

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2023

# MERRYLANDS NEWS

AUTUMN TERM AT MERRYLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Open-minded

Inquisitive

Never Give Up

## Attendance

School Attendance Target: 97.00%

This week's Attendance: 94.01%

Remember.... If your child is absent, a call must be made to the School Office EVERY school day that your child is absent and must be reported by phone 01268 417893, via email [ad-min@merrylands-pri.essex.sch.uk](mailto:ad-min@merrylands-pri.essex.sch.uk) or ParentMail. Please do not send a message via Seesaw or Tapestry.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Christmas Dinner was a great success - A big thank you to all staff for helping.

Well Done to Reception for their fantastic performances and Year 2 for their singing at Eastgate.

Miss Gilmore and Mrs Eyre will be leaving Merrylands taking up new positions in other schools. Mrs Gilkes will be retiring after 20 years as an Assistant Cook and it has been an honour to work with her over the years. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Mrs Gilkes, Miss Gilmore and Mrs Eyre for all they have done for Merrylands and we wish them all the best for the future.

We wish you a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.



### BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

BERLESDUNA – FINANCE MANAGER closing date 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
CRAYS HILL – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
CRAYS HILL – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
MERRYLANDS – ASSISTANT COOK closing date 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024  
MERRYLANDS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024  
WHITMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
WILLOWS – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

For more information and to apply for any of our roles, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies – Berlesduna Academy Trust](#)

## Star of the Week

Acorn Class: Olivia L

Sunflower: Amaryllis R

Daisy Class: Maisie B

Daffodil Class: Aurora P

Ladybird Class: Viniee T

Dragonfly Class: Freya-Rose H

Butterfly Class: Ada T

Sycamore Class: Whole Class

Oak Class: Marie A M

Maple Class: Freddie C

Lake Class: Sophia C

Ocean Class: Elianna S

River Class: Freddie T

Amazon Class: Violet H

Snowdonia Class: Olivia H

Eagle Class: Grace G

Falcon Class: Alex Angelov

Adventurer Class: Jessica B

Explorer Class: Olly-Jay W

On Saturday, Sophie B from Year 5 completed a 10K walk to fundraise for the Childhood Tumour Trust.

The Childhood Tumour Trust is a fantastic charity that supports children and their families with Neurofibromatosis.

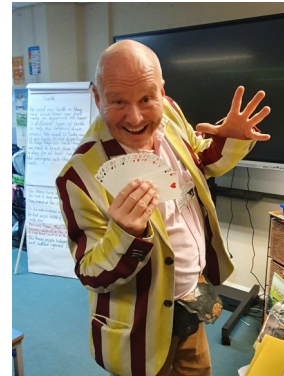
Sophie has raised a whopping £1,130 so far! If anyone would like to donate, please use the following link:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/sophie-brookes-1701024810228?utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=page%2Fsophie-brookes-1701024810228&utm\\_source=copyLink&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share](https://www.justgiving.com/page/sophie-brookes-1701024810228?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fsophie-brookes-1701024810228&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share)



This week we had some very special visitors.

KS1 children were treated to a visit by Olaf whilst KS2 children were amazed by the magician's magic tricks.



## BOOK OF THE WEEK

**Ocean Class recommends the BFG by Roald Dahl.**

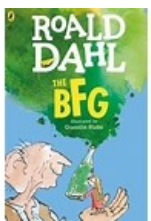
We like the BFG because he has a friendly and funny personality.

"I like when the BFG says that he is a friendly giant" Wiktoira

"I like the character Sophie, she is kind to the giant and openminded" Kiera

"I like the author Roald Dahl" Matilda

If you like stories about unexpected friendships, you'll love this heart-warming story.



## Upcoming Events

18.12.23 - Year 6 Parent/Carer drop in  
(3:30pm - 4:15pm)

21.12.23 - 03.01.24 - Christmas Holidays



04.01.24 - Children return to School

## Lunch at a glance....

Baguettes will be available daily with a choice of Ham or Cheese

Week 1			Week 2			Week 3		
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Main Meals</b> French Bread Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Pasta Jacket Potato	<b>Vegetables</b> Seasonal Vegetables <b>Dessert</b> Chocolate Cake & Custard	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Main Meals</b> Bacon or Cheese Macaroni Jacket Potato	<b>Vegetables</b> Sweetcorn <b>Dessert</b> Donuts	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Main Meals</b> Chicken Burger or Quorn Burger with Chips & Sauce Jacket Potato	<b>Vegetables</b> Beans <b>Dessert</b> Pancake
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Main Meals</b> Chicken Fajita Wrap or Quorn Wrap with Potato Wedges Jacket Potato	<b>Vegetables</b> Sweetcorn <b>Dessert</b> Flapjack	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Main Meals</b> Chicken Nuggets or Vegetable Nuggets with Chips & Tomato Sauce Jacket Potato	<b>Vegetables</b> Beans <b>Dessert</b> Home-made Cake & Custard	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Main Meals</b> Butchers Sausages or Vegan Sausages with Mash, Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy Jacket Potato	<b>Vegetables</b> Peas <b>Dessert</b> Flapjack
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Main Meals</b> Homemade Mince Beef Pie or Vegetable Pie with Mash & Gravy Jacket Potato	<b>Vegetables</b> Peas <b>Dessert</b> Fruit Jelly	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Main Meals</b> Butchers Roast Turkey or Roast Quorn filled with Roast Potatoes and Yorkshire Pudding Jacket Potato	<b>Vegetables</b> Carrots & Peas <b>Dessert</b> Fruit Jelly	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Main Meals</b> Homemade Chicken Pie or Vegetable Pie, Roast Potato & Gravy Jacket Potato	<b>Vegetables</b> Carrots <b>Dessert</b> Fruit Burst Jelly
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Main Meals</b> Meatballs or Vegan Meatballs with Tomato Sauce & Fusilli Pasta Jacket Potato	<b>Vegetables</b> Seasonal Vegetables <b>Dessert</b> Ice Sponge Cake	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Main Meals</b> Beef Bolognese or Vegetable Bolognese with Fusilli Pasta Jacket Potato	<b>Vegetables</b> Mixed Vegetables <b>Dessert</b> Flapjack	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Main Meals</b> Sticky BBQ Chicken or Sticky BBQ Quorn Pieces with Rice Jacket Potato	<b>Vegetables</b> Sweetcorn <b>Dessert</b> Homemade Marble Cake & Custard
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Main Meals</b> Fish Fingers or Cheddar Whirl with Chips Jacket Potato	<b>Vegetables</b> Peas <b>Dessert</b> Ice Cream	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Main Meals</b> Battered Fish Fillet or Plain Omelette with Waffles Jacket Potato	<b>Vegetables</b> Spaghetti Hoops <b>Dessert</b> Arctic Roll	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Main Meals</b> Fish Fingers or Cheddar Whirl with Waffles Jacket Potato	<b>Vegetables</b> Peas <b>Dessert</b> Ice Cream

Week 1 dates: 30<sup>th</sup> Oct, 20<sup>th</sup> Nov, 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, 15<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, 4<sup>th</sup> Mar, 25<sup>th</sup> Mar  
Week 2 dates: 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 27<sup>th</sup> Nov, 18<sup>th</sup> Dec, 17<sup>th</sup> Jan, 12<sup>th</sup> Feb, 11<sup>th</sup> Mar  
Week 3 dates: 13<sup>th</sup> Nov, 4<sup>th</sup> Dec, 8<sup>th</sup> Jan, 29<sup>th</sup> Jan, 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 16<sup>th</sup> Mar

An unlimited selection of freshly prepared healthy salad, yoghurts and fresh fruit are available daily

Are you planning on giving your child a new games console, mobile phone, tablet, or computer game this Christmas? Or do you have friends or family who are?

Visit [www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings](http://www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings) for practical things you can do to help make your child's new device safer when they are online.  
#StaySafe



Flat hand, palm down, covers top of other fist.

## Makaton Sign of the Week

This week's sign is "More".



## Did you know?

1 square meter of Earth can hold a billion living things.



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION



## Noughts and Crosses



**What you need:** 2 players min, three black socks, three white socks and nine markers.

### How to play:

- Place the markers to create a 3x3 grid (9 boxes).
- One player uses the white socks, the other the black socks.
- Players begin 6m - 8m away from the grid. They take one sock at a time and place it somewhere on the grid. Then run back to collect another sock and repeat.
- If all three socks have been used players can move a sock that has been placed out but must run back to the start in between each move.
- The winner is the first to have three socks in a row.



**Make your decision as you are running.**

[www.getset4education.co.uk](http://www.getset4education.co.uk)

## Sportsperson of the Half Term...

**Layla Guscoth**

### Who is Layla Guscoth?

Layla Guscoth is an English netball player who was born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1992 in Birmingham. Layla plays in the goal defence and goal keeper positions and she picked up netball at primary school.

As well as playing netball, Layla is a trained doctor who helped during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### What has Layla achieved in her career?

Layla made her debut for the Vitality Roses (England National team) in 2012 against Jamaica. She was part of the women's team who won a bronze medal in the 2019 Netball World Cup. In the 2023 Netball World Cup, Layla was co-captain for the England squad where the team made it to the final, winning the silver medal after defeat to Australia.

