



10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Drum roll please...**



We are delighted to provide you with an update on our exciting team points journey for the children. It has been a fantastic journey, and we could not be prouder of our pupils. Congratulations to Red and Green team for their exceptional performance in securing the trophy over the last 2 weeks. Their victory truly reflects their dedication and enthusiasm.

We kindly request from parents and carers, your support in reminding the children they can earn points by displaying exceptional behaviours throughout their time in school. Attendance has been a key focus, and those with the highest attendance have been invaluable contributors to their teams.

We have witnessed numerous instances of exemplary behaviour, from acts of kindness to impressive teamwork. Children have shown remarkable resilience in their learning, and their enthusiasm in the classroom is truly inspiring. We have seen some creativity flourishing in our Monday Mindfulness Art work, perseverance during challenging tasks, helping our friends and playing nicely.

To further enhance this we plan to introduce a new challenge each week, which will be a focus alongside all other exceptional behaviours. In the upcoming week, our focus will be on observing 'proud walking' in the corridors, as well as when children enter and leave school and the playground.

Thank you all for supporting your child/ren and reinforcing these exceptional behaviours both at home and school.

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## Surprise Readers

We had a delightful surprise reader in both Panther class and Bear Class on Wednesday. A big thank you to Mr Dourado (Headteacher from Ashfield) and PCSO Barry Lovegrove (New Local PCSO). The important role of the PCSO in keeping the community safe added an extra layer of excitement to his visit. Headteacher, Mr Dourado, also created an air of excitement, particularly for those with older siblings who attend Ashfield. The joy of shared stories is truly special, and we are very grateful for the magical moments created by our surprise visits. Thank you to those parents who have already signed up; we look forward to welcoming you soon.

## In our cherished tradition...

We came together, on Wednesday for our Remembrance Day Assembly, where we had the privilege of welcoming our Forces Families into our school. The assembly, guided by Padre Nicoll, skilfully conveyed age-appropriate and light-hearted messages, while guiding us in reflecting on the importance of Remembrance Day.

Our Forces children prepared a touching poem called 'Poppy Poppy', which they recited beautifully during the assembly.

After the assembly, the Year 2 children, the forces families (and any service children in the younger years whose parent(s) attended) walked to the War Memorial to lay a wreath.

Throughout the assembly and the wreath-laying ceremony, the children demonstrated great respect, and we are incredibly proud of their thoughtful participation in this meaningful occasion.



## SEND Coffee Morning

It was wonderful to see our parents and carers of children with SEND attend our coffee morning on Monday, along with the Assess, Plan, Do, Review meetings held this week. We are committed to supporting our children with SEND, ensuring they feel well supported during their early years, as this sets the foundation for their future. As an Infant and Nursery School, we can provide this vital early support and are thrilled to collaborate with our parents and carers to deliver the best possible support for all our pupils.

The feedback from our coffee mornings has been overwhelmingly positive. Parents have shared that they no longer feel "alone", thanks to the valuable support network we have established.

*Exciting News:* Our Inclusion Award verification visit is scheduled for November 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will keep you all updated on the outcome of this visit. Your continued involvement and support are

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greatly appreciated as we work together to create an inclusive and nurturing environment for all our children at Merry Hill.

### **'Healthy Learners' – *how we ensure we are ready to learn***

Sleep is essential for your child's mental and physical health. The National Sleep Helpline have contacted us with a free resource, which can help you, and your child learn about sleep and develop better bedtime routines. By helping children to sleep better, we can help them feel happier and succeed in school. You can find more information in the attached flyer at the end of this newsletter.

### **'Curious Learners' – *what we learn***

Please click on the link below to have a peek at some of the wonderful learning that has taken place in your child's classroom this week:

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

### **'Collaborative Learners' – *our place in the world***

#### **Governors**

We have recently held our Curriculum and Resources Governor meetings during which we discussed various important aspects of our school's curriculum and resources. The role of our dedicated Governors in these meetings is crucial, as they provide oversight and guidance to ensure that our school is on the right path for continuous improvement.

In the autumn term meetings, we discuss curriculum enhancements, resource allocation, and strategies to support the academic and holistic development of our pupils. These meetings serve as a platform for collaboration and decision making that will help shape our school's future for the benefit of our pupils and the entire school community.

#### **Diwali**

We were very fortunate to have Mrs Khanderia in school, leading a Diwali dance session with our Reception children this week. The children absolutely loved the music and dance - it was such a treat! Thank you to Mrs Glekin, and the team of parents working with her, who worked with our Year 1 children to create sun catchers. The colours shining through when we held them up to the window were mesmerising. Next week, Mrs Varia will be leading an assembly for our KS1 children then carry out an activity with some of our Year 2 children. Thank you all so much for working with the children to provide such a wonderful enhancement to their learning experience here at Merry Hill.

To all of our families who are celebrating this weekend, we would like to wish you a very Happy Diwali!

#### **Cost of Living**

In the spirit of assisting families with the rising cost of living, we aim to feature a suggestion for a free (or inexpensive) family activity that you can enjoy together. If anyone in our community has any tips or ideas for such activities that you would like to share, please feel free to share them with the school office. I hope you find these activities enjoyable and valuable for quality time together.

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## **Bushey Museum and Art Gallery**

### **What:**

Pop along to Bushey Museum and Art Gallery to find out about our local history and art. Bushey's art heritage covers over 200 years and continues today. Local History Galleries feature aspects of life in Bushey from Stone Age to local hospitals, police, schools and businesses, to the life of the community during and after the World War. Children are welcomed and it is completely free!

### **Where:**

Rudolph Road  
Bushey  
WD23 3HW

### **When:**

Thursday to Sunday 11 - 4pm

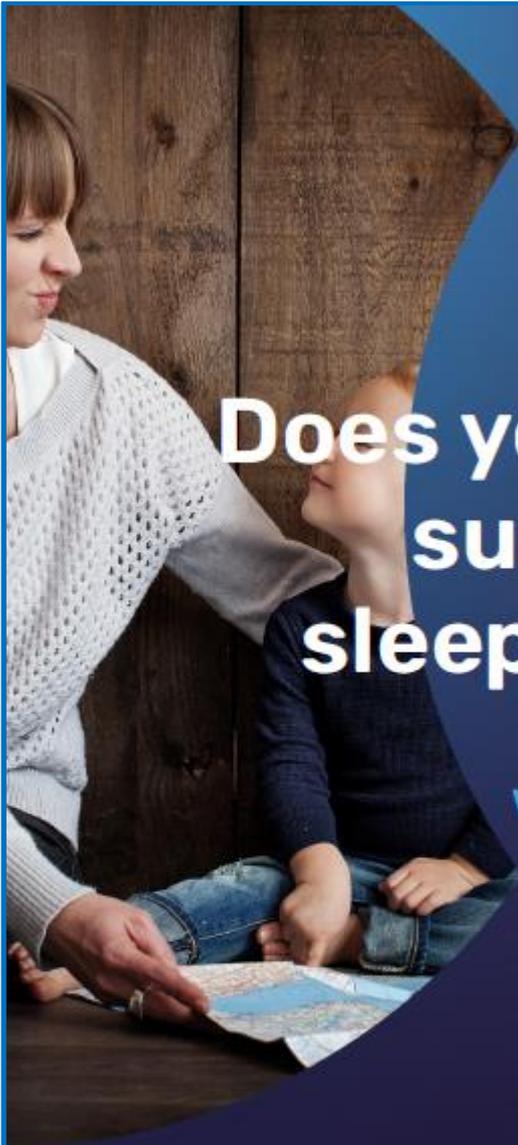


I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams  
Headteacher

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the national  
**sleep**  
helpline

**Does your child  
suffer with  
sleep issues?**

Do you struggle  
with your child's  
bedtime?

Will your child  
not sleep in  
their own bed?

**WE CAN HELP**

 **03303 530 541**  
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm  
Monday & Wednesday 9am - 11am

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**Around 50% of  
children will have  
a sleep issue at  
some point\***

### WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE?

In partnership with Furniture Village, The Sleep Charity has launched a brand new National Sleep Helpline to ensure that everyone has access to high quality, evidence-based advice.

### HOW CAN THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE HELP YOU?

- Run by a team of specialist trained sleep advisors
- Offer you some practical strategies and recommend services that could help
- Ensuring you understand how sleep plays an important part in your child's mental health and wellbeing
- Listen without judgement and help you decide what next steps are right for you
- Empower you with sleep knowledge so you can understand why your child might not be sleeping well and how that can change

**03303 530 541**

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm  
Monday & Wednesday 9am - 11am



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\*Survey of 2,000 adults by OnePoll, Aug 2021

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# SOUTH OXHEY CHOIR

## Christmas Concert

**Saturday 9th of December**

**7pm to 9pm**

**St Matthew's Church, Oxhey**

**Adults £15 / Under 16s £8**

**See** TICKETS

[southoxheychoir.co.uk](http://southoxheychoir.co.uk)

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