



14th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week at Merry Hill we have celebrated 'British Science Week'. On Monday we had an exciting assembly to introduce the week. We learned that science is the study of the world around us and that scientists learn about their subject by observing, experimenting and describing! We talked about how there are many subjects within science. Some study space like Astronomy, other scientists study animals and plants (Biology) or the earth (Geology) and others study forces and energy (Physics). Science involves more than gaining knowledge, it is about understanding the world around us.



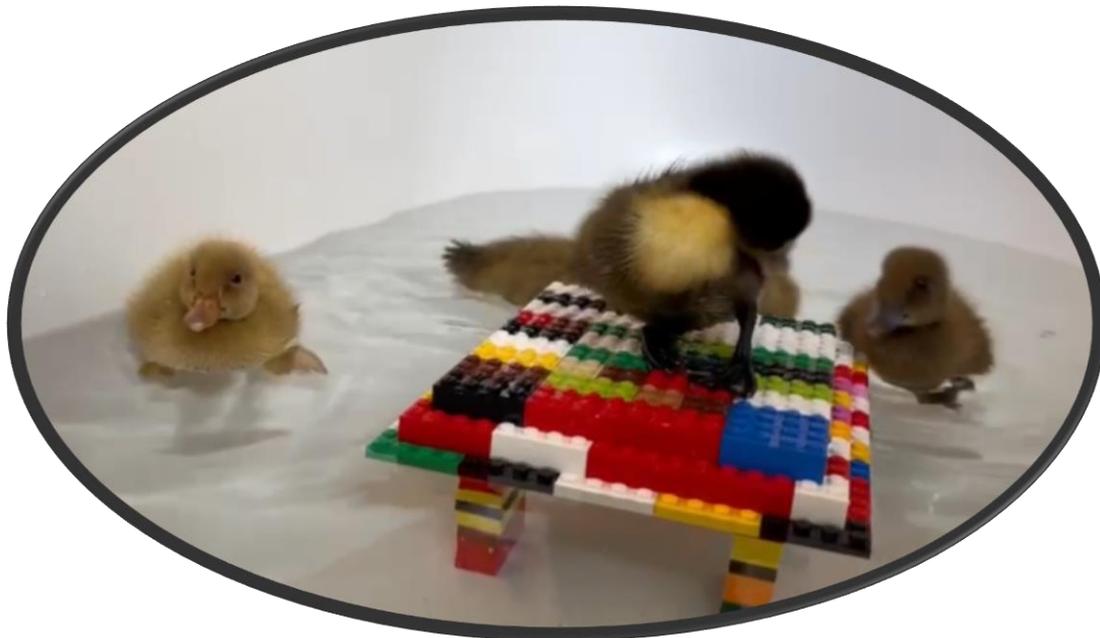
As part of our science curriculum we also learn about inspirational scientists - their personal journey and discoveries. An example being Alyssa Carson who from the age of 3 longed to explore outer space. She is now part of a young group of aspirational astronauts who are working to position themselves for becoming the first humans to land on Mars. We want our Merry Hill pupils to reach for the stars like Alyssa and develop as curious, observant and collaborative learners.



A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

On Thursday we reluctantly waved goodbye to our delightful ducklings who have been a very welcome addition to our Nursery classroom. The ducks arrived as eggs in an incubator and the children eagerly observed their progress each day. The excitement and curiosity amongst the children when the eggs finally hatched was wonderful to see. Watching this life cycle provides a unique opportunity for the children to connect with the world around them and understand how things grow and change over time. During the ducklings time with us, they have been sung to, had stories read to them, been gently held and have even taken part in phonics sessions – particularly when the children were revisiting ‘d’.

A huge thank you to former pupil Jake Currie for kindly volunteering to look after our ducklings over the weekend. He took his role very seriously, even setting up a play area for them in the bathtub! The ducklings were a huge hit at his birthday party, delighting his friends and family. Jake made sure they were well cared for, giving them plenty of cuddles and even reading them a bedtime story - what lucky little ducklings!



'Ambitious Learners' – how we act when we learn

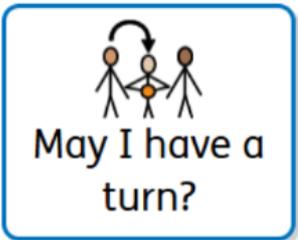
This Week's Focus: The Golden Rule – 'Do listen'

Team Points Focus: Good manners – good listening and showing patience

At Merry Hill we have a carefully designed and structured behaviour curriculum to support our children's development. It is designed to help children understand and practice positive behaviour in a structured way. This is delivered continually through PSHE, stories and assemblies as well as through every interaction between children and adults within the school.

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This week our stem sentence is, "Please may I have a turn?" for the children to use to support them when someone has something they want. Having a pre-structured phrase as a model helps children to effectively communicate their ideas, needs and feelings.

10.3.25	<p>Asking "Please may I have a turn?" When someone has something you want.</p> <p>We are listening for children who show patience and request a turn.</p> <p>GR We are good listeners</p>	
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'Curious Learners' – what we learn

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 all about World Book Day.

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

'Collaborative Learners' – our place in the world

Parent Partnership

Research tells us that the most important learning opportunities occur through conversations and play between a child and others at home. As mentioned previously, we will continue to suggest some ideas and activities aimed at promoting language and literacy for you to use at home. As we have been celebrating British Science Week, we thought our focus this week should be science based.

Growing Carrots from Carrot Tops

Just to clarify and avoid disappointment – these are the flowers of the carrots not the carrots themselves! If you are a keen gardener, you may be able to grow seeds to plant but our focus is on creating the fern like foliage with some beautiful white flowers. Growing carrot tops from carrots requires no special equipment, and results can be seen in a matter of day which is always a bonus when gardening with children! During the process talk through the equipment needed, what a plant needs to grow and focus on observing and describing the changes taking place.

You will need:

- Carrot tops
- Water
- A dish/plate

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What to Do:

1. Before cooking, save the carrot tops after chopping your carrots. This reduces waste and creates new plants for the environment!
2. Fill the bottom of a shallow dish or plate with water and place it somewhere that gets sunlight.
3. Place the carrot tops on the plate, ensuring that the bottoms are covered with water, but they are not completely submerged.
4. Keep an eye on the level of water for the carrots and top up when needed.
5. Watch your carrot tops begin to sprout roots.
6. Once your carrots have tall roots, they are ready to plant in soil to take care of and grow!



Happy growing! I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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