



12th June 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

There is always something special happening at Merry Hill, and this week has been no exception. From theatre trips and educational visits to transition opportunities and fundraising successes, our children continue to impress us with their enthusiasm, resilience and willingness to embrace new experiences.

Phonics Screening Check

A huge well done to all of our Year 1 children and those Year 2 children who completed their Phonics Screening Check this week. The children approached the assessments with confidence, and we are incredibly proud of the effort and determination they have shown.

Phonics is a real strength at Merry Hill and reflects our commitment to securing strong foundations and ensuring that every child learns to read with confidence and fluency. Reading underpins success across the curriculum and helps children develop a lifelong love of books and stories.

Thank you to our team and all of you for the continued support in helping our children become successful readers.

Year 2 Visit to the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery

On Monday, our Year 2 children enjoyed a fantastic visit to the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery. Through a range of exciting hands-on activities, including designing bags and exploring interactive sets, the children engaged with science, design, and storytelling in a fun and memorable way.

Please take a look at the class blogs for more details and photographs from this wonderful trip.

The Cat in the Hat Theatre Trip

On Thursday, the whole school enjoyed a fantastic trip to see *The Cat in the Hat*. For many of our children, this was their very first theatre experience and it was wonderful to see so many smiles, giggles and moments of excitement as the much-loved story came to life on stage.

The trip was a true example of the Merry Hill community working together. From the incredible fundraising and planning by Friends of Merry Hill, to the organisation behind the scenes, the support of parent helpers, and the efforts of staff both in school and accompanying the children, everyone played their part in making the day such a success.

The feedback from families has been overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on what a special experience it was for the children. Members of Friends of Merry Hill reflected that hearing the children "giggling like absolute maniacs" made every late-night planning meeting worthwhile and described the day as "a brilliant example of what a Parent Teacher Association should be – parents and school staff working together to create a core memory for the children."

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

Our Assistant Headteacher summed up the day perfectly, describing it as "Merry Hill teamwork at its finest", recognising the contributions of everyone involved and sharing that watching the children's faces and reactions was every bit as enjoyable as the show itself.

A huge thank you to everyone, the Friends of Merry Hill, our parent helpers, the office staff and everyone who worked behind the scenes, those who stayed in school, staff who accompanied the children and everyone who helped the day run so smoothly. Most importantly, thank you to our wonderful children, whose enthusiasm and exemplary behaviour made us all incredibly proud.

We hope this will be the first of many memorable theatre experiences for our children and we are already looking forward to the next adventure!

Transition Visits

On Wednesday, some of our Year 2 children visited Ashfield School as part of their extended transition programme. These visits play an important role in helping children feel confident and excited about moving to their new school. By becoming familiar with the environment and meeting staff, children are able to build positive relationships and feel more prepared for the transition in September.

Reports

This year, teachers have used Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a tool to support the report-writing process. All staff have received training on the safe, responsible and effective use of AI.

AI has been used as a supportive tool to help improve efficiency and reduce administrative workload, allowing teachers more time to focus on teaching and supporting children. Every report remains carefully reviewed, edited and personalised by the class teacher to ensure it accurately reflects each child's achievements, progress and individual qualities. We believe that, when used thoughtfully and responsibly, AI can be a positive tool that supports staff while maintaining the high quality and personal nature of our reports. Reports will be sent home on **Friday 3rd July**.

A Happy Face

National Healthy Eating Week

This week we have been celebrating National Healthy Eating Week, with children learning about healthy food choices, the importance of a balanced diet and ways to keep active. Developing healthy habits from an early age helps children understand how to look after both their physical and mental wellbeing.

Team points:

EYFS: We make good choices

KS1: We follow the Merry Hill Way and understand the importance of rules

Our Nursery and Reception children have been working hard to use kind words, listen carefully to each other and be thoughtful friends.

Across Key Stage 1, children have been focusing on showing respect through their words and actions. It has been lovely to see children helping one another, sharing fairly and demonstrating excellent manners.

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

A Learning Place

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 find out more:

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

A Growing Space

Merry Hill Children Get Muddy for Race for Life

Congratulations to Evie-Rose, Joshan, Lachlan, Sophia, Harri, Noel and Dhyaan, who took part in the Race for Life obstacle course at Cassiobury Park earlier this month, alongside Dhyaan's sisters from Ashfield.

After plenty of training and regular parkruns, the children were ready to tackle the challenge. Despite experiencing just about every type of weather imaginable (and plenty of mud!), they showed fantastic determination and team spirit as they made their way around the course.

Together, they have raised an amazing £4,500 for Cancer Research UK, with the total reaching almost £5,500 including Gift Aid – a fantastic achievement that everyone should be incredibly proud of.

It was lovely to see members of the Merry Hill team involved on the day, with Mrs Tooley taking part in the event and Miss Malin cheering participants on from the sidelines. The children represented the school brilliantly and demonstrated so many of our Merry Hill values. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and of the difference they are helping to make.



A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

Sendia Inclusion Award

Attached to this week's newsletter is an important letter about the renewal of our SEND Inclusion Award – see below.

This award recognises our commitment to providing an inclusive environment where all children can thrive. As part of the renewal process, we will be reflecting on our provision and gathering feedback from families to help us continue to improve.

Thank you for taking the time to read the attached information and for your ongoing support.

Have a lovely weekend!

Ms Adams
Headteacher

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space



Dear Parents and Carers,

In November 2023 we were successful in achieving the Sendia Inclusion Award. This award acknowledged the good work Merry Hill Infant School and its community achieves through promoting an inclusive learning space.

It is now time to work towards renewing this award.

The **SEND Inclusion Award** offers mainstream schools the opportunity to gain accreditation for high-quality provision and outcomes for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Schools are required to reflect on and improve their provision in line with a series of objectives that fulfil both Ofsted criteria and the SEND Code of Practice*. Specifically, the award focuses on 'outcomes' for pupils and how schools can demonstrate the impact of their SEND provision. The award leads schools through a process of self-evaluation, action planning and evidence collection before final verification and accreditation.

The award will help schools develop high-quality SEND provision throughout the school by:

- ★ promoting awareness of SEND issues and inclusion for all staff, parents, pupils and governors
- ★ evaluating and improving classroom practice and interventions
- ★ focusing on pupil outcomes.

Successful completion of the award will enable schools to:

- ★ gain recognition for high-quality education and care for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
- ★ demonstrate to parents, governors and Ofsted inspectors that the school provision complies with current legislation and the SEND Code of Practice, and is effective in achieving good outcomes for all pupils. NB The term 'parent' is used throughout to represent the principal adult or adults caring for the pupil with SEND and is intended to cover any main caregiver.

As part of the renewal process we will be seeking a parent stakeholder and governor focus group. If you would like to be involved and have experience of SEN please do email us at admin@merryhill.herts.sch.uk

We shall also be sending out questionnaires to families to collect evidence of what we are doing well and what we could do even better.

Thank you for your support.

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space