 2025

Friday 4 July 2025

Past Events Autumn 2024

► 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. We have currently awarded 27 scholars ties and badges. Well done particularly to six of our S4 / Year 6 children gaining 'Top 180' scores in the Bexley Borough Selective Test: Dhvani, Altana, Eva, Zachary, Emily and Emma. This is the second time in three years we have had six of our pupils in Bexley's Top 180 category.



► SPORTING SUCCESS

In October we took 16 children from S3 and S4 to Colfe's School to take part in the Cross Country. Well done to Georgia who won a gold medal and Max for his bronze medal. In November we attended U10 Netball Tournament at Eltham College with five other schools. Merton Court were Runners-up in the tournament. Well done to our team: Sofia, Amalia, Anushree, Sienna, Annabel-Jemima, Edith, Sophie and Serah-Joseph who all received their silver medals at Autumn prizegiving.

In Autumn term we organised our very popular annual inter-schools Cross Country Relays event for S3 and S4 with other 12

schools attending. Our S3 boys finished 3rd. The team included Maksim, Max, Luka and Phoenix. Our S4 girls finished 2nd. This team included Georgia, Olivia, Serena and Eden.

In December we took thirty-two runners to take part in the Cross-Country event organised by Farringtons School:

Harrison	2nd	silver medal
Kady	3rd	bronze medal
Maksim	1st	gold medal
Anushree	2nd	silver medal
Amalia	3rd	bronze medal
Georgia	1st	gold medal



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

- S1 Harrison and Kady
- S2 Isaac and Hollie
- S3 Maksim and Anushree
- S4 Billy (The Pochin Cup)
and Georgia (The Pochin Plate)

► **SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS
AUTUMN TERM**

The St Ledger Most Improved Rugby Award

– Logan

Most Improved Netballer

– Isabella

Well done to everyone who took part in our two weeks of Swimming Championships. It was a great event with 327 entries from 74 children, achieving 256 Personal Best and **five new school records!**



SWIMMING TROPHIES AWARDED TO:

Senior Boys Champion (Trophy)

– Luka

Senior Girls Champion (Trophy)

– Georgia & Serena

Junior Champion (Trophy) – Adele

Most Improved Swimming – David

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

**ISA REGIONALS
Individual Winners**

Serena	50m Breaststroke	1st	Medals
	50m Front crawl	1st	
Georgia	50m Butterfly	1st	Medals
	50m Backstroke	2nd	
Billy	50m Butterfly	2nd	Medal
Anushree	50m Breaststroke	1st	Medal
Sophie	50m Backstroke	1st	Medal
Sofia	50m Front crawl	1st	Medal
Luka	50m Breaststroke	2nd	Medal
Eamonn	50m Backstroke	3rd	Medals
	50m Front crawl	3rd	
Oliver	50m Front crawl	2nd	Medal
Jonathan	50m Backstroke	2nd	Medal

Past Events Autumn 2024

ISA NATIONAL FINALS

Individual Medals

Anushree	50m Breaststroke	2nd	Medal
Sofia	50m Front crawl	3rd	Medal
Georgia	50m Butterfly	1st	Medals
Serena	50m Breaststroke	1st	Medals
	50m Front crawl	1st	

Team Medals

Georgia	Freestyle relay	1st	Medal
Serena	Freestyle relay	1st	Medal



Medals presented by Tom Haffield, a former Welsh competitive swimmer who has represented Great Britain in the Olympic Games, and Wales in the Commonwealth Games.

Well done to our yeargroup Chess Winners

J3/Yr 2	<i>Aedan</i>
S1/Yr 3	<i>Sasha</i>
S2/Yr 4	<i>Mark</i>
S3/Yr 5	<i>Aarav</i>
S4/Yr 6	<i>Eason (King's Trophy)</i>

Also a special well done to our Most Enthusiastic Chess Player – *Omera*

HOUSE EVENTS WINNERS

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

Badges for sporting excellence were awarded at prizegiving to:

- Isaac & Hollie* – Cross Country
- Amira & Nyah* – Netball
- Oliver & Jude* – Rugby
- Jonathan & Beatrix* – Swimming

NEW RESPONSIBILITIES IN SCHOOL



Head Boy and Head Girl are *Alex* and *Isabella*. Senior Prefects are *Zachary* and *Eva*. Football Captains are *Alex* and *Eden* and Hockey Captains are *Tiago* and *Poppy*.

► CHARITIES

Our charity for the Autumn Term was 'The Little Miss Champion's Trust'. We are delighted to have raised an amazing **£7,166.14** for this great local charity. The proceeds came from our 'Favourite Book Character Dressing Up Day', Christmas Production Collection and our first ever Santa Fun Run. Thank you to everyone who took part, supported us and raised such a wonderful amount.



Past Events Autumn 2024



► **'DANCING TOWARDS DIWALI' WORKSHOP**

Our children loved an inspirational dance workshop, organised by Mrs Roots, to celebrate the festival of Diwali.



► **LETTERLAND EVENING**

In October we hosted our annual 'Letterland and Handwriting' workshop for parents. Beginning with an introduction from Mr Price in the Hall, parents then visited children's classrooms and learnt about topics such as 'The Hat Man Happenings', spelling patterns, phonemes and graphemes to name but a few. Parents of children in the lower part of the school also took part in a lively 'Dough Disco' as well as ribbon scrambling!

► **REMEMBRANCE**

This year's Remembrance Service was as ever, very moving, particularly on hearing S3's (Year 5) life stories of relatives who served in the Military. We were especially glad to welcome the Mayor of Bexley and numerous dignitaries, with representation from the Royal British Legion and Lamorbey and Sidcup Historical Society, along with Service and ex-Service Personnel.

S3 (Year 5) also told the story of their visit to the trenches on the Western Front in Belgium and France. It was a particular proud day for us as part of our 125th anniversary celebrations because we published a book (along with a virtual book on the School's website) commemorating 'The Lost Boys of World War II'.

This completes the fascinating research work undertaken by our School Community over the last twenty years, telling the individual stories of Merton Court past pupils who served and died in the First, between 1915 – 1920 and the Second, between 1941 – 1945, Word Wars. We recognise that our 'Lost Boys' stories remain incomplete and possibly inaccurate, so if you do recognise any of the names on our two Rolls of Honour, for WW1 and WW2, please do contact us. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Thank you once again for your kind donations to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal totalling a fantastic **£674.60**.



Merton Court has always had a long-standing link with the Royal British Legion, and particularly the Royal Naval Association (Footing Cray and Sidcup branch). Every year S3 (Year 5) take our colours to France and Belgium on our Battlefield tour of cemeteries and monuments. Unfortunately, at Remembrance Service this year, one of our flag bearer's belts broke and we had to look for a replacement. The Royal Naval Association at the

United Services Club got wind of this and invited Dominic and Sarah Price to their annual dinner, where they presented a lovely, brand new brass-buckled colours holster to replace our broken one. What a kind gesture! Thank you RNA and particularly shipmate 'Pete'. Pictured here are Dominic Price (centre) with shipmate Peter Hucker-Todd and RNA Chairman, Counsellor James Hunt.



Past Events Autumn 2024

► **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 food-bank. S4 led our service beautifully in St. John's Church, Sidcup.



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

Well done and thank you to all of the children who took part in our first and only festival for this current year (due to our whole school production in July). Jada was the winner of the Massey Mime Cup. Eva was the winner of the Original Verse Cup and Nadia was awarded 'Best of Festival'. Also particular commendations to the winners of the Junior & Senior Form Poetry Competitions – J3H & S4C.

► **LANGUAGENUTS PRIMARY AND SECONDARY COMPETITION WINNERS**

Last term, Merton Court entered a global language competition. Many schools around the world competed in the 'LanguageNut' Primary and Secondary Competition. Competitors gained points by completing activities and assignment on the language learning platform. Many children took part and took the opportunity for additional learning in a fun and competitive way. We gained a total of 4,880,000 and were ranked 20th in the UK competition.



Our winners were Olivia with bronze, Alexandra with silver and Luka with gold. Congratulations to our medal winners and to all who competed. Not only did Luka gain first place in Merton Court, but he made the national top 50. Well done Luka!

► INVICTA MATHS CHALLENGE

Congratulations to Zachary, Eva and Dhvani who took part in the Maths Challenge hosted by Invicta Grammar school and came a very respectable second out of twelve local Kent Primary schools.



► CHRISTMAS 2024

December saw the Juniors jumping into Christmas with a production of the "Littlest Christmas Tree".

The little trees thought they weren't going to be picked for Christmas. However, with the help of some Early Years Robins, J1 Bunnies and J2 Farmers, they became the most beautiful trees ever. The Juniors danced and sang their way into Christmas, bringing much laughter and good spirits to get us in the mood for Christmas. Let's not forget S4 too, who treated us to some lovely carols, Christmas songs and a real Merton Court favourite: "When the robots came to dinner". A wonderful start to the Christmas season!

And also a big thank you to the two dozen members of the Senior Choir and their families who turned out on a cold Sunday evening, to support the Mayor, Sue Gower, in her Mayoral year, particularly as she is on our Advisory Board and has a long association with the School. There were also great performances from Marlborough School and Rose Bruford College. Our Senior Choir sang two songs beautifully, 'The Holly and The Ivy' and 'Winter Carol'. There was also a performance by the Borough of Bexley's Ukrainian Community Choir (pictured with the Mayor, Sue Gower and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Bexley, David Easton). ▶▶▶



Past Events Autumn 2024

Our children also took part in some other lovely Christmas community activities. We would like to say a particular well done to our S4 (Yr 6) children for their beautiful Carol singing in a very cold Sidcup High Street, including violin playing by Jada... and with real dedication, our Senior Choir joined the Belvedere Concert Band in 'The Magic of Christmas', at the Mick Jagger Centre, Dartford on 21st December. The children particularly enjoyed singing 'Winter Carol' with a group of soloists from the band, and performing (with actions) the 12 days of Christmas with the band, along with 'White Christmas', as a finale! Well done and thank you to all children, parents and staff, particularly Mrs Tyler.

We also had our annual visit from Santa, along with our Christmas lunches and parties.

The festive term was made complete by our whole School Community Carol Service. Thank you to both our Senior and Junior choirs who sang particularly beautifully and also to all those who read their lessons so well and the lovely J2 tableau.





Past Events Autumn 2024

► **ENGLISH WEEK**

English Week started with House English. Each of our three Houses tried to answer as many questions as possible to earn some vital points. Excitement surrounded the event as each table tried to complete all four rounds and make it to the much contested 'Bonus Questions' where they had to unravel anagrams to reveal some of their teachers' names!



We would also like to thank everyone for their book donations during English Week. These were all sent to the Children's Book Project, who were delighted.

House English Spelling Bee Winners:

J2 Nasir	S1 Alisha	S3 Anushree
J3 Shiyi	S2 Samar	S4 Adrian

School Events Spring 2025

Prospective Parents' Open Opportunities 2025

Open Morning:

Saturday 18 January 2025

– 9.15am – 12 noon

Open Day:

Wednesday 21 May 2025

– 9.15am – 2pm

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. Equally 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.

Andrew Hampton Zoominar

11 February – 7pm

We are very pleased to inform you that we will be holding a Zoom meeting for all parents/carers on Tuesday 11th February at 7pm with the topic of 'Girls on Board' & 'Working with Boys'.

We are delighted that the founder and author of both 'Girls on Board' & 'Working with Boys', Mr Andrew Hampton, will be our main speaker and will be sharing his resources, knowledge and expertise with you, as parents.

This Zoom will outline the 'Girls on Board' pastoral approaches we now use in school, when girls experience turbulence in their relationships. 'Working with Boys' also addresses the elements of 'toxic masculinity' that boys are often exposed to, especially from social media use.

Please do save the date and join us – for just an hour; Andrew Hampton has already really helped staff here improve children's ever-changing attitudes and behaviours. We're absolutely positive he will help you to navigate the ups and downs of your own children's behaviour, from school age, through to adulthood.

Scottish Breakfast

Thursday 23 (9.15am)

& Friday 24 January (9.15am & 11am)

On Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th January we are hosting a “Robbie Burns Scottish Breakfast” as a fundraiser for ‘My Name is Doddie/Motor Neurone Disease (MND)’. All children from Early Years to S4 will be entertaining you during the breakfast, so please do come along to support this important charity. Tickets for the event (which include a ‘Scottish continental breakfast) cost £8 each and may be purchased via your ParentMail app until Wednesday 15 January 2025 at 6pm (or until seats are sold out). Please be aware that each sitting will have limited numbers. Once purchased, tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable. There will also be a raffle so please give as generously as you can!

Science Week

Monday 24 February –

Friday 28 February

The topic for Science Term was chosen with the intention of exploring the capabilities of our wonderful brain. Our brain carries our opinions, personalities, likes and dislikes, and tells us what to do, and what not to do. There is not one brain in the world that is the same as another! As the differences in our brains should be understood and celebrated, we aim to introduce children this term to the world of neurodiversity and to encourage them to embrace all their wonderful differences.



Now a little science for you...

Controlling the messages and signals sent round the body, the brain is sometimes described as a machine. With its complicated structure, the brain is uniquely wired to function in its own special way. Considering how amazing our brains are, we need to look after this organ. Providing the appropriate nutrition, movement and rest are all great ways to help keep us focused, improve memory and to help us learn. ‘Thinking Skills’ are also essential for effective learning, enabling learners to understand, process and apply knowledge in various contexts.



With artificial intelligence (AI) and automation transforming the future, developing children’s critical thinking skills will help support them in learning new skills, which can be applied in many different areas of their lives.

Thinking skills are used to solve problems, make decisions, organise events and process information. Examples of developing children’s thinking skills may involve practising theorising and predicting when reading, or asking children to evaluate

School Events *Spring 2025*

decisions made by certain characters. They can also include mind maps, visualisation, and mnemonics. Learning a new skill can be approached in different ways; being analytical, creative, or critical.

That is why we have made it our focus this term and to plan for opportunities where children can develop their thinking skills. They will be participating in activities that will encourage them to be creative and to 'think outside the box' whilst using logical thinking.

The children have already enjoyed Science Workshops on Wednesday, 8th January: EY/KS1 participated in a 'Music and Movement' workshop whilst exploring their senses through movement. On Thursday, 9th January, KS2 had an 'Explorer Dome – Brain Show,' which guarantees a stimulating way to learn more about the human body and cells. It is a brand-new show exploring memory, health and dementia and has been developed with neuroscientists from Bristol University. During the show, the dome was transformed into a giant brain and the children were able to gain an insight into how the different parts of the brain and the nervous system work. They will learn about what happens to the brain when we sleep, and the importance of healthy choices for a healthy body and brain for life. What a great way to kick off our Science Term!



Science Week - Key Dates:

- Monday 24th February: House Science
- Tuesday 25th February: Spelling Bee
- Thursday 27th February: Classroom Activities for 'Thinking Skills' and 'Looking After our Brain'
- Friday 28th February: Pet Day – More details of the event will be provided before half term. Entries will be via our ParentMail app.

Coffee Mornings

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

S4 Friday 7 February

J3 Friday 7 March

S3 Friday 31 January

J2 Friday 14 March

S2 Friday 17 January

J1 Friday 21 March

S1 Friday 14 February

S4 Bring and Buy Sale

Friday 14 March

Do you have any unwanted Christmas presents or have you had an after Christmas spring clean? 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.

S4 Cycling Proficiency Week

Week beginning Monday 10 March

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

Groves Public Speaking Competition

Tuesday 18 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. Great for developing oracy skills!

S1-S4 Breaktime Hockey League

The finals will be on **Tuesday 26 March**. Personal sticks (if you have one) should be clearly named and may be kept in school. Our uniform suppliers 'OZ' also stock hockey sticks. We also do have hockey sticks for shared use in school. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear. Please see the board in the swimming pool vestibule, for teams and dates of matches, for the 16 teams. Here's to a great competition!

S4 'Strictly St Patrick's' Night

Friday 21 March

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

Prizegivings

Friday 21 March – Juniors – 9.15am
– Seniors – 10.45am

Please do remember that all children must be wearing their full winter uniform for prizegiving, including blazers! Remember – no hats or caps on last day of term – always a special treat and a Merton Court tradition.

Playscheme 2025

Easter Playscheme

Monday 31st March – Friday 4th April

Summer Playscheme

Monday 14 July – Friday 8 August

Booking opens the week after February half term for Easter playscheme and the week after May half term for the Summer playscheme. Bookings and payment should be made through our 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 alike!



SOME FURTHER DATES FOR FOMC EVENTS THIS YEAR

Comedy Night – Friday 7 March
Prom on the Pitch – Thursday 10 July

Extra Curricular Activities
Sidcup BID 'Santa Dash'



Well done to the Sidcup BID for introducing the Santa Dash – a new event run over 1.2 miles of our cross country course, here at School, in Santa hats!

Thank you to the 130 participants who turned up on a wet Saturday morning to complete the course!



Well done to Arabella who is now a Junior Wildlife Champion for the Charity 'Born Free' and has been campaigning for now for a few years with the aim of eventually becoming an ambassador. Arabella featured in their bi annual magazine – "Hear the Roar", in October.

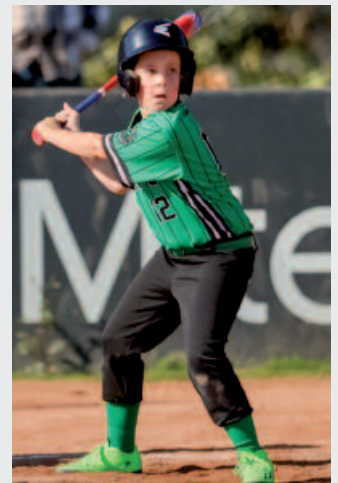
<https://www.bornfree.org.uk/resource/hear-the-roar-issue-10/>, she also met with the charity's representatives this summer in Nairobi, to discuss their and her ongoing conservation work and

intends to meet with them again in the next year or two. Thanks to Arabella we have, following a vote in School Council, agreed to adopt 'Born Free' as our charity for this term.

Well done to Georgia, whose artwork was selected to be on the front cover of the 'Me and My Family' book.



A big well done to Toby who played in his first baseball tournament with his team, 'Greenwich Giants'. Toby scored a 'home run' in his 1st innings. The team came 3rd.



After her dad's visit 33 years ago, (as part of a delegation from Baranavichy, Belarus, to their twinned city, Stockerau), it was lovely to hear that Sasha revisited Stockerau in Austria and presented a gift to the Mayor, over the Christmas holidays.



Foto © Stadtgemein de Stockerau/Bir git Klug

Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news

Great to hear from **Alex Longley (OM19 95 – 2003)** who now works for Bloomberg, the Media Company. He won ‘Financial/Economic Story of the Year’ at the Foreign Press Association Awards in London last year and also got married over the Christmas holiday. In true ‘MC’ style, his best man was none other than **Rob Dunk (OM 1995-2003)**. Congratulations to Alex and his new wife, Olivia!



Guess who we met, helping out on ‘Santa’s sleigh’ to earn another badge with his Scout troop, while we were having our Staff Christmas party? Yes, **Oliver Copus (OM 2016 – 2024)**.

Great to hear from a Burnt Ash Hockey Club contact that **Nick (OM 1979 – 1982)** & brother, **Anthony Wellard (OM 1981)** continue to do well. It was also lovely to bump into **Aly Nash (OM 2007 – 2013)** and hear of her success as a gymnastics teacher.

Well done to **Pippa Griffin (OM 2004 – 2008)** who along with her sister are both now professional musicians (violins).

Also great to hear **Emily Bruce (OM 2004 – 2006)** is enjoying life.

Lovely to hear that **Rebecca Aichen (OM 2004 – 2012)** is currently completing a Master’s in

Psychology with the intention of doing a doctorate. She also volunteers for the Amy Winehouse Foundation, which involves visiting Secondary schools and holding workshops with the students about improving their mental health.



Lovely to hear **Annie Cole (OM 2020 – 2024)** has settled into Secondary school life. Congratulations on being made Form Vice Captain and achieving ‘best effort’ in English for Year 7.

We heard from a ‘blast from the past’ **Professor David Lane**, who worked as a class teacher at Merton Court for two years from 1967 – 1969 with responsibilities for Science and Sports. He says “The grounds at the school were an amazing resource not just for sport but to venture into and explore nature. At the time the school was for boys only so I am pleased to see it is now co-educational. The sporting facilities have changed dramatically since my time as we had an old and clearly past its best sports hall and certainly no pool”. After teaching here he went on to study and complete a Masters degree in Communication Disorders and became a professor in Education. He congratulated us on our excellent ‘125’ milestone.

It really is great receiving updates from past pupils (and staff). Please do contact us if you have news to share. Equally, as it is our special ‘125’ anniversary, please do contact us, if you are an ‘OM’, with any of your recent news and please do come along and visit us on ‘Founders Week’ at the end of June – please contact the School Office on 020 8300 2112 or office@mertoncourtprep.co.uk

Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news

Future Summer Term Dates for Your Diary:

Summer Term Begins – Wednesday 23 April

S2 Hilltop Residential

Thursday 24 April – Friday 25 April

May Day Bank Holiday – Monday 5 May

Maths Week – Tuesday 6 – Friday 9 May

125 Merton Court Ball – Delta Bexleyheath

Saturday 10 May (7pm – 12 midnight)

School Photos (Class & Individual)

Monday 12 May

Whole School Photo – Tuesday 13 May

S3 Information Evening – Wednesday 14 May

125 Thanksgiving Service at St. John’s Church

Friday 16 May (2.15pm)

S2 Information Evening

Wednesday 21 May (6.30pm)

May Half Term – 24 May – 1 June (inclusive)

S4 Challenge Week

Monday 2 June – Friday 6 June

J3-S1 Transition Talk

Wednesday 4 June (6.30pm)

S4 Challenge Week 2

Monday 9 June – Friday 13 June

J1 & S1 Parents’ Evening – Monday 9 June

S4 Residential Trip to Spain

Monday 16 June – Saturday 21 June

FJ1H / J2M / J3C / S1A Parents Evenings

Monday 16 June

EY/J1A/J2MS/J3H/S1M & S3 Parents’ Evenings

Tuesday 17 June

S3 Parents’ Evening – Wednesday 18 June

Founders Week for present and past pupils & ‘125’ Art Exhibition

Tuesday 24 June – Friday 27 June

S2 Parents’ Evening – Tuesday 24 June

S2 Parents’ Evening – Wednesday 25 June

Juniors Sports Day

Thursday 26 June

(EY/J1 – 9.15am & J2/J3 – 11am)

Senior Sports Day – Friday 27 June

(S1/S2 – 9.15am & S3/S4 1.30pm)

Whole School ‘125’ Production – Friday 4 July

(Performances: 2pm & 7pm)

Enrichment Week

Monday 7 July – Friday 11 July

EY New Parents’ Coffee Morning

Tuesday 8 July

Moving Up Day – Tuesday 8 July

Summer Prizegiving – Wednesday 9 July

(Juniors 2pm & Seniors 7pm)

FOMC ‘Ole Skool’ Prom on the Pitch

Thursday 10 July (6pm)

‘125’ Tree Planting,

Flag Changing & Time Capsule Ceremony

Friday 11 July

End of Term – Friday 11 July (noon)

Please do check our website www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk for any dates and future events throughout 2025 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.

Celebrating 125 years of experience, expertise & excellence!