



Learning, growing, achieving-TOGETHER



St Meryl News

January 2025

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025. Despite the gloomy skies and post-festive dip that January often brings, everyone at St Meryl has shown incredible resilience and enthusiasm this month. The halls of our school have been buzzing with energy and determination, and our children have demonstrated that neither rain nor grey skies can dampen their spirits or their dedication to learning. I am proud to show you examples of their fantastic learning over the month in this very newsletter. Bring on the lighter days!

St Meryl Stars

Well done to our most recent 'Stars of the Week' for the month of January:

Reception	Reva, Alec, Eva and Melissa
Year 1	Isabella-Rose, Harry K, Lacey and Ruby-Rose
Year 2	Valenciaa, Drew, Henry K, William and Rosie
Year 3	Pandora, Estera, J'Mai and Kevin
Year 4	Rokas, Amelie and Nicholas
Year 5	Aarya, Poppy, Fatima and Lewis Mc
Year 6	Miss Khela, Mr Clark, Kevin and Brodie

Artist of the Month

Congratulations to Poppy, who has won the artist of the month competition for painting (see below). Entitled "Space", this piece was created by using acrylic paint and an interesting "tapping technique". According to our young artist, it took 20 minutes to create and 10 minutes to clean up the mess – possibly with some help from grandad. "Space" will be on display until the end of February.



Writers Corner



Earlier this week, the Head Teacher was presented with 29 letters of persuasion - each written by the pupils of Year 5 - as an outcome of their latest English unit. They each chose their own topic and chose their intended audience (the Head Teacher). Subjects range from getting rid of nasty smells, to building artificial football pitches, to having slides installed to replace stairs.

They were all absolutely fantastic – full of emotive language, rhetorical language and statistics (some maybe a little bit too embellished). Here are a few snippets:

"..do you know how hard it is to play on concrete?"

"On the whole, there will be a lot learning and focus each day."

"Don't you want school children to be more energetic with their education throughout the week?"

"Studies show that 65% of children have a better education without the school uniform policy".

"Article 31 states: Every child has the right to feel relaxed and comfortable".

"Studies show that after playing basketball, children learn 85% better than without".

Work has begun on responses to these pupils – many of whom after reading these letters I feel will go on to wonderful careers as lawyers, politicians or script writers.

School Uniform

From Mrs Nye: I just wanted to send out a 'gentle reminder' about school uniform. Our policy is found in detail on our school website <https://www.stmeryl.herts.sch.uk/useful-information/> Some children seem to be coming to school in trainers (not just on PE days for EY and KS1), boots and multi-coloured tights to name but a few variations from our school uniform list. Uniform does not have to be branded, but it does have to be the correct colour. Whilst we understand the weather has been very wet and you would like your child to wear boots to school, please ensure they have their school shoes to change into when they are here. If your child likes to wear cycling shorts underneath a skirt or dress, then the shorts should not be longer than the skirt or dress and should be a plain grey, black or white colour. We have plenty of pre-loved uniform at school so do ask Mrs Allen in the office if you require any items. Most items are sold for £1. You are also welcome to reach out to me, Mrs Nye, if you require any support with purchasing uniform deputy@stmeryl.herts.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Star Readers

Well done to the following children for reading at home and having a comment put in their reading record books at least three times per week during the month of January.

Reception	Sophie, Jessica, Jake, Kheandrea, Aarohe, Felicity, Anokhi, Shine, Alexx and Muraad
Year 1	Anaaya, Beau, Eleanor, Harry, Isabella-Rose, Leticia, Micah, Riley and Riva
Year 2	Rayan, Harry, Henry C, Liam, Safiya, Valenciaa, Ariana, Diya, Henry K, Drew, William, Edward, Savv, Arjun, Timeea and Andrew
Year 3	Megan, Estera, Chloe, Taylor, Aaron, Minha and Emily
Year 4	Reyhaneh, Tilly, Oliver, Krish, Lilly and Mufaad
Year 5	Annabel, Bleu, Edward, Filip, Lewis Me, Lucas, Marcus, Nathan, Phoebe M and Vienna
Year 6	Leo, Lauma, Alex, Callum, Leah, Lynn, Jiya, Hritvi, Louis F, Gracie-Mai, Anayah, Alice, Ruth, Alfie, Aarush and Janmita

Lunar New Year

A very happy Lunar New Year to those families celebrating. Pupils were informed in Monday's assembly that 2025 is the "Year of the Snake", and that the snake has the following qualities – charming, determined and caring. Pupils have had a number of learning experiences – such as sampling food, creating snakes and lantern making.



Our Shelter Can Now Be Used in the Winter

The School Council started the term by finishing their venture from last term - getting bark for the outdoor shelter in the Key Stage 1 Playground. Now the shelter can be used all year, instead of just during the summer months. Thank you, School Council!



Computing Corner

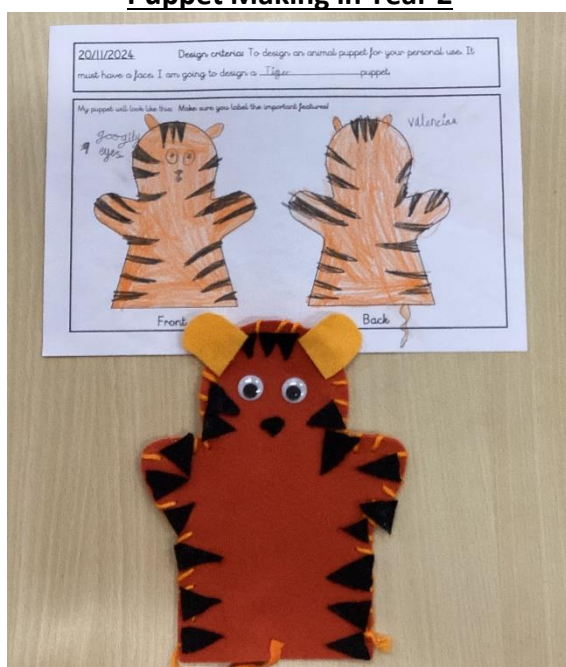
Next Tuesday, 11th February marks Safer Internet Day. The theme this year is "Too Good to Be True". The focus is on - Protecting yourself and others from scams online. From the UK Safer Internet Centre: *"This Safer Internet Day we will assess the real scale of this issue and allow young people to share their experiences and ideas on how to tackle the problem."* For more information, please go to [this link](#).

HANDYPERSON / CARETAKER REQUIRED

We are looking for someone to join our Site Management Team. Please contact our School Business Manager to request a full job description and further details on the position – sbm@stmeryl.herts.sch.uk



Puppet Making in Year 2



In Design and Technology, Year 2 have been creating puppets. It has been really interesting to see how closely the actual puppets have matched the plans. When I asked pupil of the puppet above, she said that she really enjoyed learning the new skill of stitching. She gave the whole experience "10 out of 10". Well done to all of Year 2 – we loved seeing all your puppets in sharing assembly earlier this month.



Follow Us!

Don't forget to follow us on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/stmeryl.herts.sch.uk). All the highlights of our children's learning will be on here!

Continuing Issues with Parking

This time last year, we were grateful to our local councillor, Reena Ranger, for providing funds to purchase parking signs for our verges, with the hope of improving safety and strengthening relationships with our neighbours.

Unfortunately, despite our efforts, the situation remains challenging. Out of the five signs we installed, only two are still in place and usable. While the cause of this damage is unclear, I appreciate that it may not be entirely linked to parking issues.

However, I continue to receive concerns from local residents, particularly those living on Foxleys who have private parking spaces. They frequently report that some parents park in these spaces and, when politely reminded that these are private, respond by saying they are "just dropping off."

At school, we teach children to be considerate, respectful, and mindful of the environment — values we all strive to model as a community. Unfortunately, when such incidents occur (confrontations between residents and parents – often in front of children), it sends conflicting messages to our pupils.

To help resolve this issue, I will repeat what I have always requested. I kindly ask all parents to be mindful of where they park during drop-offs and pick-ups.

Please note that due to the lack of engagement to this request recently, any reported concerns will be passed on to the local authority, which may lead to increased monitoring and parking enforcement from wardens and community police.



Breakfast Club and Lunch Payments

Please could we ask that all outstanding payments are cleared on Parentpay at the end of every week so large debts are not accrued.

Credit can be added to your child's account if this makes managing payments easier and any unused credit can be refunded if required.



Attendance

Congratulations and well done to the following children for 100% during the month of January:

Nursery	Isla, Beau, Sophie, Aadhya, Hudson, Veer, Rosie, Christodia, George and Mattias
Reception	Sophie, Matin, Rocco, Cora, Jessica, Kheandrea, Aarohi, Vivaan, Felicity, Amber, Anokhi, Shine, Melissa, Fredrick, Alexx, Hadassah, Aiden and Muraad
Year 1	Ruby-Rose, Emma, Bryan, Tiana, Riva, Harry, Riley, Amanda, Leticia, Eleanor, Henry, Lacey, Micah and Henley
Year 2	Mahdi, Rayan, Luca, Agnes, Eva, Henry C, Liam, Safiya, Valenciaa, Henry K, Drew, Edward, Veera, Timeea, Ariana, Ralphie and Andrew
Year 3	Iqra, Megan, Jaxon, Daniel, Radu, Ellis, Kevin, Dhyan, Estera, Zohaib, Emily, Arthur, Alecia, Chloe, Mathias and Isla
Year 4	Dominic, Mahika, Reyhaneh, Amelie, Harry, Amelia L, Siya, Tilly, Arthur, Nicholas, Oliver, Sidharth, Krish, Maxx and Mufaad
Year 5	Marley-Joe, Victoria, Vienna, Annabel, Sophia, Filip, Tommy, Frankie, Phoebe M, Lewis Me, Lucas, Laila, Poppy, Marcus, Edward, Bleu, Gabriel and Willow
Year 6	Darius, Andrian, Lauma, Alex, Callum, Lynn, Gracie-Mai, Anayah, Alice, Chase, Jack, Ruth, Alfie and Brodie

MONTHLY CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY:

Year 1 – 96.5%

WHOLE SCHOOL MONTHLY ATTENDANCE: 94.6%



A reminder of our Spring Term Class assemblies:

These will take place in the Hall at 9am on the following dates:

Wednesday 5th February – Year 3

Wednesday 12th February – Reception Class

Thursday 27th February – Year 1

Thursday 6th March – Year 6

Thursday 13th March – Year 5

Thursday 20th March – Year 4

Thursday 27th March – Year 2

Thursday 3rd April – Nursery Class

Other dates:

11th February – Safer Internet Day

17th – 21st February – Half Term Break

17th – 21st February – Superstar Sport Half Term Camp

3rd – 7th March – Book Week

Monday 3rd and Wednesday 5th March – Parent Teacher Consultations

5th March – Stay and Play (Book Week Theme)

5th March – Year 5 and 6 KNEX Challenge

13th – 20th March - Book Fair

17th – 21st – Year 5 Bike Ability

21st March – Red Nose Day

24th March – Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop

27th March – Year 5 to South Oxhey Library

31st March – 4th April – STEM Week

7th – 18th April – Easter Holidays

Craig Davies

Head Teacher

head@stmeryl.herts.sch.uk

admin@stmeryl.herts.sch.uk

Our Vision

At our school we will provide a safe and stimulating learning environment which challenges all learners and promotes outstanding achievement.

We encourage all members of our learning family to be open, honest and accepting of others.

We seek to instil a thirst for and love of life-long learning in everyone who is a part of this family.

Everyone at our school works as a team; supporting, encouraging and caring for all who join us on their learning journey.

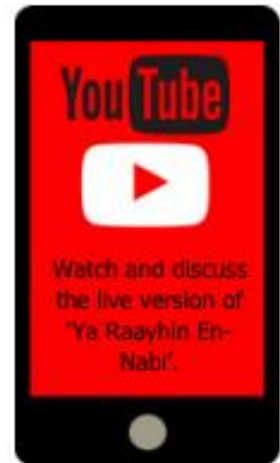
Our Values

Creativity Enthusiasm Friendship

Independence Resilience Respect

February's Musician of the Month

Reem Kelani



About: Reem Kelani is a British Palestinian musician, born in Manchester, England but raised in Kuwait. Initially influenced by the jazz music her father played on his record player, her interest in Palestinian music was sparked by the music at a family wedding in her maternal home in Galilee in the 1970s.

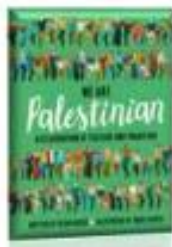
Genres: Arabic, Folk & Jazz

Active from: 1990 - Present

Origin: Manchester, United Kingdom

Books to read...

If you like Reem Kelani, try...



- Lena Chamamyan
- Dhafer Youssef
- Amira Kheir



Musician of the Month

West Herts Half Term Havoc

Calling all Vocalists, Keyboard players, Guitarists, Bassists and Drummers.
Join us for a day of rock and rollin' for Key Stage 2 pupils on either Monday
17th or Tuesday 18th February.

Please bring a drink, a packed lunch and a Rockin' attitude.



 Monday 17th or Tuesday 18th February

 9.30 am - 3 pm

 Watford School of Music, WD18 7JA.

 £28 per day (One day only)



Scan me to come
on Monday



Scan me to come
on Tuesday



01923 225531



www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/HMS-Watford



**Hertfordshire
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OPEN TRIALS - YEARS 1 TO 7

FOOTBALL TRIAL

WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

Game On's Watford Development Centre is running an open trial to join our existing squads. This trial is for those children who have performed well in school football or grassroots teams and are looking for more advanced coaching. Over the years we have helped over 35 children progress through to professional club academies.

Our Watford Centre trains every Wednesday evening (5:50pm to 7pm) and it doesn't affect any weekend teams you already play for.

TRIAL DETAILS

St. Michael's School's Astro Pitch (High Elms Lane, Watford, WD25 0SS)

Children in Years 1 & 2 from 10am to 12pm

Children in Years 3 & 4 from 12:40pm to 2:40pm

Children in Years 5 to 7 from 3pm to 5pm

Please note our JPL teams (U11-U13), Tring and St. Albans Development Centres will have their own trials if you prefer



TO BOOK YOUR CHILD'S SPACE COMPLETE A FORM AT

<https://gameonsportscoaching.co.uk/development-centre-trial-application-form/>

info@gameonsportscoaching.co.uk

FREE OF CHARGE MULTISPORTS COURSES THIS FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

17th FEBRUARY TO 21st FEBRUARY
9 AM - 2:30 PM
VARIOUS SCHOOL VENUES

COURSES
FOR YEARS
1 to 6

**SPORTS
INCLUDE:**
DODGEBALL,
FOOTBALL,
BASKETBALL &
HOCKEY

**ALL
COURSES
FREE OF
CHARGE***

* FREE OF CHARGE TO CHILDREN ATTENDING
THE SCHOOLS DETAILED OVERLEAF

FOR FULL DETAILS OF ALL THE COURSES &
HOW TO BOOK PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF

www.gameonsportscoaching.co.uk
01923 218124

Game On
Sports Coaching 

COURSE DATES AND VENUES

School Venue	Date	Open to pupils attending
Chesham - Newtown	17th February	Newtown
Watford - Coates Way	17th February	Coates Way, MPL & Cassiobury Infants
Abbots Langley - Tanners Wood	18th February	Tanners Wood & Divine Saviour
Hemel H'stead - Holtsmere End	18th February	Holtsmere End Inf & Jun & George St
Borehamwood - St. Teresa's	18th February	St. Teresa's, St. Nicholas & Newberries
Aylesbury - St. Mary's	19th February	St. Mary's & Stone
Tring - Bishop Wood	19th February	Bishop Wood, Goldfield & Dundale
Bushey - Bushey Manor	20th February	Bushey Manor, Oxhey Inf & Knutsford
Chartridge - Chartridge	20th February	Chartridge & Hawridge & Cholesbury
Hemel H'stead - Boxmoor	20th February	Boxmoor, Galley Hill and South Hill
St. Albans - Fleetville Junior	20th February	Fleetville Junior & Fleetville Infants
Berkhamsted - Thomas Coram	21st February	Thomas Coram, Swing Gate & Victoria
Watford - Highwood	21st February	Highwood, Chater Jun & Grove Academy
Bushey - Bromet	21st February	Bromet, Bournehall & St. Meryl

COURSE DETAILS

- Courses are open to all children in Years 1 to 6.
- Children can only attend the course their school has been assigned to
- Courses will be held both inside and outside so please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing (e.g. tracksuit) and trainers.
- All children need to bring a packed lunch & drink.
- During the lunchtime period we will have a tuck shop for the children's benefit.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

- To register your interest please complete a form before the deadline of 31st Jan via www.gameonsportscoaching.co.uk/holiday-courses-february
- Each school has been allocated a number of spaces - please note these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.
- On 5th February we will announce which applications have been successful

CHARITY DONATION

- Game On's chosen charity for this year is Teenage Cancer Trust
- Every February half-term we offer our holiday courses FREE of charge to parents where we regularly work at.
- Should you be able to make a donation to our charity in lieu for attending a Feb half term course please visit - www.justgiving.com/page/game-on-supports-teenage-cancer-trust
- Teenage Cancer Trust are dedicated to improving the quality of life and chances of survival for young cancer patients aged 13-24.



Unit 54

The Wenta Business Centre
Colne Way
Watford WD24 7ND

T: 01923 218124
E: info@gameonsportscoaching.co.uk
W: www.gameonsportscoaching.co.uk

Get the right help at the right time



early help, brighter futures

Need advice and support for your family?



Relationship support



Money advice



Parenting Advice & Courses



Services for Young People



Emotional & Mental Health



SEND Local Offer



Staying healthy



Search local services



School attendance/anxiety



and much more



**Families
First**

Early help. brighter futures

SCAN



Visit Hertfordshire's Families First website:-
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst