



11th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children are continuing to settle in really nicely, becoming familiar with their new routines, classrooms and expectations. I have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the children in their classrooms, and I am so proud of the positive approach they have shown as they begin the new academic year.

Thank you all for your support in helping the children get off to such a positive start.

Inclusion Award Update

This week, Mrs Summers met with our SEND Governor, April Campbell, to look through the responses from parents, governors and teachers to the Inclusion Award questionnaire that was sent out at the end of last term.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and will help us to identify our strengths, as well as areas where we can continue to develop.

Can you help?

Our next step is to establish a working party made up of parents, staff and governors who will work together to put our action plan into place. This will help us to continue strengthening inclusion across our school community as we work towards our renewal in February.

If you would be interested in being part of the working party, please contact the school office.

We are really looking forward to working together to ensure that every child and family continues to feel welcomed, valued and included as part of the Merry Hill community.

A Happy Face

Emotional Literacy

We are continuing to build the children's emotional literacy, helping them to recognise, understand and express their feelings in a positive way. A quick and easy way for you to support this is by encouraging children to put their feelings into a sentence. For example:

"I am feeling angry."
"I am feeling worried."
"I am feeling excited."



It is important that we label the **feeling**, rather than the child. So, we encourage *"I am feeling angry"* rather than *"I am angry."* This helps children to understand that emotions are feelings we experience, rather than something that defines who we are.

In order to develop children's emotional literacy they need the vocabulary to support them. This is why we have introduced **'Emotion of the Day'** which is located on the playground. Why not practise this together while you are waiting to come into school in the morning?

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

A Learning Place

Year Group Blogs

Each week our class teachers post blogs, which give you an opportunity to find out more about what your child has been learning in school. They also provide ideas and information to help you reinforce and celebrate learning at home. Please click on the link below to find out more:

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

The Merry Hill Way remains at the heart of our school community, and it has been lovely to see the children consistently living out our expectations in all areas of school life. We have continued to teach our behaviour curriculum to ensure that all children are familiar with our expectations and are ready to learn.

Team points:

EYFS – We face the person speaking.

KS1 – *We listen to the person speaking.*

A Growing Space

Screentime Guidance for under 5's

There have been some recent updates around screen use, and we wanted to share some guidance with families about screen time for children under five.

As parents and carers, we know that finding the right balance around screen use can sometimes be challenging. The guidance highlights the importance of considering the amount of time young children spend using screens and the potential impact this can have on their development, sleep, physical activity, communication and opportunities for play and interaction.

We have included the link below for further information and practical guidance for parents:

[Baby and toddler screen time guidance - Best Start in Life](#)

Have a restful weekend.

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space



Delivering Special Provision Locally



PARENT/CARER COFFEE MORNINGS 2026/27

The aim of these relaxed meetings

- To provide a safe space where you can talk freely about your child/young person and your family, and the challenges you are facing
- To help signpost parents/carers to the correct services/information
- To enable parents/carers to meet other local parents and connect with like-minded people in their community that may be going through similar challenges
- To be a listening and understanding ear, without judgement
- To help parents/carers feel that they are being supported and are not alone

Parents are welcome to bring along toddlers and children - including those that may be struggling to attend school for whatever reason. And of course, refreshments will be provided!

Please join us to find out about the support available locally and to meet other parents and carers of children with SEND.

DSPL9 are delighted to welcome professionals from [SPACE Herts](#) (1.10.26) [OneYMCA](#) (9.2.27) and [ADD-Vance](#) (17.6.27)

- 1st October 11am-12.30pm @ASDA Community Centre [SPACE Herts](#)
- 9th February 10.00-11.30am@ Westfield Family Centre [OneYMCA](#)
- 17th June 10-11.30am @The Green Room, Bournehall Primary [ADD-Vance](#)

If you would like to attend or to find out more please email us at enquiries@dsplareag.org.uk

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER



FROM 8.45 – 11AM

**ALL PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT**



TO BE HELD IN MERRY HILL SCHOOL HALL.



Please drop in for some
coffee and cake.

This is a great chance to meet some
new people and raise money for
a wonderful cause.



**CAKE DONATIONS
ARE VERY WELCOME.**



- ♥ Please bring to Merry Hill school office.
- ♥ No nuts allowed.
- ♥ Please include a list of ingredients.



ASHA

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space