St Meryl School Newsletter

Learning, growing, achieving- TOGETHER

November 2025

Our Christmas Fair is just around the corner!

We are very excited to see you all at our Christmas Fair tomorrow (Saturday 29th November)! The PTA have been working very hard to organise fantastic experiences , including DONKEYS! We will also be running the familiar Bottle Bola, hamper prize raffle, toy stall, games, Christmas Grotto - events for all the family. All the money raised goes towards our school and will help all of our children.

Thank you to all families who have donated items for prizes. We really do appreciate your generosity, and your contributions are so important to what will hopefully be a successful day! A special mention must go to the following groups, who have donated large sums of money:

- Wilson Smith Developments
- Kingsley Estates
- Graphics Euro
- Loko Cheer
- Graham Lloyd
- Carpenders Park Explorers

Come and join us on Saturday 29th November, 11am-2pm!

..and so is our Christmas Show!

As we speak, scenes are being rehearsed, props are being made and songs are being learnt! This year, we are very excited to present our very own pantomime - The Wizard of Oz! There will be 2 performances - Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th December.

Electric Umbrella

This month, we had the absolute pleasure of welcoming Electric Umbrella to St Meryl. They performed an assembly for us all, followed by workshops for Key Stage 2.

Children sang well-known hits, learnt Makaton and in general had the most amazing time.

At the end of their last workshop, Year 3 presented them with the artwork we created for the All Saints Church art exhibition - as we named Electric Umbrella as our very own saints. They were so thankful and promised us that they would make it the centrepiece of their gallery.

An amazing experience for everybody.

Parental Survey

Every time that we hold a class assembly, we invite you all to complete a parent survey, which is available on your seats when you come into the hall. This is really useful feedback to us, and thank you to those who regularly complete these. Often, we contact those parents who have written specific comments so that we can resolve or improve issues. For those who do not, I have included a link to complete an online form. This can be accessed from here.

Below is a summary of the Autumn term responses:

St Meryl School Parental Survey, Autumn 2025 Whole School Summary

1. My child is happy at this school

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
70.4%	27.8%	1.9%	0%	0%

2. My child feels safe at this school

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
72.2%	25.9%	1.9%	0%	0%

3. My child makes good progress at this school

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
61.1%	37%	1.9%	0%	0%

4. My child is well looked after at this school

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
66.7%	31.5%	1.9%	0%	0%

5. My child is taught well at this school

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
64.8%	33.3%	1.9%	0%	0%

6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
61.1%	31.5%	3.7%	3.7%	0%

7. The school makes sure children are well behaved

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
64.8%	33.3%	0%	0%	0%

8. The school deals effectively with any bullying

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
57.4%	27.8%	0%	1.9%	0%

9. The school is well led and managed

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
65.4%	32.7%	0%	1.9%	0%

10. The school responds well to any concerns I raise

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
63.5%	32.7%	0%	1.9%	0%

11. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
63.5%	34.6%	1.9%	0%	0%

12. Would you recommend this school to other parents?

Yes	No
98.1%	1.9%

Star Readers

I am so pleased to report a growing number of pupils who have read regularly at home! It is becoming more and more noticeable that the children below are making better progress in all areas due to their efforts with their reading. Well done, you fabulous people!

Reception	Yusuf, Celine, Lois, Joaquin, Leander, Sophie, Hudson, Ayla, Evie, Myilah, Rosie P, Atharv, Jack, Jaiveer and Mattias
Year 1	Sophie, Rocco, Eva, Jake, Kheandraa, Aarohi, Vivaan, Felicity, Amber, Anokhi, Shine, Beau and Allexx
Year 2	Malia, Linus, Alina, Emma, Alex, Bryan, Harry, Riley, Amanda, Leticia, Anaaya, Henry, Beau and Eleanor
Year 3	Agnes, Arjun, Diya, Drew, Eva, Edward, Harry, Rayan, William and Henry C
Year 4	Iqra, Megan, Pandora, Caleb, Minha, Kevin, Zohaib, Emily, Arthur, Dorthea, Alecia, Chloe and Cara-Rose
Year 5	Amelie, Amelia P, Harry, Jamie, Lilly, Oliver, Reyhaneh, Rose, Siya and Tilly
Year 6	Marley-Joe, Vienna, Annabel, Erinne, Lewis Mc, Lewis Me, Lucas, Chloe, Zahra S, Aarya, Edward, Bleu, Gabriel, Willow and Thrishithaa

Trampolining

In July this year, we were delighted to celebrate 10 years of trampolining at St Meryl, which originally began when the Year 1s said school would be even better with a trampoline.

The head at the time, Mrs Geddes, contacted Saracens Foundation, and they purchased a trampoline with National Lottery Funding and trained Mrs Benford to be a coach.

Since then we haven't looked back, with the PTA kindly purchasing a second trampoline a few years later so that more children could trampoline each week.

Our celebration in July included performances by last year's Year 2s along with an inspirational display from one of the original Year 1s who has continued trampolining at secondary school.

We also invited and thanked all those parents who have volunteered to help over the years. Without them we wouldn't be able to offer as many children the opportunity to trampoline each year as we do. - Mrs Benford

From the Chair of Governors

At St Meryl, we all share the same goal: to support our children and help them thrive. Our motto, Learning, Growing, Achieving – TOGETHER, reflects the partnership between parents, staff, and governors in creating the best possible environment for every child.

We understand that life can be busy and stressful, and at times emotions can run high, particularly at the end of what is a very long and demanding school term. However, it is important to remember that our teachers and staff are dedicated professionals doing their best for every child.

While we welcome constructive communication, disrespectful behaviour towards staff cannot be tolerated. As governors, we also have a responsibility to protect the wellbeing of our staff while keeping children at the centre of everything we do. To help maintain a positive and respectful environment, we have introduced a Parent Conduct Policy. We kindly ask all parents to familiarise themselves with this policy and work with us to ensure that every interaction supports the wellbeing of our children, staff, and the wider school community. The Parents Code of Conduct is available on our school website, and can be found here.

Stars of the Week

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

Reception	Joaquin, Maryam, Jaiveer and Isla
Year 1	Muraad, Melissa, Beau and Felicity
Year 2	Beau, Malia, Riley and Amanda
Year 3	Aubrey, Whole Class, Philip, Ege and Luca
Year 4	Lucy, Pandora, Aida and Zohaib
Year 5	Ruby, Lilly, Dominic, Amelia P and Harry
Year 6	Whole Class, Poppy, Chloe, Tommy and Zahra J

House Points Monthly Update:

Green: 304	Yellow: 542	Red: 466	Blue: 294

Attendance

Thank you for continuing to support us with good attendance and punctuality this half term. Congratulations to Year 6, who have improved by over 3% in November to take the trophy for this month!

Nursery	92.6%
Reception	94.8%
Year 1	96.3%
Year 2	96.6%
Year 3	97.4%
Year 4	93.9%
Year 5	96.8%
Year 6	97.6%
Whole School	**96.0%**

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.

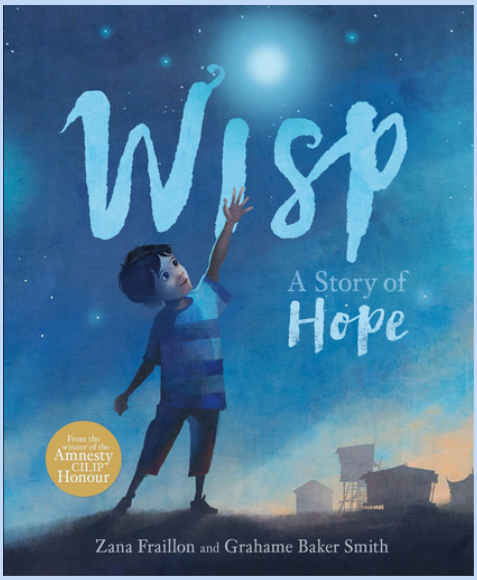
Writers Corner

Here is an extract from a narrative piece written by Erinne in Year 6, based on the book "Wisp", by Zana Frallion.

As Hazel was sobbing on her bed, she saw a small glow in the corner of her room. She got up and cautiously stalked to the green glow.

There it was. The Wisp. It was emerald-green, glowing beautifully. The Wisp had a soft glow which made Hazel's heart melt. It had a warm base with a soft vibration that made her tears stop.

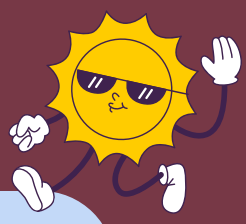
Hazel reached out, her hands trembling as she picked the Wisp up. Suddenly, a wave of silence filled the room. She closed her eyes. A tear of relief ran down her cheek, then down her chin on to her shirt. The wisp was the only thing keeping her calm. When she opened her eyes, the Wisp was gone and there was no more shouting and screaming. She has flashbacks of the Wisp's warm touch.



Year 3 Visit All Saints Church

On 7th November, Year 3 visited All Saints Church to see their artwork, along with all other South Oxhey schools' artwork, on display.
All artwork on display was linked to famous saints, as well as each school choosing their own saint.
As seen above, we chose Electric Umbrella as our saints.
Pupils also got to take part in a variety of activities.

parkrun



We are thrilled to announce that St Meryl School will soon become a @parkrunuk primary school. On the 11th January 2026 will meet @cassioburyjuniorsparkrun. Everyone is welcome from St Meryl School. You can hop, skip, jump, jog or run the course. Keep an eye out for a letter containing more information, but please put this date in your diary. Let's do something amazing, together!

PINS Parent Meeting

Last week, we had our first PINS (Parnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools) morning for parents. We would dearly love more parents to attend next time, so we are slightly changing the format and now inviting parents to a coffee morning next term. The coffee morning is open to all parents, not just those with a neurodivergent child.Please see below for more details.

Herts Parent Carer InVolvement
www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk

PARENT COFFEE MORNING

Part of the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity In Schools (PINS) Project

Join us for a relaxed coffee morning on **Wednesday 21st January 2026** at **9.00-10.30** at **St Meryl School**.

Come and enjoy a drink and biscuits, meet other parents, and chat with Lynn (Herts Parent Carer Involvement parent facilitator) and Mrs Swain (SENCo). All parents are welcome and we hope to see you there!

Sign up using the QR code or link below

You may also drop in on the day

Meeting Sign-up Link

CONTACT US

www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk
contact@hertsparentcarers.org.uk

Thank you to everyone who supported Children in Need Day earlier this month. The School Council arranged for pupils to come to school dressed in yellow, or wearing spots.
Overall, we raised £184.65.

Dates for Your Diary

Sat 29th November - Christmas Fair
Mon 1st December - Year 1 Florence Nightingale Workshop
Tues 2nd December - Stay and Play - Writing
Mon 8th December - Christmas Show Dress Rehearsal
Tues 9th and Wed 10th - Christmas Shows
Mon 15th December - Year 5 Life in Viking Britain Workshop
Wed 17th December - Christmas Dinner
- Whole School Panto - Beauty and the Beast
Thursday 18th December - Rocksteady Concert
Friday 19th December - School breaks up at 2pm

Earlier this month, Early Years created some fabulous fireworks art, and showed it off in Celebration Assembly.

<u>Our Vision</u>

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.

admin@stmeryl.herts.sch.uk
head@stmeryl.herts.sch.uk

@st_meryl

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

THANK YOU

St Meryl School

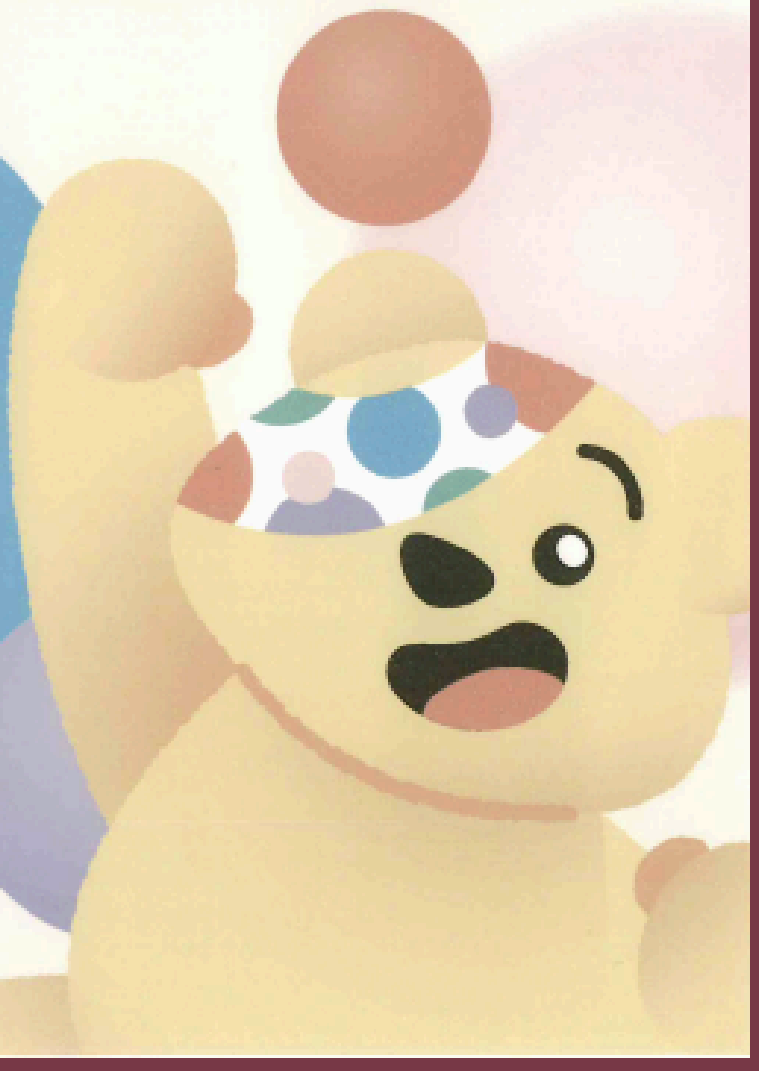
for raising a fantastic

£184.65

TO HELP MAKE LIFE LIGHTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FACING A VARIETY OF CHALLENGES IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UK.

SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE FOR AN EXTRA SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM PUDSEY AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE!

pudseythanks.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk



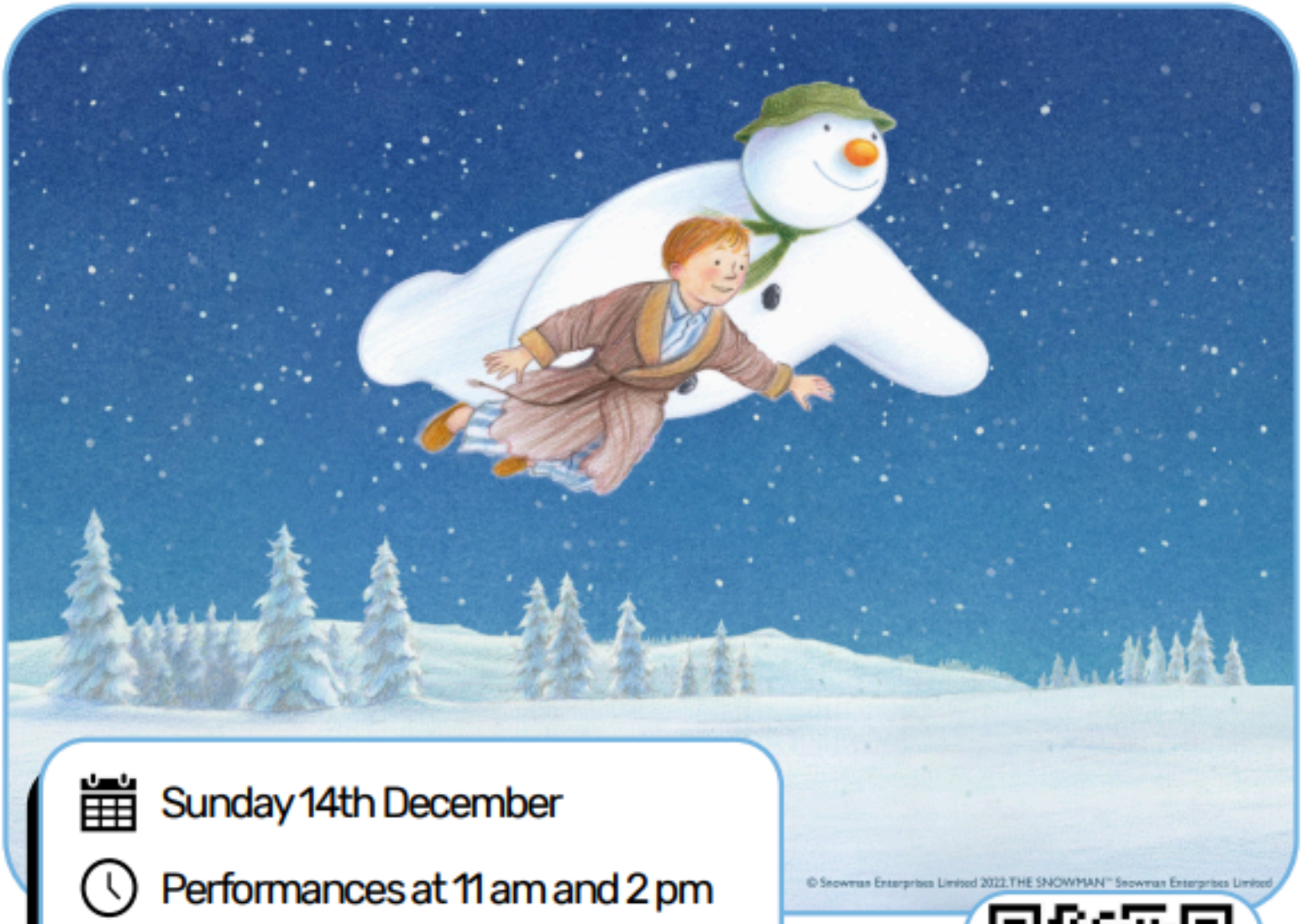
BBC Children in Need has not verified the above fundraising. This is not a receipt.

The Snowman

Start your winter festivities with the Watford Youth Orchestra

Join us for an immersive performance of Raymond Briggs 'The Snowman'.

Experience this iconic winter tale live on screen as our **Watford Youth Orchestra** performs this spectacular score live on stage, immersing you further into the world of 'The Snowman'.



Sunday 14th December

Performances at 11 am and 2 pm

Watford School of Music

£15 per ticket - *scan the QR code or visit our website for tickets*

01923 225531

www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/HMS-Watford

Hertfordshire Music Service

Supported using public funding by
Department for Education
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
Hertfordshire

Meet Father Christmas Church Farm Ardeley

Selected dates in December

Festive Farm Entry includes

Christmas Activity Pack * Festive Woodland
Walk the farm & see the farm animals

Meet Father Christmas

Father Christmas in his outside grotto
(includes a quality toy)
Meet the Elves
Write a letter to Father Christmas
Write a wish for the Wish Tree
Bag up reindeer food & carrot to take home to Rudolph

Additional Activities

Santa Paws – *bring your beloved pooches to meet Father Christmas include treat & toy*
Harvest your Own Christmas Tree
Festive Tractor & Trailer Ride
Feed the farm animals

Book online www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk

This is an outdoor event so plenty of fresh air. Wrap up warm & wear wellies!

CHURCH FARM, ARDELEY
A Free Range Experience

Ages 4-11

LOKO CHEER Camp

22nd & 23rd December 9.30am - 3pm

£28 per day or £50 for 2 days

St Helens School, Northwood HA6 3AS

- Cheer routines
- Christmas Crafts
- Games
- End of camp performance

To book Louisekochdance@aol.com or 07809 878438