



Merry Hill

Infant School and Nursery

Headteacher: Ms. Melissa Adams MA, NPQH

15th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had another wonderful week here at Merry Hill, filled with exciting highlights including the book fair, Parent consultations, and Children in Need! It was fantastic to see the children bring a splash of colour to school today, wearing bright socks with their uniforms in support of this important cause. While we are not collecting donations directly, families are welcome to contribute through the official Children in Need website. Thank you for helping us raise awareness together!

A special highlight this week was the grand opening of the artistic Christmas tree display at the Atria in Watford. It was so lovely to see the children's incredible artwork proudly showcased. The Mayor officiated the event, and we were thrilled to have a fantastic representation of the children whose work was selected. Their proud, happy faces said it all! A big thank you to Mrs. Glekin for organising and liaising with the Atria team to make this event such a success. If you have not yet had the chance, I highly encourage you to visit the Atria and admire the beautiful tree display—it is a festive and inspiring sight.

Book Fair

It was fantastic to see so many of you attending the book fair this week and watching the children happily browsing the collection of books! A portion of the proceeds will go directly towards new books for our school, so thank you for your generous support. Don't forget—the last day of the fair is today after school, from 3:15-4:15pm, we hope to see you there!

'Curious Learners' – *what we learn*

Remembrance Assembly – Monday Morning

On Monday 11th November, we held a special Remembrance Assembly to show our respect and gratitude to families past and present who have made sacrifices for our freedom today. We were thrilled to be joined by many of our military families; 2 parents attended in their uniform, proudly displaying their medals, and talked to the children about their role in the military. The assembly focused on answering the important questions of who, when, how and why do we remember. The children from our military families recited the poem "Poppy Poppy" beautifully, to remind us of the significance of the poppy in this time of remembrance.

Following the assembly, our Year 2 children and forces families walked to the War Memorial to lay a wreath. The children made us very proud throughout the morning, demonstrating respect and thoughtful reflection. Our sincere thanks to Mr Hamilton-Burke, Mr Murray and all of our military families for giving their time to this special occasion.



A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space



Year Group Blogs

Each week the class teachers post blogs, which enable you to find out more about our education 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/>

'Ambitious Learners' – how we act when we learn

This Week's Focus: The Golden Rule – 'We are kind and helpful'

Team Points Focus: Courteous Behaviour

We continue to have a weekly focus when awarding Team Points. This week's focus is on courteous behaviour. It is wonderful to see our children actively demonstrating kindness and helpfulness and the recognition from our team is helping to reinforce these positive behaviours. Please support us by praising and reinforcing these behaviours at home.

11.11.24	<p>Courteous – Someone who has good manners and is polite.</p> <p>We are looking for children who are holding doors open, using please and thank you in the classroom and dining hall.</p> <p>GR We are kind and helpful</p>	 <p>courteous</p>
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'Collaborative Learners' – our place in the world

It is with mixed emotions that I share the news that Dr. Ruddock, who has served on our Governing Board for the past three years, has decided to step down as his term comes to an end. Dr. Ruddock has been an invaluable member of our school community, and his contributions during his time as a Governor have been truly transformative.

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As a member of the Curriculum Committee, Dr. Ruddock played a pivotal role in supporting our SEND team and was instrumental in helping us achieve the prestigious Inclusion Award. His close collaboration with Mrs. Summers, our Inclusion Lead, has greatly enriched our approach to supporting an inclusive environment for all our pupils.

Dr. Ruddock has been a driving force behind our Black History Month celebrations each October, continually inspiring our community to embrace and celebrate diversity. He has been instrumental in guiding us towards achieving the Anti-Racist Award, a reflection of our dedication to creating a fully inclusive and respectful environment. I look forward to sharing the fantastic news in the coming months that we have successfully earned this recognition.

Fortunately, this is not goodbye as Dr. Ruddock remains an active parent, friend, and enthusiastic member of our Merry Hill family. Though he is stepping away from his Governor responsibilities, his larger-than-life personality and warm welcoming greetings will continue to brighten our mornings. His passion and dedication to our school will undoubtedly remain as strong as ever, and we look forward to continuing this next chapter with him.

On behalf of the entire Merry Hill community, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Ruddock for his years of service, leadership, and unwavering support.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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