



Merry Hill

Infant School and Nursery

Headteacher: Ms. Melissa Adams MA, NPQH

10th October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was a pleasure welcoming you into school this week for our parent consultations. We hold these early in the term to ensure you have a clear picture of how your child is settling into their new year group and to strengthen the partnership between home and school. Working closely together allows us to celebrate successes, share strategies and make sure every child feels supported throughout the year.

My apologies to those of you who attended on Thursday; I was unable to be there in person as I was attending an annual Headteachers' Conference in Cambridge. These events provide valuable opportunities for networking and professional development, allowing us to share the excellent practice taking place at Merry Hill while also learning from other schools to help ours continue to thrive.

A Happy Face

Today marks **World Mental Health Day**, and we celebrated by sharing stories that help children talk about feelings and kindness.

At Merry Hill, we focus on positive mental health every day, not just for one occasion. We help our children develop the language to express their thoughts and feelings, as well as practical strategies to support their emotional regulation.

We are incredibly proud of the work we do to nurture wellbeing across our school. *The Merry Hill Way* supports every child to feel safe, confident and cared for and ultimately, prepared for life.

This week we have focused on the rule **Respectful**:

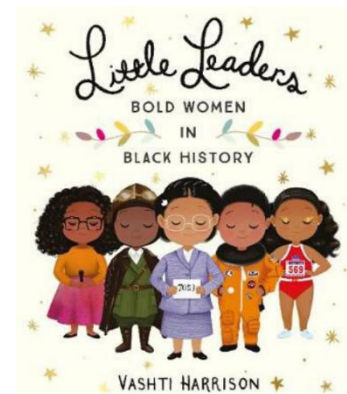
- **EYFS** – *We indicate when we have something to say*
- **KS1** – *We wait our turn to speak*

A Learning Place

Our Harvest collection is already looking fantastic; thank you so much to everyone who has donated so far. We will continue collecting non-perishable food and toiletries until **Wednesday 23rd October**, with all contributions going to the Red Trust in Bushey. Your generosity will make a real difference to families in our local community.

On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome Dr Dan Ruddock to lead our Black History Month assembly. These assemblies have become a much-loved tradition at Merry Hill, inspiring children to learn from history, celebrate diversity and reflect on the importance of equality and respect. Dr Ruddock introduced a number of inspirational people from history, such as Dr Mae Jemison who became the first African-American woman to travel into space and Dr Alan Goffe who helped develop vaccines for polio and measles, changing world health. He talked about the work and determination of Mary Seacole and encouraged the children to find out more about the people they were particularly

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space



This week, our team took part in Dyslexia Training, the first of three sessions designed to deepen our understanding and strengthen our provision. Dyslexia affects around one in five people, and while formal diagnosis often comes later, we begin to notice traits and provide support from the earliest stages. Building our knowledge helps ensure every child can access learning confidently and thrive.

Finally, a reminder that our **Phonics and Reading Workshop** for **Reception parents and carers** will take place on **Wednesday 15th October at 9am** in the hall. We will be sharing practical tips to help children develop confidence and a lifelong love of reading.

Sincerely,

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space



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