

MERTON COURT news

AUTUMN 2026



Omnia Strenue

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FOREST SCHOOL FOR THE FUTURE 2006 til now



A time to celebrate and create...

We were lucky indeed, in 2005, that the Kent Wildlife Trust approached us about buying what is now our four-acre forest school site. A young-looking Mr. Price and Elizabeth Price were very proud to open this fantastic resource. Following a thorough ecological survey, the two ponds in Sector 4 were dredged and cleared, with Japanese Knotweed also eliminated professionally from the site. *Continued on page 2...*



Sector 4 is rarely visited, except on a 1:1 adult-to-child ratio. It is a wild place of beauty and solitude, particularly for the flora, fauna and animals there. Classic english woodland, with glades – it is actually recorded in the Doomsday Book of 1086.

Sector 3 is a free play area, which, to celebrate 20 years of forest school here, and with the help and support of Friends of Merton Court (FOMC), is being transformed to include a platformed 'hide' to safely observe the coots and ducks that nest on and around the larger of the two ponds. Sector 2 is also for free play and structured play, including mud kitchens and mud slides where a natural spring bursts out of the ground to provide a small rivulet and shallow ponds for paddling in, with lots of squelchy mud available in the winter months.

Sector 1 is an open, free play, structured area particularly for J1 and J2's use, with large apparatus, and even a newly painted totem pole.

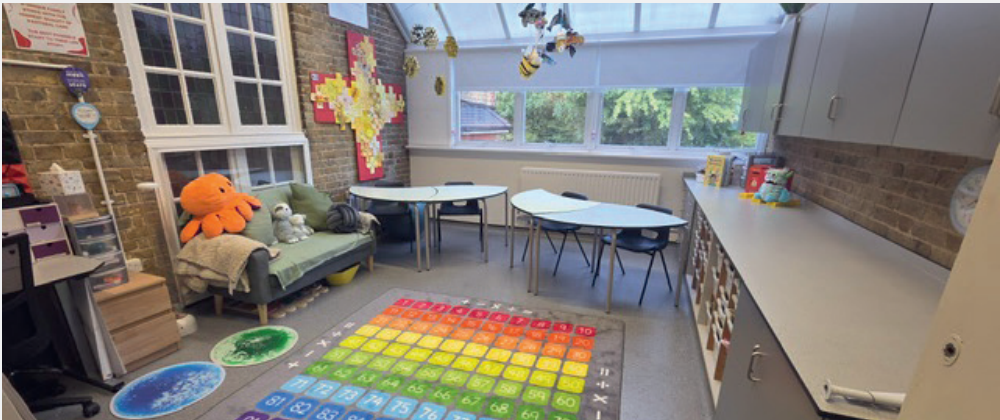
This academic year, FOMC is also helping to provide extra gated access to these sectors and also giving funds to create a new 'Sector 5' at the far end of School Field. This will include another 'Base Camp' circular meeting area and more forested space, for use particularly in the very muddy months, when we need to rest Sectors 2 and 3. What an exciting focus for the coming academic year!



IMPROVEMENTS IN SCHOOL

We have been busy over the Summer holidays transforming two spaces which will be for everyone

to use and also replacing the large sand filters in the swimming pool ready for the new term.



A new learning support and More Able Room



A new Art, Craft Design & Technology studio, along with an outdoor teaching space

'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 that is on offer, along with Dr Kathy Weston's Wednesday Wisdom. It really is a great help for parenting solutions. Login and password details are available from the School Office. For information on how to register, please contact the School Office for our unique School PIN.

Also please remember to visit our very informative website www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk. If you wish to access some great photos of last term's events, visit the secure 'Parents' section. Please call the School Office for password information.

Financial Literacy

This academic year, we are placing a particular focus on financial literacy, helping our children

to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to make sensible decisions about money in everyday life. Throughout the year, we will be looking for opportunities to bring financial literacy to life across the curriculum and through real-life experiences. Children will have the chance to develop practical skills such as recognising coins and notes, handling money, calculating change, budgeting and understanding the value of money. We started this journey at our termly Club Registration, where children had the opportunity to pay for their chosen clubs and practise handling real notes and coins. We look forward to developing these important skills for life throughout the year and helping our children become more confident and responsible with the use of real money, in real time.

Parking

Please may we remind people NOT to use the disabled parking bays unless you own a Blue Badge. For our parents/carers who have a disability, being unable to use an accessible bay can create a genuine accessibility problem and health concern.

When using our Rectory Lane car park please remember our peak-time one-way system, as well as our 'drop-off' zones. For the safety of everyone, try to maintain a maximum limit of 10 mph when using the car park and where possible please turn off car engines when parked.

We have already had a written complaint from a Knoll Road resident this term about parent parking. Please do respect residents and avoid blocking driveways.

The front of school car park is exclusively for staff and delivery vehicles. Please ensure children do not play in the front school car park.

Please also remember children should be under supervision at all times by their parent / carer when collected from school.



Uniform

Please ensure your children come to school in the correct uniform. Blazers, caps and hats must be worn every day, if wearing full uniform, baseball caps should be worn with sports kit.

Uniform requirements are as follows:

- **Early Years:** Red tracksuit all week except on Mondays when full uniform should be worn
- **J1, J2 & J3:** red tracksuit all week except on Fridays when full uniform should be worn
- **S1/S2:** full uniform all week except for on Mondays when games kit should be worn
- **S3/S4:** full uniform all week except for on Wednesdays when games kit should be worn

All Seniors should come to school in the full uniform every day, except their Games lesson days. For PE and Dance lessons, they should bring PE kit in their bags. Swimming kits should be brought to school on designated swimming days as well as on Games days, in case of wet games.

Medication/Medical & Pastoral Forms

Please remember that medication of any type must not be sent into school with your child. We will only administer medication prescribed by a doctor or pharmacist and you will need to complete an Administration of Prescription Medication Form. This can be provided from the School Office or found on our Parents section of the website. We cannot administer any unnamed medication.

Please also remember to keep us updated of any medical or dietary changes, as well as parent contact details and emergency contact details. A Health & Pastoral Care Plan Form can again be obtained from the School Office.

Absence From School *Due To Illness*

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school, please call School Office by 9.00am that day.

Tel No: 0208 300 2112. Children who are suffering from vomiting and/or diarrhoea will be excluded from school for 48 hours.

Children who have chicken pox will be excluded until the spots have crusted over. Headlice is a common complaint in young children. Please let us know if your child has headlice so we can advise other parents. Parents of children suffering from other childhood ailments should consult Form Teachers/School Office for advice as to whether they should come to school.

If Senior children cannot for medical reasons participate in their Games lessons, they will need to be collected from school by 2.20pm, as staff are unable to supervise them due to their teaching commitments. S1/S2 have their Games lessons on Mondays and S3/S4 on a Wednesday.

Social Media & Phone Use

Please may we remind all parents and visitors that school is a 'No Phone Zone' and videoing or photographing (including the use of Smart Glasses) inside school grounds at any time is prohibited. This includes off-site school occasions such as our Harvest Festival Service and Carol Service at St John's Church this term. We want parents to enjoy these events 'in the moment' with the children being able to see you. We do not post photos or videos of our children on social media and previously we have had examples of parents taking pictures of other people's children without their consent and posting these on social media. This conflicts with our Safeguarding Policy and for this reason, parents will be issued with a formal warning if found to be taking pictures or videos. Should this happen on more than one occasion, they will be unable to attend future events. Please be mindful that you do not necessarily know other families' 'back stories'.

Dismissal Times

Just a reminder of our dismissal times from either our Knoll Road gate or the lower gates listed below:

- **EY:** 3.00pm (EY gate)
- **J1:** 3.10pm (J1 gate)
- **J2:** 3.15pm (J1 gate)
- **J3:** 3.15pm (middle gate by bee hut) (please note in the Summer term this changes to 3.35pm)
- **S1 - S4:** 3.35pm (S1/S2 middle gate & S3/S4 J1 gate)

At the end of the day, staff will wait with children at their designated gate for ten minutes, after which time children not collected will be sent to After School Club.

Please may we also remind parents that both the Knoll Road and Rectory Lane gates will close at 8.45am in the mornings. If you arrive after this time, please bring your child to the School Office (Knoll Road) so they can be signed in.

Food: Allergies/Menus/Snacks

As a school we provide a balanced, nutritious meal, all freshly cooked on the premises with our own excellent team managed by Miss Cathy. We strive to ensure all our children receive a healthy and balanced lunch which sets them up for the very active afternoon sessions that they participate in. If we don't eat good food and drink enough water, we don't have enough energy! All our vegetables are sourced locally, and our meat can be tracked from 'farm to fork' ensuring top quality ingredients are always used.

Again, please may we remind you that all your children need is a healthy snack at breaktime. One piece of fruit and a biscuit is enough, if your snack is too big for one hand then it's too much!

We are a nut and sesame-free school (this does include Nutella products) but we also cater for all

allergies and intolerances of children in our school community. If your child develops a new allergy/intolerance, please let the School Office know as soon as possible in order that the appropriate paperwork can be completed.

Our golden guidelines are simple:

- **Allergy** – this is specifically diagnosed by your GP
- **Intolerance** – this is food or drink that may cause discomfort or upset your metabolism
- **Preference** – you may not really like it or you have specific religious or cultural reasons for not eating a particular food.

We have an Allergy Policy on our website or a copy may be obtained from the School Office.

Details of all ingredients of the food we use can be found in the parents' section of the website, but please feel free to email Miss Cathy on c.cowburn@mertoncourtprep.co.uk if you have any specific queries or contact her via the School Office.

Pupil Voice

We carry out Pupil Voice with all children from J1 – S4 termly. The idea is to understand the children's views and opinions about their safety, how they feel about the support they need, the opportunities they have now and what we could provide in the future. The favourite question is 'What would you change if you were Mr Price for the day?'. That gets a variety of interesting answers, some of which may never materialise but always get a good laugh!

We keep a running register, so all the children get the chance to participate, and all opinions are listened to. The children are chosen at random. We find Pupil Voice improves children's wellbeing and success through

verbalising their thoughts. Evidence shows that a strong Pupil Voice culture in a School, improves both behaviour and attendance through children feeling safe and happy. Pupil Voice also builds strong, trusting relationships between children and staff.

The four things we concentrate on are:

- **Space** – pupils have a safe environment to express their views
- **Voice** – pupils are facilitated to express views, no matter what they want to say
- **Audience** – we are here to listen
- **Influence** – their views lead to positive actions by us

Our next pupil voice is on the 13 October 2026, so listen to your child if they come home talking about Pupil Voice and discuss their thoughts with them.



Bees

We are very pleased to be able to report that our Merton Court Bees are as buzzy as ever! Under the expert care of our Ukrainian beekeeper – Vasiliy – they have grown from a small nucleus colony to two thriving full-sized hives. We were able to harvest a very respectable crop of delicious Merton Court honey and our colonies are in a good position to overwinter successfully – depending on the vagaries of the weather, of course! We extend our sincere thanks to Vasiliy for sharing his extensive knowledge and experience with us this season. Our EY children enjoyed a lovely visit from Mrs Harding, our school beekeeper. She introduced herself by reading a wonderful story about bees, which linked beautifully with our English learning this term. The children listened with great interest and enjoyed learning lots of fun facts about bees.



Past Events Summer 2026

► **PROM ON THE PITCH** - An excellent time was had by our school community at our 'We Are The World' Prom on the Pitch'. The theme echoed this term's 'My Culture, Your Culture, Our Culture' theme. Entertainment was an excellent, amusing and very entertaining live Mariachi Band. Special thanks to FOMC for organising the food stalls and inflatables for everyone to enjoy. A great event to finish a successful Summer Term!



► **SUMMER PRIZEGIVING** - Fabulous once again to have open air prizegiving for Seniors. Thank you to the new Mayor of Bexley Borough, Councillor Lisa-Jane Moore, for attending our Senior Prizegiving on a beautiful evening. Thank you also to the Deputy-Mayor, Councillor Frazer Brooks who gave prizes away at our Junior Prizegiving, which was held in our School hall due to the heat.



Well done S4 leavers!

► SENIOR PRODUCTION

"Move over West End – S4 has arrived!" – The School Stage Review

If you thought 11-year-olds couldn't put on a show worthy of standing ovations, think again! 'Grimm – Once Upon a Musical' had everything: laughter, brilliant songs, unforgettable characters and enough energy to power an entire theatre district.



The villains were so wonderfully wicked that we almost wanted them to win... almost! Thankfully, good triumphed in the end, proving that kindness (and a catchy finale) beats evil every time.

A special round of applause goes to the fabulous maids, who somehow managed to whisk the scenery

on and off stage faster than a fairy godmother could wave her wand. If there's an Olympic event for set changing, they're bringing home the gold medal!



Every single class sounded incredible. Whether performing together or taking centre stage, the singing was full of confidence, enthusiasm and heart.

Rumple stole scenes with brilliant comic timing, Frank had the audience laughing throughout, the Grimm Brothers kept the story racing along, and Cinderella's stunning solo had everyone wondering whether a West End producer had secretly sneaked into the audience.

Who knew a group of 11-year-olds could deliver a production with so much talent, humour and professionalism? A magical performance from beginning to end.

► SPORTS DAY

After our original Sports Day was postponed due to exceptionally hot weather, we were delighted to welcome pupils and families to a successful and enjoyable celebration of sport. Both our Junior and Senior pupils embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm, determination and excellent sportsmanship, making the event a memorable occasion for everyone involved. Although the

S1–S2 Sports Day was briefly interrupted by an unexpected rain shower, the programme resumed smoothly and the pupils continued to participate with great energy and enjoyment. The S3–S4 Sports



Day ran seamlessly from start to finish, culminating in the ever-popular parents' race. This year's tunnel ball race, demonstrated that what appears to be a simple event requires coordination, speed, and plenty of good humour. We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for their effort, resilience, and encouragement of one another, and we extend our sincere thanks to our staff and families whose support helped make this year's Sports Day such a success.



Cups and Trophies awarded:

Pilgrim 100m Sprint – **Phoenix**
 400m Open (boys) – **Max**
 800m Open (boys) – **Maksim**
 Morgan Shield Girl 800m – **Anushree**
 Junior Victor Ludorum (S2) – **Harrison**
 Senior Victor Ludorum – **Phoenix**

Past Events Summer 2026

New Responsibilities in School:

School Council

Well done to our newly-elected School Councillors:

J3 – **Arthur, Naya**

S1 – **Millie, Leo**

S2 – **Raphe, Lottie**

S3 – **Harrison, Isabella**

S4 – **Oliver, Beatrix**

During our last School Council meeting at the end of the Summer Term it was decided that our chosen charity for Autumn Term 2026 will be 'Abbie's Army'. Our charity chosen for Spring Term is 'Demelza' and Summer Term, 'Riding for the Disabled'.

House Captains & Vice Captains:

MERTON: **Oliver**

MERTON: **Nathan**

MODERN: **Millie**

MODERN: **Diya**

SCHOOL: **William**

SCHOOL: **Jibril**

Captains:

Cross Country Captains: **Hollie, Isaac**

Netball Captains: **Luna, Samar**

Rugby Captains: **Oliver, Amira**

Swimming Captains: **Mia, Jonathan**

Skiing Captains: **Beatrix**

Choir Captains: **Samar, Sheen**

Dance Captains: **Riley, Sachit**

House Event Winners:

Ellingham Inter House Athletics (Senior) - **MERTON**

Davies Inter-House Athletic (Junior) - **SCHOOL**

Merit Shield - **SCHOOL**

Headmaster's Award Winners

Junior J2MS and Senior S1A

► MATHS & SPORTS TERM

During the Summer term, pupils enjoyed an exciting programme of Games and Maths Week activities, combining competition, problem-solving and teamwork. Our Maths Week featured a range of

House competitions, including a Maths Challenge, Spelling Bee and Rubik's Cube competition, giving pupils the opportunity to test their skills in fun and engaging ways.



Charlton Centre-Back, Jason Pearce

Our Games Week provided pupils with the chance to experience and try a wide variety of different sports and activities. This was complemented by inspiring Sports Assemblies led by Mr Mullin (J3 teacher) and also former Charlton Athletic centre-back Jason Pearce, who shared their experiences and encouraged pupils to get involved in sport. It was a fantastic week celebrating mathematics, physical activity, teamwork and the importance of trying something new.



Mr Mullin - GB Football para-athlete



Maths Hat Day

MATHS SPELLING BEE WINNERS	
S4 – Anushree	S1 – Frankie
S3 – Dhilan	J3 – Leo
S2 – Owen	J2 – Naya

► S4 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO SPAIN

S4 finally had the adventure they had been looking forward to all year - a week in sunny Spain! The excitement began the moment they boarded the coach to the airport. Everyone was buzzing with



chatter, imagining the waterpark, the food, and the fun ahead. We visited a bustling local market;



historic fortified towns, learning about Spain's fascinating past. The highlights included a Flamenco dance evening (we couldn't resist joining in!) and a glass-bottom boat ride to a local beach. Of course, no trip to Tossa de Mar would be complete without



a visit to the local water park to be both excited and scared by the rides. By the end of the week, S4 were tired but happy; suitcases full of tasteless gifts and souvenirs, and hearts full of memories.



Past Events Summer 2026

► FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Congratulations to everyone who took part in our three-day Festival of Music this term. The quality and number of entries were exceptional, with



performances featuring voice, piano, violin, cello, harp, clarinet, flute, oboe, drums, guitar and melodica. Our Class Song Festival also showcased



the amazing talents of our children, with this year's theme, 'Music from the Movies'. Well done to everyone who took part!

► S4 LEADERSHIP & TEAMWORK CHALLENGES

S4 had a fantastic week embracing our "Go for it" attitude! Pupils took part in a range of exciting



Bushtucker trial

challenges, including shooting, Forest School, first aid and water safety. They also faced the hilarious "I'm a Year 6, Get Me Out of Here!" Eating Challenge and developed valuable home skills by preparing and enjoying a delicious three-course meal together.

It was a brilliant week of teamwork, resilience, independence and trying new things!



King & Queen of the Jungle - Emily & Elliot

► J3 YOUNG WRITERS MONSTER ACROSTICS

Our children from J3 entered the Monster Acrostics competition, run by Young Writers. The competition invited children to write imaginative acrostic poems inspired by monsters, and we were delighted that their fantastic work was selected for publication in a book. This was a wonderful achievement and a real celebration of their creativity and effort.



► SILVER SCHOOL GAMES MARK

We are very proud to be awarded the Silver School Games Mark. The School Games Mark is a government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success. All of our children have competed in house competitions, Sports Day and many for the inter-school competitions this year including the Nationals for Cross-Country, Swimming, Netball and Athletics. We are extremely proud of all our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

► BRITAIN IN BLOOM 2026

Rev. Cathy from St John’s Church, Sidcup visited us on Wednesday 1st July with her ‘Knit and Natter’



group. We were very grateful for their kind donations of crocheted bees, butterflies and flowers for the Britain in Bloom competition, which took place over the Summer Holidays – fingers crossed...

► ISA NATIONAL ATHLETICS FINALS 2026

On Monday 15th June four pupils represented the school at the ISA Nationals Athletics Championships in Birmingham and performed exceptionally well against strong competition from across the country. In the 600m event, Harrison secured an impressive 5th-place finish, while Maksim finished 9th and Anushree placed 10th, demonstrating great determination and effort throughout their races. The highlight of the championships came in the long jump, where Sofia delivered an outstanding performance to claim 1st place and become ISA National Champion. All four athletes represented the school with pride, showing excellent sportsmanship, commitment, and resilience. Congratulations to Harrison, Anushree, Maksim, and Sofia on their fantastic achievements.



Past Events Summer 2026

► ACADEMIC SUCCESS & 2026 LEAVERS

Congratulations to our Class of 25/26 for their many successes at Secondary Transfer this year. We awarded twenty-three Scholar's ties across the yeargroup for recognition of outstanding academic,

dramatic and sporting achievement in external Secondary Transfer examinations and Independent School entrance procedures, representing excellent results again this year.



► S4 LEGACY GIFT

Thank you so much to our S4 (Yr6) Leavers and their families, for choosing a lovely new bench with all their names on, as their legacy gift.



Past Events Summer 2026

LEAVERS 2026

ADAMS Zofia	Chislehurst School for Girls
AGAPOV Maksim	Eltham College (BT180, K)
ALLI Daniel	St Catherine's School, Athens
BROWN Harry	Hurstmere School
DATEMA Elise	Blundell's Independent School (Ac Schol), Devon (B)
FLASHMAN Dennis	Farringtons School (FHAA) (K)
GARCHA Yuvraj	Davenies Independent School, Beaconsfield (K)
GAYLER Max	Leigh Stationers' Academy (FHAA) (K)
GLOGG Sophia	Blackfen School for Girls
GODFREY Sebastian	Sackville Independent School, Hildenborough
GRIFFITHS Edith	Chislehurst School for Girls
HOLMES Oliver	Colfe's School (FHAA) (K)
JONES Phoenix	Gravesend Grammar School for Boys (K)
KALLAR Kirat	Bromley High School
KATUKURI Aarav	St Olave's & St Saviour's Grammar School (EC Ac Schol, Chess Schol) (B, K)
KIMSEY Freddie	Dartford Grammar School for Boys (EC Ac Schol) (C Ac Schol) (FHAA) (B,K)
KOMINEK Anushree	Newstead Wood School (BT180, K)
KRYVENKO Emily	Caterham Independent School, Art Schol (Sev, EC Art Schol, BH Art Schol, Wold Ac Schol, WH) (K)
LIU Sophie	Newstead Wood School (B, K)
MALKOV Luka	St Olave's & St Saviour's Grammar School Wakeham Choristership (B, K)
MANN Toby	Colfe's School (K)
MELA Leciel	Farringtons School
MICHELLI Sienna	Royal Alexandra & Albert Independent School, Reigate
NI Oscar	The Judd School (B, K)
OGUNSAKIN Samuel	Dartford Grammar School for Boys (GH) (B, K)
O'KEEFE Annabel-Jemima	Cleeve Park School (K)
OKOROAFOR Elias	Dartford Grammar School for Boys (B, K)
O'NEILL Eamonn	Dartford Grammar School for Boys (BT180, K)
OWEN Amber	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B, K)
PATEL Reéal	Farringtons School (H) (K)
PATTISON Elliot	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B, K)
RANDHAWA Amalia	Colfe's School (Sports Schol) (B, K)
RYAN Aoife	Colfe's School (Ac Schol) (EC Ac Schol/Mus Schol) (B,K,N)
SANDHU Anya	Tonbridge School for Girls (B,K,N)
SAROMI Omera	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B)
SKALICKY Michael	Leigh Stationers' Academy
SRIVASTAVA Aanjaney	Maidstone Grammar School for Boys (K, M)
SUKEVICIUS Sofia	Sevenoaks School (RH Ac Schol/Sports Exhib) (B, K)
VYAS Rahul	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (EC Drama Schol) (Ba H Schol) (B, K)

Destination Schools, Independent School Offers & Sec Trans Results

Ba H – Babington House School
B – Bexley Selective Place
BT180 – Bexley Selective Top 180
BHS – Bromley High School
C – Colfe's School
EC – Eltham College

F – Farringtons
FHAA – Farringtons Heads' Academic Award
GHAA – Gad's Hill Academic Award
K – Kent Selective Place
N – Newstead Wood

RH – Radnor House
Schol. – Scholarship
Sev – Sevenoaks
StO – St Olave's & St Saviour's Grammar
WH – Walthamstow Hall
Wold – Woldingham School

AUTUMN TERM 2026
Sidcup Partners: Paws & Play – Dog Show and Family Fun Day

This was our first year of hosting this event and what

a great day it was! The sun was shining and it was wonderful to see so many dogs and their owners come along and enjoy the event. Everyone agreed this should become an annual event!



Prospective Parents' Open Opportunities
Open Morning - Saturday 16 January 2027
(9.15am - 12 noon)

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 with Mr Price, via the Admissions Team. Please see our website for more details or scan our QR code.





The Pre-loved Uniform Shop will be open at the Pavilion every Thursday from 8.20am – 9.15am. It's not just for uniform! Pop in for a coffee and chat, especially if you are new to the school. If you are unable to attend on a Thursday please email the School Office who will forward any orders to the sales team.

SAVE THE DATES:

Bonfire Night – Friday 6 November 2026

Christmas Bazaar – Friday 27 November 2026

Prom on the Pitch – Thursday 8 July 2027

Playscheme 2027

We are pleased to announce the following Playscheme dates for the academic year ahead:

Easter Playscheme

Monday 5 April – Friday 9 April 2027

Summer Playscheme

Monday 12 July – Friday 6 August 2027

Staff Matters

We would like to say huge congratulations to **Miss Jessica Retberg** who became **Mrs Walby** during the summer holidays.



'How's It Going?' Coffee & a Chat in After School Club

We will be holding these sessions for each yeargroup. The dates are as follows and will be held in the After School Club from 8.45am. Grab a coffee from the tuck shop and come and join us!

J1: Tuesday 22 September

J2: Tuesday 15 September

J3: Tuesday 6 October

S1: Tuesday 29 September

S2: Tuesday 3 November

S3: Tuesday 24 November

S4: Tuesday 13 October

School Events Autumn 2026

S3 French Trip Chateau to the Battlefields of France and Belgium

Wednesday 9 – Friday 11 September

S3 embarked on their annual school residential trip to France. It was a fantastic and memorable experience, giving pupils the opportunity to explore a range of significant sites linked to the Great Wars. During our visit, we explored Talbot House and the Bayernwald Trenches, learning more about the experiences of soldiers and the conditions they faced. We also visited the historic



Thiepval Memorial

city of Ypres and attended the moving Menin Gate Ceremony, providing children with an unforgettable



The Fire Brigade Buglers of Menin with our standard bearers and Wreath-layers

opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who served. All children in S3 were complimented for their impeccable behaviour particularly whilst laying a wreath and carrying our Colours at Menin Gate. To top off an already fantastic trip, we visited Nausicaá Sea Life Centre, where pupils enjoyed discovering the incredible variety of marine life and exploring the impressive exhibits. The residential was a wonderful combination of history, learning and adventure, and we are incredibly proud of the children for their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the trip.



Harvest Festival – St John’s Church, Sidcup
Friday 2 October

Harvest Festival will take place at St John’s Church at 9am. J1 – S4 will take part in the service. Once again, we will be asking for donations of dried and tinned food, which the children should bring to the church on the Friday, to be transported onwards to ‘The Simon Community’, a charity for the homeless, based in London and to local foodbanks, via St John’s Church, Sidcup. Please do come along, everyone welcome!

School Events *Autumn 2026*

Festival of Speech & Drama

Thursday 15 & Friday 16 October

Please do encourage your children to 'have a go' – you never know how good you are if you don't try... We welcome parents to attend individual and form performances on both dates. Categories will be sent via ParentMail with details of how to enter your child. Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs Fiona Mephram. Class Performances will be on Friday 16 October – Junior Performances at 1.40pm and Senior Performances at 2.30pm. Please do come along and support the children!

English Week: Poetry Focus

Monday 5 October – Friday 9 October

This term, we're putting a special focus on poetry across the whole school, from our youngest children in EYFS right through to S4.

Poetry might seem like a small corner of the curriculum, but it does a great deal of heavy lifting. It helps children hear the rhythm and music of language, which feeds directly into reading fluency. It builds vocabulary in a way that sticks, because words learned through rhyme and rhythm are memorable. And it gives children — even very young ones — a way to express feelings and ideas with real economy and creativity.

Each yeargroup will be working with a poetry style suited to their stage of development, so the challenge grows appropriately as children move through the school. You may start hearing new rhymes, chants, or verses at home — we'd love for you to enjoy these together.

You can support this at home very simply:

- Read poems aloud together — nursery rhymes for our youngest, anything that catches your child's interest for older pupils.
- Ask your child to recite or perform a poem they're proud of.
- Encourage noticing: silly rhymes, interesting word sounds, or favourite lines.

English Week Activities:

Monday 5 October – House English & MFL Quiz. J2/J3 9.00am S1/2 9.30am, S3/4 10.00am.

Tuesday 6 October – Spelling Bee; a mega spelling test to establish a year group spelling champion.

Wednesday 7 October – This is our 'Donate a Book Day'. We would ask you & your child to select a favourite book that you would like to share with others. Try to do something really difficult - part with a book that you genuinely cherish. Please feel free to write a note to the new reader of the book. Spread the love!

Thursday 8 October – Poetry Day – a poetry related activity/writing task.

Friday 9 October – Dressing-up Day – the children should come to school dressed as one of their favourite book characters, preferably with a copy of the book too! A £2 donation please, to go to this term's charity 'Abbie's Army' via ParentMail.

Remembrance Service

Friday 6 November at 10am

Do please come along to our poignant Remembrance Service led by S3 (Yr 5). Parents and family members are most welcome, particularly those in S3 where this year we will be particularly commemorating the life of RAF Pilot Flying Officer, Roger Coulson 1934-1956.

FOMC Bonfire Night

Friday 6 November (6pm – 9pm)

Fireworks are all booked and the bonfire will be ready; all we need is for you to support this ever-popular event. Details of tickets sales will follow soon.

Swimming Championships (S1-S4)

Friday 13 & Friday 20 November

All Senior children will have a chance of winning a medal at our popular swimming event over two

Fridays. Enter as many events as you like in your yeargroup categories to be in with a chance of a medal and maybe a new school record. The top three boys and top three girls in each event in each yeargroup win. Even if you don't get a medal, you might get a new Personal Best! Do come along and get involved in a fun couple of afternoons. Remember: you have to be in it to win it! Parents are welcome to support. Entry forms out soon.

Parents Evenings

Monday 9 November – EY, J2MS, J3M, S1A, S2C & S3B

Tuesday 10 November – J1, J2C, J3H, S1M, S2T, & S3P

These will be conducted face-to-face. Details of times and appointments will be sent after October half-term.

Christmas Junior Production

Thursday 3 December (9.15am) and Friday 4 December (9.15am & 2pm)

We are delighted to be preparing for our forthcoming, much loved Junior Christmas Production, 'The Big Little Nativity'. We look forward to seeing your children's enthusiasm and excitement shine through their performances. It promises to be a joyful occasion for everyone and is a wonderful opportunity for our families to come together in celebration.

Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 8 December

Remember to attend suitably attired – usual Christmas lunch rules; No hat-No lunch!

Christmas Jumper Day, House Chess & Santa Fun Run

Friday 11 December

After another year's successful Santa Fun Run, we

have decided to do it all again! Sponsorship forms will be sent out after half term and proceeds will go to this term's chosen charity.

Carol Service

Tuesday 15 December – 6pm-7pm at St John's Church, Sidcup

This is a compulsory event for all children in J1 – S4. We look forward to you sharing this special family event with us, in preparation for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Prizegivings

Wednesday 16 December in the School Hall

Juniors 9.15am

Senior 10.45am

Extra-Curricular Achievements:

A big 'eco-warrior' well done to Sasha (S2C) for helping residents of Alnmouth in Northumberland clear a field - about to be made available to cows - of ragwort, toxic to cattle, over the summer holidays. A very worthwhile cause!





Great to see **Josh Hill (OM 2013-2021)**, **Oscar Richardson (OM 2013-2021)** and **Lenny Short (OM 2013-2021)** who popped into see us after just completing their GCSE exams. We wish them all the best of luck. Josh continues his swimming success, recently competing at the British Swimming Nationals, coming 8th in the 17/18 year old finals for 50 backstroke and 11th in the 100 backstroke and 17th in the 200 backstroke, improving his times in all three events and beating his Personal Bests. Well done!

Good luck & Bon Voyage to **Chinwe Emezie (OM 2017-2024)** who moved to Calgary, Canada



during the summer, pictured here with **Annie Cole (OM 2021-2024)** and **Kayla Feyita (OM 2021-2024)**.

Congratulations to **Adam Ferris (OM 1995-2003)** who has taken on the role of Head of Year 7 at Muma British Academy, Abu Dhabi.

It was lovely to hear from the parents of **Joshua Cook (OM 2009-2017)** who after sitting his GCSE and A levels at Colfe's has gone on to a career in flying. He passed the skills assessment tests with very high marks and has now passed all of his rigorous medical tests and moved to Oxford where he is enjoying Ground School, which is for 6 months, he will then move to Spain for 8 months to learn how to fly, returning to Oxford for more flying and simulator training for another 9 months. He will also graduate with a degree in Air Transport Management with Airline Pilot Training. Once he graduates with his Commercial Pilots Licence he wants to eventually fly with Emirates and is aiming for promotion to Captain by the age of 30!!

James Pearse Morum (OM 1896-1916)

Great to hear from Mack Morum, who lives in New Zealand. Mack is James Morum's nephew and was delighted to read of James' service history in our



James and Gwen, back row, 2nd & 3rd left



e-archive – 'The Lost Boys of Merton Court'. James died on the first day of Somme, aged 20, serving with the Rifle Brigade. Mack was very touched when we sent him a picture of JP's memorial birch tree planted in our Via Sacre at School. Mack's father Stephen and his aunt Gwendoline also attended

Gavin Woodward, and receive some excellent pictures, about how useful our Lost Boys website was to them when researching family history.



GP Day



Gerald died on the Somme in 1916, also serving with the Lincolnshire Regiment aged 19, and like James, is remembered on our War Memorial and commemorated in our 'Via Sacre' line of ghost birches, planted for our fallen from the First World War, here at Merton Court.

**Remember, all old Mertonians –
tell us your news!**

Merton Court. They were driven to school by horse and trap until they were old enough to cycle to school.

Lt Gerald Phillip Day (OM 1897-1916)

First World War Roll of Honour

Great also to hear from a distant cousin of Gerald's,



Haileybury Boys, Summer OTC Camp



*A remastered coloured photo
of our School in the early 1900's*

Spring 2027 Future Dates for your diary

Staff Meeting & INSET

Wednesday 6 January

Term begins – Thursday 7 January

Clubs Registration – Friday 8 January

Prospective Parents' Open Morning

Saturday 16 January

Half-Term

13 February – 21 February (incl.)

Science Week – Mon 22 – Fri 26 February

S3 Parents' Evenings

Tues 2 Mar & Wed 3 March

S2 Parents' Evenings

Mon 8 & Tues 9 March

S4 Cycling Proficiency Week

Mon 8 – Fri 12 March

S1/S2 House Netball – Monday 8 March

S3/S4 House Netball

Wednesday 10 March

S4 Secondary Transfer Assess Eve

Thursday 11 March

S4 Bring and Buy – Friday 12 March

Festival of Dance (Individual)

Thursday 18 March

Festival of Dance (Individual & Class)

Friday 19 March

Juniors 1.40pm

Seniors 2.30pm

FOMC Easter Bonnet Competition

Monday 22 March

S1 – S4 House Football

Monday 22 March

S1 – S4 House Hockey

Tuesday 23 March

6-a-side Hockey Play-offs

Wednesday 24 March

Spring Prizegiving – Thursday 25 March

Juniors 9.15am

Seniors 10.45am

Term Ends:

Thursday 25 March (12 noon)



Please do remember to check our up-to-date website www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk for any dates and future events throughout 2026 and beyond, but also our new web-based calendar application designed by us to share school events with you via a web interface or calendar subscription (ICS), **ParentCal**. This is now live for you to browse events via the link, and you can also download this to your phone's calendar.

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.