



16th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the rest and rejuvenation that comes with the half-term break (perhaps more so for staff).

Prior to our return, I want to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to the dedicated staff and governors for their unwavering support this term, particularly to myself during a challenging time of personal loss. Your kindness and understanding have been a source of immense comfort, and I am truly grateful for your compassion.

While I have remained connected and engaged remotely, with SLT, Governors, and through letters and newsletters, there is simply no substitute for the joy of being at Merry Hill in person. I look forward to seeing everyone's smiling faces at the gate on Monday morning, which begins our days and makes our school community so vibrant.

As we prepare to return from half term, let us cherish the time spent with loved ones, recharge our batteries, and look forward to the exciting times ahead. I cannot wait to see you all soon and to continue our journey of learning and growth together.

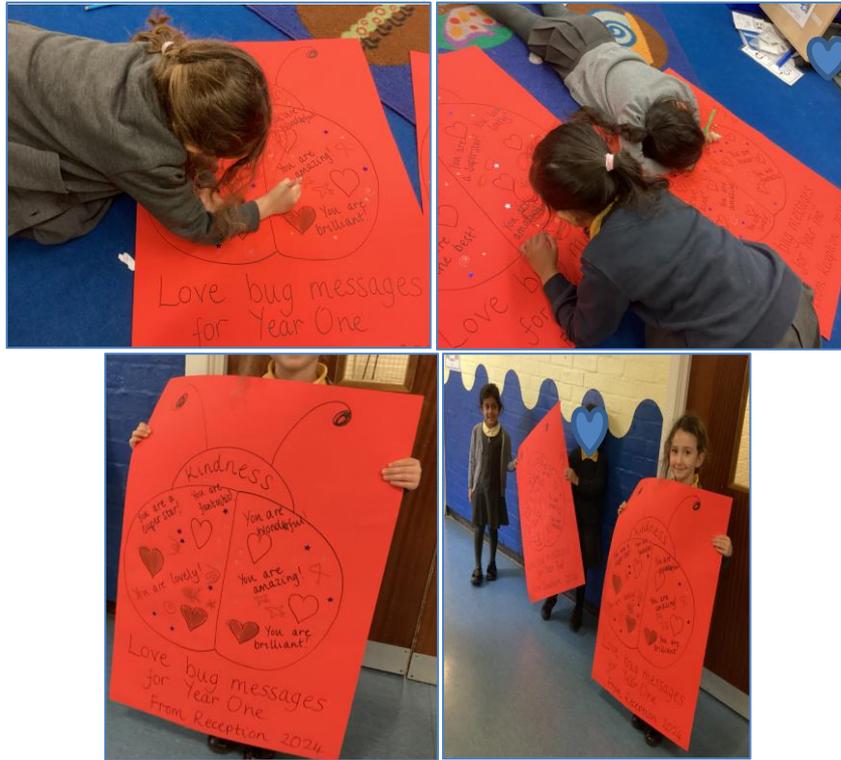
What's been happening at Merry Hill this week?

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our parent consultations this week, thank you for taking the time.

This week our Year 2 children visited St Peter's Church. Their behaviour was impeccable and our Curious Learners asked very insightful questions. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who supported the children during the trip, we are extremely grateful for your time.

Saturday 17th February marks Random Acts of Kindness Day which serves as a reminder that small gestures of kindness have the power to change the world. In honour of this day, our Reception children have been practising their writing skills by creating kindness notes and sending a love bug to children in other classes.

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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*

Shrove Tuesday

This week we were delighted to welcome Fiona Penny from the Watford Schools Trust to talk to the children about Shrove Tuesday. For KS1 Mrs Penny shared a rather funny video of a person making pancakes without following any recipe instructions – he even left the eggshell in the frying pan! Needless to say, the pancakes did not turn out well at all. The key message in the assembly was that his family still loves him and they shared the pancakes that they then made with him because love and forgiveness is important.

A few of the children had a go at flipping the pancakes, while we counted how many flips they could do in 1 minute. It was lots of fun!

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The children in Reception learnt that Lent is a time where Christians might choose to lead a more simple life. It is a time for people to say sorry for the mistakes they have made and start a clean slate. We hope you enjoyed your pancakes this week if you had them at home.

Inspirational Community News

Ann Phillpot, our wonderful volunteer KS1 reader, has learnt to play the drums in her retirement, after being inspired by Owain Wyn Evans taking part in the BBC Children in Need Drumathon last year. Ann recently took her drumming exams and passed with a merit! We would like to congratulate Ann on this wonderful achievement!



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.

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"What's On?" IN THE AREA



WILDPLAY THIS FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Join us this February for a
FREE Wild Play session
Leavesden Country Park

Ideal for children aged 2-9 years.

Thursday 22 February
10am – 11.30am
Leavesden Country Park
1, College Rd, Abbots Langley WD5 0NX
Meeting Point: One YMCA Woodlands Cafe

Join Groundwork East during February half-term to take part in fun outdoor activities. Learn more about your local surroundings and nature using arts, crafts, nature games and other activities.

Suitable for under 8's, but older siblings are welcome.

Rachel.rice@groundwork.org.uk

T: 07809 201254

[FREE Wild Play - Leavesden Tickets, Thu 22 Feb 2024 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Harebreaks Recreation Ground

New adventure park for children aged 5 to 15.

Lots of fun activities including:

- 12 metre tower among the trees with 2 slides
 - climbing wall
 - netted area for scrambling



Kids Eat for Free

Morrisons – spend £4.49 and get one free kid's meal all day, every day

M&S Café – free kids meal when an adult spends £5 available from until 24 February

Sainsbury's Cafes – kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main from 11.30am every day

ASDA – kids eat free for £1 all day, every day with no adult spend required

Pausa Café @ Dunelm – kids get one mini main, two snacks and a drink for free with every £4 spent after 3pm

IKEA – kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

Tesco – kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+ from 12 February - 23 February



GAME ON
Sports Coaching



FREE multi-sports courses this half term
Sports fun, games and matches with friends in an enjoyable and safe environment
Daily courses for children in Years 1-6 running from 9.00 am to 2.30 pm throughout the half-term holiday

Every year in February half-term we offer all our courses **FREE OF CHARGE** to children of selected Game On Schools:

Coates Way
Bushey Manor
Highwood

[Holiday Courses February](#)
(gameonsportscoaching.co.uk)



PLAY RANGERS

Join the play rangers for building camp fires, toasting marshmallows, creating woodland crafts, climbing trees, rope swings and lots more outdoor fun!

During our sessions children and young people are encouraged to explore their local woodland and open spaces, where they can play freely.

Play rangers sessions are **FREE** and take place 4-6pm every weekday during term time.

Harwoods Adventure Playground

- double zip wire
- play tower with mid-air tunnel and slide
- climbing wall
- tower, accessed via a wibbly-wobbly bridge
- equipment that creates music and sounds to create a sensory experience that all young people can enjoy.



I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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Herts Parent Carer Involvement
www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk

Mind Hertfordshire Network

Carers in Hertfordshire

ADD-vance
The ADHD and Autism Trust

POTENTIAL KIDS

Angels

SPACE

Herts Disability Sports Foundation

Click here to register

Hear what our guest speakers can offer you!

NHS Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

ISL Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire SEND 0-25 years Hertfordshire's Local Offer

HPCI AIS Parent Carer Webinar

Wednesday 13th March 2024 - 10.00am-12.30pm

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