In the future if you would like this ‘News and Views’ e-mailed to you either at work or at home please e-mail the school on office@merriott.somerset.sch.uk with the subject as ‘News and Views’. The option of a paper copy will still be available every half-term; however, we are aware that parents don’t always receive everything we send home! Alternatively you can view the most recent News on our website @ https://slp5.somerset.org.uk/webs/merriott

**Golden Class**

This term the children have been fascinated by the rain forest topic, not only learning about the various animals and insects, but also the types of people living there. We have also researched how different parts of the rainforest have been changed and the effects it has on the future.

Next term we are having a big focus on our reading and comprehension, please can you help your child by hearing them read every day or giving them time to listen to a story before bedtime. It would also be great if you can revisit and practice their sounds.

We will be sending out reading homework challenges to help support you at home and make it exciting for the children. If you would like to borrow some bedtime reading books from us, please contact Mr Pearse.

I hope you all have a nice break with your children and that they have stories to share with us when they come back.
Redstreak Class

Redstreak Class has been out and about the village this term. The Class was invited to visit Mrs Court and Ebony and learn facts about some of the animals they keep at their house. This tied in with the writing focus for the half term of non-fiction - non chronological reports. While a group of children looked at the pets in the garden with Ebony another group enjoyed looking at more exotic creatures inside with Mrs Court. There were plenty of books for the children to peruse and pick out features of non-fiction text. There was lots of chat and the children were keen to relate pictures of creatures with their own experiences and knowledge.

Pippin Class

Pippin Class have been improving their cricket skills this half term, with a cricket coach from Perrott Hill Cricket Club. It’s been really great having expert teaching. Here are some of the children’s thoughts:

“The coach is kind and he helps me get better” Frankie Chislett
“I’m getting better at batting” Henry Rendall
“I have learnt a lot of thing about cricket” Lottie Hallett
“I think I’m getting better at fielding because I’m getting the ball much more that I used to” Erica Goldsmith
“The coach is really really good at teaching us” Dylan Riley
“I enjoy it when we’re batting - we get to practice batting the ball” Samuel Shipton
“It’s really exciting and fun and we have been having a great time” Emily Bending
“Cricket is a good sport to keep us fit” Adam Rasheed
“I like cricket because I’m learning new skills” Violet Vowles
Codlin Class

The children have enjoyed learning about the rain forest and are keen to do their bit to support these beautiful areas. They have been extremely interested in the production and consumption of ‘palm oil products’ and its impact on deforestation. Your children are passionate about their world.

We have also been busy writing poetry for Our Queen. We will be sending our cards and poems to her Secretary and we are really hoping for a personal response.

Governors’ News

Celebration!

I recently attended one of the Friday Celebration assemblies. What a pleasure to see Merriott’s children joining in with the assembly, sharing pupils successes and singing with gusto! It was superb, I left feeling very proud of the school and its recent achievements.

We recently got rated as “Good” by Ofsted, this is a fantastic result as Ofsted have raised the bar and the ‘expectation’ of what ‘Good’ looks like now is significantly more challenging than in 2010 when our previous inspection took place. Merriott First School is improving over time, great news for Pupils and Parents and a real reflection of the hard work put in by committed staff.

Some improvements are more visual than others, and I am particularly pleased to
see more Parental involvement, via the Parent Forum, Working-Party improvements to school grounds and also great attendance at the celebration assemblies. Thank-you for your support and also for your feedback.

Rob Harwood Smith

FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

Congratulations to the Merriott First School football team who represented us at the football festival at Illminster football club. They all played fantastically well, playing as a team and cheering each other on. It was great to see the boys play positively, supporting each other with praise and enthusiasm.

A big thank you to Mrs Rickard, Mrs Copping and Mr Pearse who took the children and coached them through some difficult games. Also a big thank you to Bob Brunt who organised the festival.

We look forward to the next sporting tournament.

Mr Pearse

Headteacher's News

This is a crucial time of year for the children in their learning. The children have been working really hard on all their learning tasks over the last few weeks and have especially enjoyed writing about the rainforests. Many pieces of work have been independent to help us gain a picture of what the children have learned this year. In Year 2 the children have now completed the new style SATs tests, we are really proud of how they tried their best during these assessments. It is important to add that these tests are only part of the evidence gathering process and the children's work in their books is very important too. You might also be aware that the new curriculum we are teaching and assessing against is of a higher standard than in previous years. When you receive your child's report at the beginning of July you will see that we have tried to make it really clear whether your child is meeting these new higher national expectations. Furthermore we have worked with our colleagues in local schools to check we all agree with what meeting these standards look like.

A way of finding out what the children are learning about at the moment is to join us for our regular Friday Praise assembly. Parents or other family members are
welcome regardless of whether your child is receiving an award or not. At the assembly children will receive certificates and show their work. Two children from each class are nominated as stars of the week. On June 10th the stars of the week will be:

- **Golden:** Jasper Stewart & Lexi-Mae Charles
- **Redstreak:** Albie Purdy & Henry Bracher
- **Pippin:** Violet Vowles & Carl Bowles
- **Codlin:** Isabelle White & Luke Caines

Eight of our Year 2 children took part in a multi-skills festival on Wednesday at Wadham School along with Year 2 children from other CISP schools. Four of our Year 4 children acted as young leaders at the event and made us all very proud. So, well done to Toby, Dylan Suter, Lauren and Athena who led multi-skills games for 12 different groups of children.

**Sun Hats and Sun Protection Needed!**
Please remember the sun is becoming much stronger at this time of year, so children need sun hats and more importantly, sun protection for those sunny days. Ideally it would be good for children to keep a hat at school in their tray. It would also be useful for all children to bring a water bottle to keep them hydrated throughout the day.

**FOMS Meeting**
The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8th June and we need your support to maximise funding for projects that will benefit your child. Unfortunately, very few people were able to attend the last meeting so please support your FOMS group. We would like to raise money to improve our school grounds and to buy new outside equipment. Please can you all get behind these fundraising efforts and attend the next meeting which will be about organising the Summer Fete in July.

A big thank you to all who supported the Rainforest Disco yesterday. I would especially like to thank the FOMs committee members and staff who ran the event. The event raised an impressive £106.90!

The following events are coming up and will help us raise money to develop our
outside areas:

Sponsored Event - Thursday 9th June.
Fathers’ Day Sale - Friday 17th June.
Summer Fete - Friday 8th July

**Celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday**
On Thursday 9th June we will be celebrating the Queen's birthday with a whole-school picnic tea party. We would like children to dress in red, white and blue for the occasion. The day will include our sponsored fun run and we will also be creating a new mural. We would like to plant bedding plants around the school in the same colour theme to brighten the school for the occasion so if you have any spare plants and would like to donate them please bring them to school directly after the holiday for the children to plant up.

**Other news**
It is with much regret that Mrs Banfield has made the decision to leave us at the end of July to spend more time with her own family. We'll all miss Mrs Banfield's enthusiasm for teaching and the many talents she has brought with her. We wish her well in the future. Mrs Banfield has promised that she will keep in touch with the school and will do supply teaching for us from September onwards.

This hasn't been an easy decision for Mrs Banfield and I ask that you respect her reasons.

The governors have started the process to recruit a new teacher and we will keep you informed.

**Phil Smith**
**Headteacher**

**Dates and Other Information**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 27th May</td>
<td>- Last day of half term (Summer 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 6th June</td>
<td>- First day of half term (Summer 2)</td>
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<td>Friday, 10th June</td>
<td>- Swimming starts for Yr 1 &amp; 2 children</td>
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<td>Monday, 13th - 15th June</td>
<td>- Year 4 residential trip to Hooke Court</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 22nd June</td>
<td>- Yr R and Yr 1 trip to Charmouth (more details to follow)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 24th June</td>
<td>- Yr 2, 3 and 4 trip to Charmouth (more details to follow)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 28th June</td>
<td>(No swimming for Yr 1 &amp; 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 29th June</td>
<td>New class taster day (Induction day at Maiden Beech)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 5th July</td>
<td>New class taster day (Induction day at Maiden Beech)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 19th July</td>
<td>2.00 pm Year 4 Leaver Service at Merriott Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 20th July</td>
<td>Last day of Summer term</td>
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