



15th December 2023

Dear Merry Hill Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful week! Our Nursery and Reception children really impressed us all with their singing and acting this week. They looked wonderful in their costumes and delivered their lines with such loud voices, putting on a fantastic show! We are so proud of them all!

Next Monday at 09:00 and 14:00, we look forward to welcoming our KS1 parents and carers to hear the children sing. Please remember our 'Celebrating Success' event takes place after the singing, providing a wonderful opportunity to visit the children's classroom and share their learning journey. Try asking the children to share a piece of learning which makes them proud as this will encourage them to talk openly about their learning.

We are delighted to inform you that Merry Hill featured in the DSPL9's *Gallery of Awesomeness*, for our exceptional work supporting children with SEND. DSPL is a Hertfordshire-wide partnership approach where parents, staff in early years settings and schools, further education colleges, local authority officers and representatives from other agencies, work together as part of an Area Group, reviewing and developing the range of provision and support services available to their local community. Our local area group is DSPL9. This recognition highlights our ongoing efforts to provide adaptive resources and support for our pupils. We appreciate the acknowledgement of our commitment to fostering an inclusive learning environment.

On Tuesday we received a visit from Watford Fire Brigade as part of Year 2's History topic 'The Great Fire of London'. We had learnt about the firefighting equipment from 1666 so we were able to compare it with the equipment used today, it has changed dramatically! Did you know they didn't have a fire brigade in 1666 so Londoners had to fight the fire using buckets of water, water squirts and fire hooks? The children were all pleased that we have the fire brigade to keep us safe today and we learnt some important strategies about what to do in the event of a fire. Thank you to Watford Fire Brigade for visiting our school and helping to keep us safe!



A December staff advent calendar has become a much loved tradition here at Merry Hill. Each day a staff name is drawn and a special treat is awarded as a thank you to our amazing team. We have been very fortunate this year to have a few additional surprises from some local businesses so we would like to extend a warm thank you to K&Bs Nails, Vincenzo Pizza, Salon41, Sadie's massage, Antonia's Fitness and Barracuda Bushey.

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This year we have a very special four legged friend drawing names which has certainly added to the excitement!



'Healthy Learners' – *how we ensure we are ready to learn*

Online Safety

EA Sports FC 24

With Christmas fast approaching and this game being highly popular, we wanted to share some online safety tips to support use of this game.

EA Sports FC 24 has been rated as PEGI 3, which means it is suitable for those over the age of 3. However, you need to be aware that the game does include in-app purchases and users can interact with each other.

EA Sports FC 24 was released in September and is a rebranding for the EA FIFA series. It is available to play across a series of platforms.

As players can communicate with others, your child may be exposed to inappropriate language and other risks involved when online interaction takes place. At Merry Hill, we teach the children to speak to a trusted adult when they encounter anything that does not feel right. Please ensure your child knows to do the same at home and that you report any misuse of the programme to EA Sports. We would recommend switching the chat facility off to ensure thorough safeguarding of your child if they are using this programme.

'Curious Learners' – *what we learn*

Please click on the link below to have a peek at some of the wonderful learning that has taken place in your child's classroom this week:

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

'Collaborative Learners' – *our place in the world*

Chanukah Assembly

Last Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome Rabbi Feldman from Bushey United Synagogue to lead an assembly about Chanukah, the Jewish festival of light. Rabbi Feldman recounted the story of the miracle behind Chanukah and how Jewish people all over the world celebrate this festival for eight days. The children were lucky enough to see three Menorahs, one of which uses olive oil instead of candles, as well as learning that Jewish people play with dreidels and eat foods cooked in oil, such as doughnuts, to

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celebrate. We are very grateful that Rabbi Feldman was able to spare the time to visit us and thank him and Bushey United Synagogue for teaching us – we learnt so much from you, Rabbi! We hope that all of our Jewish families who celebrated last week had a Chanukah Sameach/Happy Chanukah!



Cost of Living

Every week, we aim to feature a suggestion for a free (or inexpensive) family activity that you can enjoy together. If anyone has any tips or ideas of free or inexpensive activities you would like to share with our community, please let the office know. I hope you find these activities enjoyable and valuable for quality time together.

Royal Air Force Museum London

What:

As the weather turns colder, some indoor fun is often sought! Try The Royal Air Force Museum, which offers a fun, entertaining day out for all the family. The Royal Air Force Museum London is located on the site of the former Hendon Aerodrome in Hendon. Entry is free and they are open daily from 10.00am.

Please use the link to book: <https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/>

Where:

RAF Museum London
Grahame Park Way
NW9 5LL



Have a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes

Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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