



10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely, well-deserved break with plenty of time to relax and enjoy special moments together. It is fantastic to see the children's smiling faces and feel the buzz of excitement as we begin our new term.

This spring term promises to be full of exciting opportunities and experiences for our children. From Mr Marvel's Magic Show to World Book Day, eggs hatching into ducklings, a visit to the RAF Museum to support Year 2's learning about Amy Johnson and the Battle of Britain as well as a Wild Science Workshop for our Reception children, there is so much to look forward to. We cannot wait to share another term filled with curiosity, learning, and unforgettable memories!

**Forces club:** This week, we held our monthly forces club, a special initiative designed to support our service children. These sessions are a wonderful opportunity to create strong connections within the forces community, offering fun and engaging activities that help promote resilience and well-being. It is always a joy to see the children grow in confidence and form lasting friendships!

**Welcome to Nursery:** A warm welcome to our new starters and their families joining Merry Hill Nursery! It has been wonderful to see the children settling in so well and beginning their learning journey with us. We are excited to watch them grow, make new friends, and explore the world around them, and we look forward to working closely with you throughout this exciting journey.

**Staffing News:** We are thrilled to welcome two new members to the Merry Hill team! Mrs Somaiya has joined us as a lunchtime supervisor and will be leading organised games and sports activities, helping children develop key skills while having fun. In addition, she will be working closely with our inclusion team to provide nurturing support for children, helping to build their confidence and well-being through small group sessions.

We also welcome Ms Ananda, who will be completing her Early Years Level 3 Learning Support Assistant course through Best Practice. She will be learning on the job, and we are delighted to support her in gaining hands-on experience while contributing to our Early Years team.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated team at Merry Hill. Their skills, enthusiasm, and commitment will undoubtedly enrich our school community and support the children in their learning and personal growth.

We are also pleased to welcome Mr Osman, a student teacher from a local primary school, who will be joining our Reception team from 20th January for a two-week placement. This is a fantastic opportunity for Mr Osman to gain valuable experience working with our children and staff, and for us to benefit from fresh ideas and perspectives. We are sure he will enjoy his time at Merry Hill, and we look forward to supporting him in his teaching journey.

*A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space*


**Merry Hill Tours and Application Deadlines:** A quick reminder for families with children starting school in September 2025 – the deadline for Nursery and Reception applications is fast approaching (January 15<sup>th</sup>)! If you know someone who may still be considering their options, please let them know that we are still offering tours of the school. For more information or to book a tour, please contact the school office.

**‘Ambitious Learners’ – how we act when we learn**

**This Week’s Focus: The Golden Rule – ‘We are kind and helpful’**

**Team Points Focus: Good manners – saying “Thank you”**

This term we will further develop the children’s manners by focusing on a specific manner each week. This week we will praise the children and award team points for children saying **“Thank you”** when receiving something, even if it is not something wanted. We are looking for children who say “thank you” without being prompted – especially when receiving lunch bands.

6.1.25	<p><b>“Thank you” – when receiving something</b> <b>always say thank you</b> even if it is not something that you want. We are looking for children who say “thank you” without being prompted – especially when receiving lunch bands. <b>GR We are kind and helpful</b></p>	 <p>A square graphic with a blue border. Inside, a stylized orange figure is shown from the waist up, with its right arm extended and hand open as if receiving something. Below the figure, the words "thank you" are written in a simple, lowercase font.</p>
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**‘Curious Learners’ – what we learn**

**Year Group Blogs**

Each week the class teachers post blogs, which enable you to find out more about our education offer and reinforce learning at home. Please click on the link below to see the wonderful learning that has taken place over the week.

<https://merryhill.org.uk/our-learning-community/year-group-blogs/>

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🍿🎬 \*MOVIE NIGHT\* 🎬🍿  
Friday 17th January 2025

The Friends of Merry Hill are excited to kick off the New Year with our popular movie night, next Friday in the school hall.

We kindly ask that one parent/guardian attends per family/group to maximise the space available for the children.

🕒 Doors to the school hall will open at 5.45pm with a start time of 6.00pm.

👕 Children are welcome to wear their pyjamas/comfy clothes and to bring a soft toy or blanket if they would like.

🍿 Popcorn and a fruit shoot will be offered to all children in attendance (included in ticket price).

💰 Price is £4 per child plus £1 per adult.

To secure your space, please email [fomh@merryhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:fomh@merryhill.herts.sch.uk) letting us know the name and number of attendees.



At Merry Hill, we believe that each day brings fresh opportunities for our pupils to try something new, face challenges with confidence, and celebrate their achievements, big or small. Just as the start of a new year inspires reflection and goal-setting, we encourage our children to approach every day with curiosity, kindness, and a positive attitude, knowing that they are constantly growing into the best version of themselves. Here's to a spring term filled with discovery, joy, and new beginnings!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams  
Headteacher

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