



Our Spring Term

Has Begun!

As we begin the Spring Term, it has been a real pleasure to welcome the children back to school and see the enthusiasm, energy and determination they have brought with them. January can be a challenging month (especially weather-wise!), yet pupils across the school have approached their learning with resilience and a positive mindset, and this has been evident in and out of classrooms. From improved times-table fluency to thoughtful writing and exciting curriculum experiences, the children continue to make us proud.

This term, our focus remains firmly on high expectations, strong routines and a love of learning, supported by our whole-school commitment to Go All In campaign (more about this on page 4). We are encouraging every child to give their best, embrace challenges and celebrate effort as well as achievement. Thank you, as always, for your continued support at home – whether through reading regularly with your child, supporting attendance and punctuality, or helping with school events. Working together, we can ensure that every child feels confident, valued and inspired to succeed.

Double the Joy: Two New Babies on the Way!



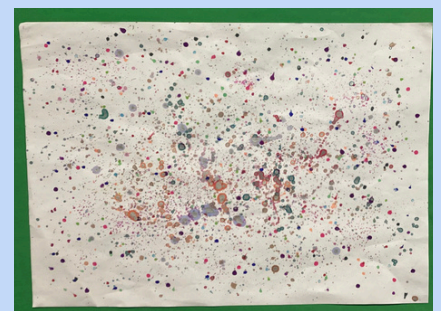
Very soon we will say a fond farewell (for now!) to Mrs Rogers and Miss O'Neill as they begin their maternity leave. We are very grateful for everything they have contributed to St Meryl.

As they step into this exciting new chapter, we send all our best wishes for a smooth, joyful journey into motherhood. We look forward to welcoming them back — and meeting their little ones in the future!

We welcome Mrs Razick to the staff who will be working in Butterflies room during the maternity breaks.



Artists of the Month



Abigail, Poppy, Laila, Willow, Chloe and Sophia created these 2 Jackson Pollock-inspired pieces. They are on display in our gallery. Well done, girls.

What has happened at school this month?



Our Very First



What a great experience it was for the children (and adults) who took part in our very first @cassiburyjuniorsparkrun! We braved the frosty conditions, and pushed ourselves to the limit - all should be very proud. A great community feel, and one to remember. We look forward to our next one, and even more of us taking part! Thank you to Miss Pomfret for organising this event.



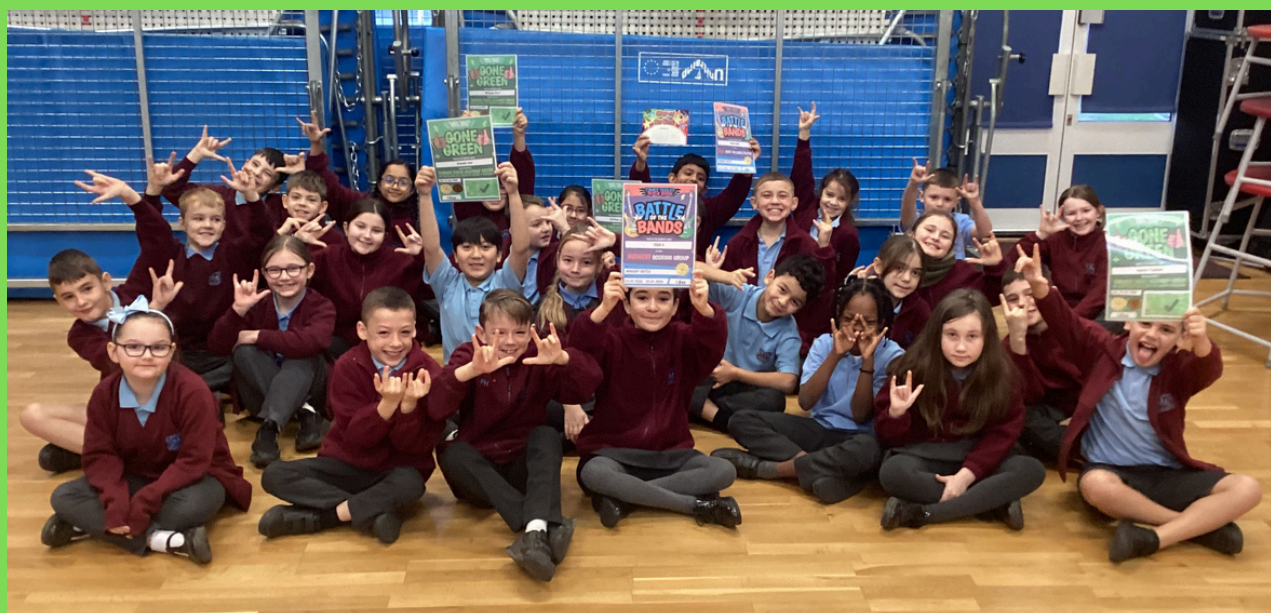


Going Green and Battle of the Bands Winners!

After a term of "rocking", pupils have been working very hard on their times tables and some have gone green! This means that they are all able to answer every times table fact from 0-12 in under 4 seconds. Your hard work has paid off. Excellent resilience!



More good news for Year 4! They took out the monthly "Battle of the Bands" award for the month of January. As Year 4 sit the Multiplication Tables Check in June, this is especially brilliant. They have just completed their practice MTC test this week, and on average they scored 7 more marks each than they did in the Autumn term. Keep up the hard work, Year 4!



January Battle of the Bands Winners... Year 4!

Star Readers

Our list of Star Readers continues to grow, and as reported last month - it is these children who are making the best progress not only in reading, but in all other subjects. Reading is the key, St Meryl.

Reception	Yusuf, Celine, Lois, Beau, Hudson, Ayla, Myilah, Rosie P, Hasri, Jack and Jakub
Year 1	Sophie, Matin, Rocco, Eva, Irina, Jake, Kheandraa, Aarohi, Vivaan, Felicity, Amber, Anokhi, Melissa, Beau, Fred, Aiden and Allexx
Year 2	Linus, Ruby-Rose, Alina, Emma, Alexander, Bryan, Isabella-Rose, Harry, Riley, Amanda, Anaaya, Henry, Beau, Eleanor and Henley
Year 3	Agnes, Arjun, Aubrey, Diya, Drew, Edward, Henry C, Henry K, Laura, Liam, Luca, Ralphie, Timeea, Valenciaa and William
Year 4	Dorthea, Megan, Taylor, Iqra, Emily K, Aaron and Caleb
Year 5	Amelie, Arthur, Jamie, Krish, Reyhaneh, Rose, Sidharth, Siya and Tilly
Year 6	Ariella, Tio, Phoebe B, Diana, Victoria, Annabel, Zahra J, Emilee, Lewis Mc, Phoebe M, Lucas, Lewis Me, Chloe, Thrishithaa, Laila, Zahra S, Aarya, Bleu, Gabriel and Willow



We're very excited to share that our school has signed up to the Go All In campaign!

This initiative is all about encouraging children to give their best, get involved, and embrace new opportunities both in and out of the classroom. Through a range of fun, engaging activities, assemblies and challenges, pupils will be encouraged to show teamwork, resilience and a positive attitude to learning. Over the coming weeks, children can look forward to themed events, interactive sessions and opportunities to celebrate effort as well as achievement – all designed to help them feel confident, motivated and proud to go all in at school. For more details please go to the link [here](#):

From the Chair of

Governors

We are pleased to announce two Parent Governor vacancies on our St Meryl Governing Board. This is a great opportunity for parents who would like to contribute to the strategic direction of the school and support St Meryl school's continued growth.

As a Parent Governor, you will :

- Bring a valuable parent perspective to key decisions
- Work with school leaders to help shape St Meryl vision and priorities
- Attend a small number of meetings and do some school visits during school year

No prior governance experience is needed. Full training and support will be provided.

If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact Chair of Governors, Mrs Olga Cara (chairofgov@stmeryl.herts.sch.uk), or the school office.

Stars of the Week

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

Reception	Savanna, Ayla and Jakub
Year 1	Irina, Sophie and Matin
Year 2	Alexander, Eleanor and Ruby-Rose
Year 3	Ariana, Drew, Rosie and Henry C
Year 4	Caleb, Taksh and Frankie
Year 5	Mason, Lucia and Eliyas
Year 6	Laila, Victoria and Bleu

House Points Monthly Update:

Green: 274

Yellow: 294

Red: 194

Blue: 263

Attendance

Thank you for continuing to support us with good attendance and punctuality this month. It has been a month for illnesses in some classes, particularly Early Years.

Congratulations to Year 2, who have battled their way through the darkness and awful weather to take the trophy for this month!

Nursery	90.7%
Reception	86.2%
Year 1	93.0%
Year 2	95.8%
Year 3	93.8%
Year 4	95.1%
Year 5	93.5%
Year 6	95.5%
Whole School	93.0%

Please note that all absence reports 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.



A selection of paper sculptures created by Year 2.



Mittens created by Nursery. It was lovely to see these being shown off in assembly!



This young artist won a £100 Harlequin voucher for her efforts over the holidays. Congratulations! She intends to spend it on Harry Potter lego.

Year 3 Ancient Egypt Day



On the first day back at school, Year 3 had their Ancient Egypt workshop. Pupils learnt how to write their own names in hieroglyphics, made clay dolls to adorn pharaohs, wrapped up body parts with bandages to mummify them and used powder paint to create artwork on pieces of wood. They even got to have an Egyptian feast. An enjoyable, educational experience for all!



Writers' Corner

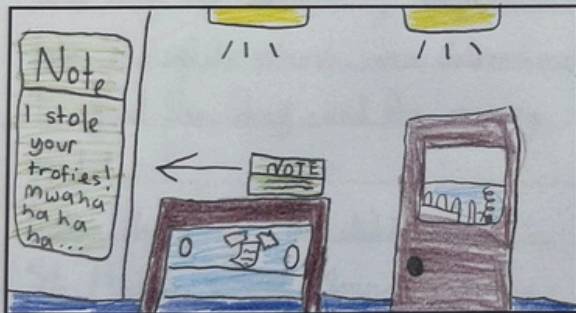
A strange event occurred this month, when one morning our trophy cabinet was emptied. Luckily, the investigative skills of Year 4 were utilised, and we are now back to normal. Below is the first page of a report written by Iqra. What wonderful writing and presentation!

★ ★ ★ St. Meryl News ★ ★ ★

CUP CULPRIT CAUSES CHAOS

School staff in stress of stolen properties

On a cold, Thursday morning, the children of St. Meryl school found out that their shiny, golden trophies had disappeared from a now empty cabinet. They searched all over the trophy cupboard, trying to find a clue that could explain everything. After a few minutes, They found a note saying - "I



stole your trophies!" The students were very alarmed and concerned by this note. They had to find the culprit, fast.

There has been a trustworthy witness report that has helped us with clues on the events. At 7:30 am, Miss Pomgret arrived at the school and saw

a lofty figure dressed in black. They were wearing a dark, black snood that covered most of their face. The culprit was stuffing something into their giant, black bag. Petrified, Miss Pomgret yelled out, "Who is it?" Straight away, the criminal turned around and ran away. Miss Pomgret tried shouting at them to show their face, but they had already disappeared

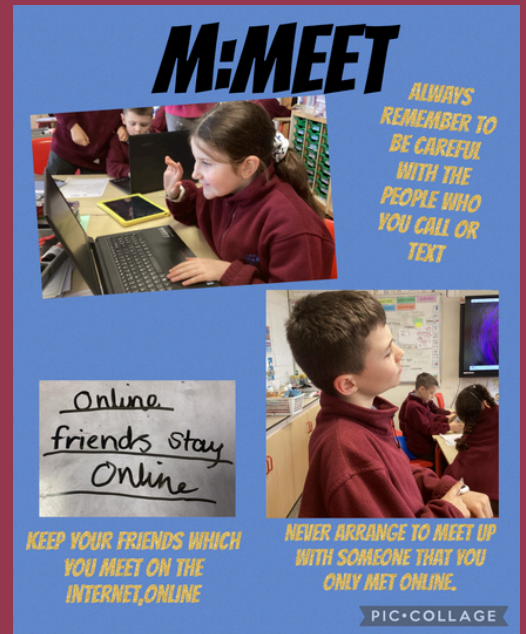
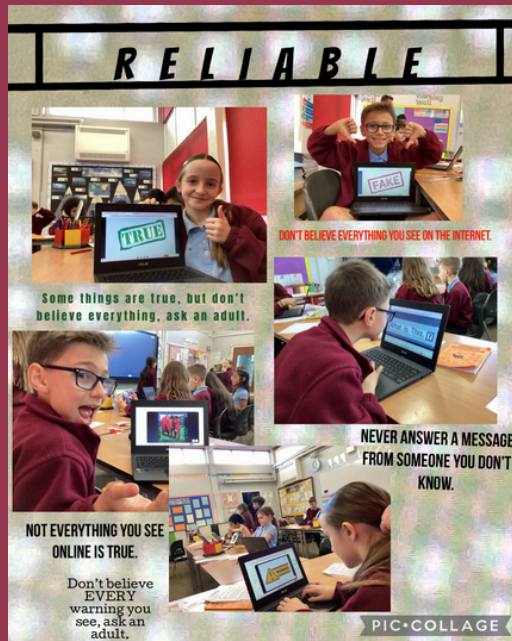


into the sunrise. Eventually, when Mr. Davies arrived at school, she told him everything that had just happened.

Later that morning, Mr Davies, the headteacher, was surprised to

Online Safety

This term, many classes have been finding out all about how to keep safe when we are online. This is an important unit of the Computing curriculum that pupils study throughout the year. We also had whole school assembly about how to keep "SMART". Visitors will see some wonderful posters created by Years 4 and 5 in the main foyer. We also have some helpful leaflets for parents which you are welcome to take. Here are a few examples of the posters:



ALLSTARZ



The Allstarz performed a dance during Celebration Assembly earlier this month. They meet after school every Thursday and have been working on this dance recently. What a great performance!
Thank you to Zoe for your expertise in leading this club.



Dates for Your Diary

Mon 2nd Feb - ZooLab visiting school.

Tues 3rd Feb (8:30am)- Stay and Play - Humanities

Thurs 4th Feb - Y4 Class Assembly

Wed 11th Feb - Reception Class Assembly

Thurs 12th February - Y4 to Living Rainforest
-(11:30) - Nursery Rhyme Time

Fri 13th February - Parinirvana Maha Shivratri - wear traditional clothes
- School breaks up for Half Term (3:15pm)

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.



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