



May 2026

I hope that you have all had an opportunity to read through our Ofsted report, which was published recently. It can be found at the link [here](#):

To accompany the report, a letter was sent to all parents to explain the new Ofsted framework - it is very different from the previous style of reports in the past.

This report reflects what we see every day at St Meryl – a caring, inclusive school where pupils feel safe, happy and proud to belong. I am incredibly proud of the way our children show kindness and enthusiasm for learning and how they support one another every day.

I am also very proud of our staff team, whose dedication and care help every child to succeed, both in the classroom and through the many wider opportunities the school provides.

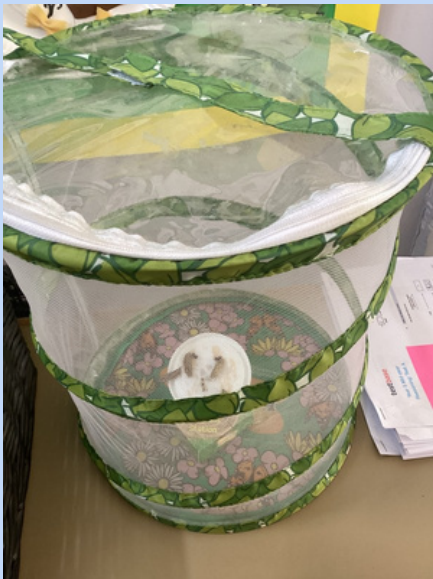
While we are pleased that the report recognises so many strengths of the school, we remain committed to continuing to improve so that every pupil can thrive and achieve their full potential.

St Meryl is a very special place to learn, and that is because of the people within it.



Stay and Play – Science

This month's Stay & Play theme was Science. Thank you to all parents who came to see how we discover all things scientific at school.



Our school roll has also recently grown to include 4 chrysalises in Reception, 4 in Year 5 and also 3 stick insects who have taken up residence in the main corridor.

Year 5 Residential to Tolmers

Year 5 have had an absolutely fantastic residential trip, full of adventure, challenge and fun from the moment they arrived! Pupils showed great determination and confidence, conquering their fears. Across a packed programme of activities including aeroball, archery, water wars, pedal karts, air rifles, shelter building and more, their enthusiasm never wavered.

Most importantly, the children demonstrated excellent independence, resilience and teamwork, supporting one another and representing the school brilliantly. We are incredibly proud of them and the wonderful memories they have made together. A HUGE thank you goes to Miss Pomfret, Miss Beaujeux and Mr Clark for their care, support and for helping make the trip so special.



Tolmers 2026

Star Readers

We continue to be delighted to see how many pupils are now reading regularly at home! It's clear that the children below are making strong progress across all areas because of their commitment to reading. Well done — you are all amazing!

Reception	Maisam, Yusuf, Isla, Celine, Joaquin, Beau, Leander, Thea, Savannah, Ali, Hudson, Ayla, Evie, Myilah, Rosie P, Atharv, Helena and Jack
Year 1	Sophie, Matin, Rocco, Eva, Irina, Cora, Jake, Aarohi, Vivaan, Felicity, Amber, Anokhi, Melissa, Beau, Kashi, Allex and Hershitha
Year 2	Ruby-Rose, Alina, Emma, Alex, Bryan, Harry, Riley, Amanda, Anaaya and Henry
Year 3	Agnes, Andrew, Arjun, Aubrey, Diya, Drew, Edward, Harry, Henry K, Laura, Liam, Luca, Philip, Ralphie, Rayan, Rosie, Timeea and Valenciaa
Year 4	Alecia, Arthur, Caleb, Chloe, Dorteoa, Emily K, Iqra, Kevin, Lucy, Megan, Minha and Mathias
Year 5	Amelie, Amelia P, Arthur, Harry, Jamie, Krish, Lilly, Oliver, Reyhaneh, Teo and Tilly
Year 6	Vienna, Annabel, Lewis Mc, Lewis Me, Lucas and Ariella

Writers' Corner

This month, some incredibly poignant poems written by pupils in Year 5:

Kindness is like a warm hot chocolate in winter.

Kindness is like a hug.

Kindness is like jumping in a cool pool.

Kindness is everything.

Kindness is like roasting a fluffy marshmallow on a fire.

Kindness is like having your favourite ice cream all day.

Kindness is a lot of love.

-by Henry

Friendship is telling the truth.

Friendship is like hugging your favourite toy.

Remember you friends, because they are kind.

Friendship is priceless.



Happiness is friendship.

Honesty is friendship.

Friendship is like the first bite of your favourite meal.

Friendship is that warm feeling inside.

It is giggles, laughs and jokes.

It is secrets and honesty.

It is amazing.

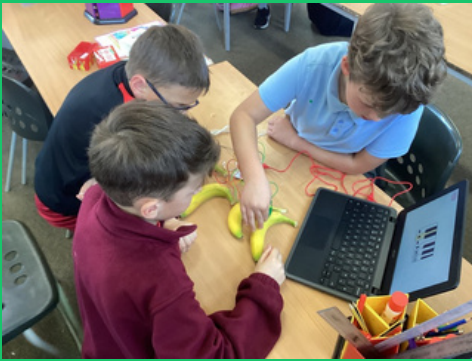
-by Amelie

Donations

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks for your generosity and continued support over the past few years. Your contributions have made a real and lasting difference to the experiences we are able to offer our children.

Thanks to your donations, we have been able to invest in a new set of Chromebooks, which are now being used regularly in lessons. These devices are already enhancing teaching and learning across the school, providing our children with valuable access to technology that supports and enriches their education. We also thank our fantastic PTA, who through their many fundraising ventures have also contributed towards the laptops.

Added to this, we would like to thank Graphics Euro Ltd for matching the money raised by our PTA in purchasing the Chromebooks. An extraordinary gesture, and one that is so appreciated.



In addition, your support has enabled us to purchase new playground equipment. This is being thoroughly enjoyed by the children during lunchtimes and has helped to make playtimes even more engaging and active.

We are now in the fortunate position where we can begin to look at developing other areas of the school environment and resources, something that would not have been possible without your generosity.



Donations (continued)

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide the very best opportunities for our pupils, we have joined the Go All In Campaign. This is an initiative designed to promote a strong, school-wide culture of reading by encouraging pupils, staff, and families to fully commit—“go all in”—on developing a love of books and improving reading skills.



At its heart, the campaign focuses on:

- Building a lifelong love of reading by giving children access to high-quality, engaging texts
- Encouraging regular reading habits both in school and at home
- Supporting all learners, ensuring every child has the opportunity to become a confident, fluent reader

In line with this, we will shortly be introducing a new opportunity to donate towards library and reading books. High-quality reading materials are vital in fostering a love of reading and supporting children's learning across the curriculum. This option will appear on ParentPay soon, should you wish to contribute.

Once again, thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your support truly makes a difference to the children at our school, and we are extremely grateful.



Win £1000 for our School Library



As our friends at the charity Read for Good® will tell you, it's well established that reading for pleasure leads to significantly better outcomes for children – boosting academic performance, enhancing wellbeing, and fostering vital life skills like empathy.

But reading for pleasure is in decline. In 2025, just 1 in 3 children and young people aged 8 to 18 said they enjoy reading in their free time* – a sharp drop over the past two decades. At the same time, the work Read for Good® do in schools shows that many school libraries are underfunded, outdated, and filled with books that fail to engage today's readers. Children who rely most on school libraries are often those most likely to be missing out.

It's time to #rebuildthelibrary.

Our annual prize draw is back to give five schools across the UK and Ireland the chance to **win £1,000** in National Book Tokens and fill their shelves with new and inspiring books.

Nominate a school using [this form](#), and if yours is one of the five winning entries, you'll also win a £100 National Book Token to spend in your favourite bookshop.

Plus: to celebrate the UK's National Year of Reading, we're giving away even more prizes so that more schools – and more children – have a chance to enhance their libraries and Go All In on reading.

Attendance

Below are the April attendance figures. A slight dip from some classes - stay healthy! A big well done to Year 1 who have repeated their excellent attendance from March. Congratulations!

Nursery	93.5%
Reception	92.5%
Year 1	96.0%
Year 2	95.5%
Year 3	94.8%
Year 4	95.7%
Year 5	95.7%
Year 6	94.9%
Whole School	95.0%

Please note that all absence requests must be completed using the correct 'Application for Leave of Absence' form which is available from the school office. Please also remember that most absence requests are likely to be unauthorised due to the requirements set out by the DfE.

Regular attendance helps children build confidence, stay connected to their learning, and make the most of every opportunity school has to offer.

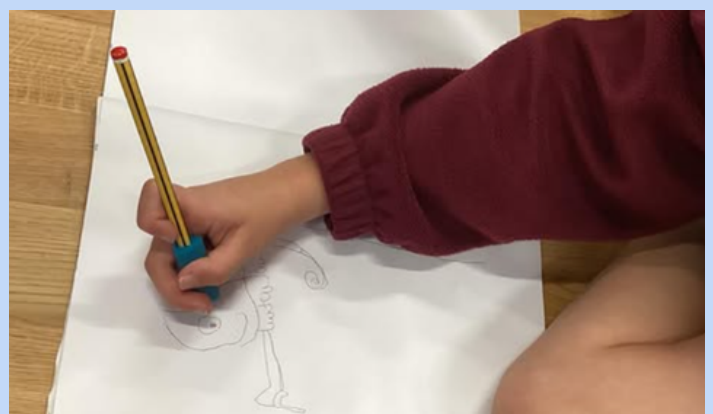
Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following children whom their peers have chosen as Stars of the Week.

Reception	Abbas, Myilah, Evie, George and the Whole Class
Year 1	Dhyani, Alexx, Kashi and Aiden
Year 2	Bryan, Henry, Lacey and Maila
Year 3	Philip, Ege, Valenciaa and Liam
Year 4	Emily F, Daniel, Alecia, Whole Class and Iqra
Year 5	Mufaad, Nicholas and Lilly
Year 6	Emilee, Lewis Mc, Aarya, Lucas, and the Whole Class



Children took part in a whole school Big Draw yesterday.



Dates for Your Diary

Mon 1st June - INSET Day

Tues 2nd June - Eid-al-Adha - wear traditional clothes

Tues 9th June - Stay and Play - Art

Week commencing Mon 15th June - PTA Fathers Day Sale

Thurs 18th June - Nursery Class Assembly, Nursery Rhyme Time (11.30am)

Fri 19th June - Y4 to Harry Potter Studios

Thurs 25th June - Year 2 Class Assembly

Fri 26th June - Sports Day

Sat 27th June - Summer Fair

Mon 29th June - Fri 3rd July - Y6 to Gilwell Park

Wed 1st July - Y3 Class Assembly

Tues 7th July - Y4 to St Albans Cathedral, Y6 to Crucial Crew (Vicarage Road)

Wed 8th July - Y3 To Henry Moore House

Thurs 9th July, Mon 13th July - Transition Mornings

Tues 14th July - St Meryl's Got Talent

Thurs 16th July - Y1 Class Assembly

Tues 21st July - Y6 Leavers' Productions (pm and evening - more details to follow)

Wed 22nd July - Y6 Leavers' Assembly

House Points Monthly Update:

Green: 83

Yellow: 191

Red: 93

Blue: 125

From the PTA

ST MERYL SCHOOL PTA

AGM HIGHLIGHTS

(Year Ending March 2025)

Who We Are:

The St Meryl PTA is a registered charity committed to enriching every child's school experience. Through fundraising and volunteering, our community helps provide resources and opportunities that truly make a difference.

What YOU Helped Us Achieve This Year

Your support powered our events:

- Summer & Christmas Fetes
- Mother's & Father's Day Sales
- Halloween Disco
- Easter Raffle
- "Break the Rules" Days

And funded important extras for our children:

- Whole-school pantomime
- Year 6 leavers' books
- Purple Mash subscription
- Online School library system

Every hour volunteered and every pound donated has had a real impact. Thank you!

Get Involved

We'd love more parents and carers to join us—whether you want to help at events, share ideas, or simply stay connected. Get in touch at stmerylpta@gmail.com.

If your workplace offers a CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) programme, this can be a brilliant way to bring extra support to the school. CSR schemes often include matched-funding, volunteering days, or company-sponsored donations, helping your contribution go even further.

Parents Lottery Join the weekly Parents Lottery at www.theparentslottery.org for a chance to win up to £25,000 while raising funds for St Meryl.

Looking Ahead

We have exciting new projects planned to enhance our children's learning environment. More updates coming soon.

Summer Fete 2026 – Volunteers Needed

Our biggest event of the year is coming up, and we need your help. Even one hour of your time makes a huge difference.

Thank you for being such a supportive, generous, and engaged school community. We couldn't do any of this without you.

Free personalised meal plans for Hertfordshire families – usually £86 per year – now FREE (until April 2027)!

Fed up of deciding what to eat every night? Want to save money on food shopping and eat better?

Three Rivers District Council is working with TV chef Theo Michaels, to help local families eat healthier, reduce food costs and make life around dinnertimes a lot easier!

This is exclusively for families living, being educated or working in Hertfordshire.

Join the FiveDinners website and every week you'll get a fully personalised meal plan with a complete shopping list so you know exactly what you've got for dinner without having to think about it!

To claim your free membership today simply visit your exclusive link:

<https://FiveDinners.com/MyCommunity> and scroll down to Hertfordshire.

Either enter your postcode or the schools.

This is 100% free, no payment details are taken– join over 37,000 other families enjoying FiveDinners.

Testimonials:

"Five dinners is my go. I'm a busy single mum with limited time on my hands. I click on saved meals and pick an easy tasteful meal to prepare which is made in under an hour. I highly recommend this."

Lizzy

"I really love this It helps me save money and meal plan"

Emma White

"A variety of recipes to enjoy, you don't think what to have to eat"

Tracy

"I thoroughly enjoyed my 1st week's recipes. Easy to follow recipes, no expensive or obscure ingredients. Looking forward to next week."

Jacqui

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AT NASCOT WOOD SCHOOL

27TH - 31ST JULY 2026





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SIX WEEK COURSE

Saturdays
23rd May to 27th June
10.30am - 11.15am

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Scan QR code to register & book

For further information contact Tony Morrison

M: 0777 959 7775 E: tony@harrowsquash.co.uk

William Penn Leisure Centre, Shepherds Lane, Mill End, Rickmansworth, WD3 8JN



Watford School of Music

Explore Beethoven

Dive into an immersive day of all things Beethoven.

Come and explore his music, his influence, and the joy of playing some of his most iconic pieces together.

Open to all KS2 & Year 7 classical orchestral instruments; Strings, Woodwind, Brass players, Acoustic Guitarists.

3 Drum Kit & 5 Piano places available.

Must be having instrumental lessons in school or centre and must have permission from head teacher to attend. Please bring a packed lunch (no nut products allowed).



Scan me for more



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Tuesday 9th June



9.30am - 3.00pm

Arrival and registration from 9.00am
Show and Share performance at 2.45pm



Watford School of Music



£30 per student



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