



# Merry Hill

## Infant School and Nursery

Headteacher: Ms. Melissa Adams MA, NPQH

12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been wonderful to see the children so happy and settled as we begin the new school year. Thank you to our wonderful Merry Hill Team who have prepared the classrooms for the children and ensure each and every child is welcomed into our learning community.

We enjoyed seeing many of you to the *Welcome to Year 1* and *Welcome to Year 2* meetings this week. These meetings are a vital part of our parent partnership, helping to ensure that everyone is clear about expectations and knows how best to support their child's journey through school. Thank you for attending.

At Merry Hill, we are ambitious for every child and want to ensure we maintain the high standards and excellent outcomes we are known for. To do this, we review our practice each year and set clear priorities in our *School Development Plan (SDP)*. Next week, our Governing Board will be meeting to review these priorities and ensure they remain at the heart of everything we do. We first discussed them together in the summer term, as part of our school self-evaluation, and we are excited to build on this work with the support and challenge of our governors.

This year our priorities are:

1. **Raising attainment and progress in writing** – so that every child becomes a confident writer who can express themselves clearly.
2. **Embedding The Merry Hill Way behaviour curriculum** – so that children learn the lifelong skills of respect, listening, responsibility and keeping themselves and others safe.
3. **Embedding sustainability** – so that children develop a sense of responsibility for their environment and community.

We have explained these priorities below under our school values.

### A Happy Face

At Merry Hill, we believe that children learn best when they feel happy, safe and respected. That is why our behaviour curriculum, *The Merry Hill Way*, is central to everything we do.

This Autumn, our focus is on instilling the *core rules*: **Ready, Respectful, Safe**. They underpin all of our behaviour expectations and are carefully taught through assemblies, PSHE lessons and daily routines.

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

This week we have focused on the rule **Ready** and unpicked it to focus on age-appropriate expectations which support listening and communication skills:

- **EYFS** – “We face the person speaking.”
- **KS1** – “We listen to the person speaking.”

By practising these small but important behaviours, children learn the foundations of positive relationships and effective learning. Please reinforce this at home so that children continue to embed this rule.



### A Learning Place

Our curriculum is designed to celebrate individuality and ensure every child feels proud of who they are and where they come from. We want children to see themselves reflected in the books they read, the stories they hear, and the celebrations we share together.

This year we are also weaving sustainability into our curriculum, so children understand the importance of caring for the environment. Through projects such as recycling, energy saving, and our Eco Code, children are learning how their everyday choices can make a positive difference.

We are proud that Merry Hill is a place where every child's heritage and identity are valued, and where they are encouraged to become thoughtful, curious and respectful learners.



### A Growing Space

Alongside wellbeing and individuality, we are ambitious for children's academic progress. This year, we have a particular focus on **developing writing skills**. The Department for Education's new writing framework published in July, highlights the importance of strong transcription skills (handwriting and spelling) as the building blocks for confident composition.

At Merry Hill, we are already supporting this through:

- Fine and gross motor skill activities in EYFS provision
- Daily finger-strengthening exercises in Nursery, Reception and Year 1
- Clear “Ready to Write” routines across the school
- Mnemonics and rhymes from our chosen phonics scheme

Attached to this newsletter, you will find the handwriting rhymes and resources we use in school. Practising these at home with one-to-one attention will make a huge difference to your child's progress and confidence.

### How to support your child with their handwriting at home:

Use the “Ready to Write” routine each time your child writes. This will remind them to focus on their set up before engaging in writing and will help to develop their core strength as well as their transcription skills.

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### Class Bear Allocations

This year, we are very excited to introduce a new way of sharing our much-loved *Class Bear*. Each child will be allocated a date to take the bear home and this will be shared in advance so everyone knows when it will be their turn. We believe this is a wonderful opportunity for children to practise their writing, recall special events, and share these experiences with their friends at school. In line with our new behaviour policy, every child will have a chance to enjoy time with the Class Bear. We can't wait to hear all about the bear's adventures with your families!

### Shh...Surprise Readers Are Back!

We are delighted to share that our *Surprise Reader* sessions are back! Every Thursday afternoon (Thursday morning for Nursery), a parent, carer, family member or friend has the chance to surprise their child by coming into school to read a story to the class. The children absolutely love these visits and their little faces light up when someone special to them arrives to share a book. It's a wonderful way to celebrate reading together and create magical memories for the children. Sign up is now open through the school office, so please book your slot soon if you'd like to take part.

### 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/>

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
















Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Together, we are making Merry Hill a happy face, a learning place, and a growing space for every child.

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams  
Headteacher

See attachments below...

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	Swerve around the snake		Around the ostrich's body		Down the long ladder
	Around the head, down the body		Curl around the camel's back		Swoop down the tentacles and dot the head
	Down her body and cross her shoulders		Down the body, up the arm, down the leg		Down the tongue, up the tongue
	Down his body, around his face		Around the head and down the trunk		Hop to the top, land and hop, land and hop
	Down her body, spot her idea		Under the umbrella and down to the tip		Criss-cross the kiss
	Down the bird and over the nest		Down her body, up over the arm		Under the hull and down to the anchor
	Meerkat, mound, mound		From his head to his feet, up and over his back		Zig and zag
	Over his back and around the tail, up his neck and down to his feet		Down the person and around the wheel		Around the feather and down the pen
	Start at his ear, around the face and down the beard		Over the ear, down to the tail and across the jaw		

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