



16th January 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Our new nursery children have settled into school life beautifully. They are already becoming confident in routines, building positive relationships with adults and peers, and engaging enthusiastically in their learning. They have been helped by our very confident and well-established nursery children who have acted as excellent role models demonstrating and explaining the Merry Hill Way. Across the school, all children have returned settled, focused and ready to learn. While the first term is always about settling in, learning routines and building strong foundations, this term allows us to really stretch and challenge the children, building on what they already know and supporting them to make strong academic progress. We are very proud of how well the children have adapted and look forward to seeing their confidence and learning continue to grow.

Teaching, Learning and Progress

This week SLT have been involved in lesson observations as part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring that every child at Merry Hill receives the very best education.

We regularly look at the whole picture of children's learning, which includes:

- Lesson observations
- Book looks
- Pupil voice
- Pupil progress meetings

Together, these help us understand how children are learning, what is working well, and where adaptations may be needed.

Lesson observations across the school have focused on **adaptive teaching** and how staff make learning accessible and inclusive for all pupils. This allows us to share good practice, support staff development, and ensure teaching meets the needs of every child.

Next week we will be holding pupil progress meetings. These meetings give teachers and leaders the opportunity to analyse data carefully, discuss each child's progress, and plan next steps. This ensures that children are supported appropriately and that any additional needs are identified early. Our aim is always to ensure that all children are making progress and reaching their potential.

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.

Last term we began 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

Team Points Focus:

- **EYFS:** *We watch and listen carefully and know what to do.*
- **KS1:** *We are attentive and act on what we have heard.*

Children across the school are being recognised for demonstrating these skills, and it has been lovely to see them applying this focus in lessons, assemblies and daily routines.

A Learning Place

Topic maps and knowledge organisers have been completed and will be shared with you via Tapestry for our Nursery and Reception children, and via Seesaw for our Year 1 and 2 children.

These documents will show you what your child is learning in school and provide useful discussion points and ideas to support learning at home.

A Growing Space

Memorial Tree and Assembly

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we held a tree planting ceremony on Tuesday to welcome a memorial tree into our school grounds. This special tree has been planted in memory of Zach Barnes and will stand as a lasting symbol of love, remembrance and kindness within our school community.

The children took part in a short, age-appropriate assembly, which was approached with great care and sensitivity. The focus was on compassion, remembering loved ones and supporting one another, reflecting the values we hold dear at Merry Hill. The children were very respectful throughout and demonstrated maturity, empathy and kindness during this meaningful occasion.

Have a lovely weekend, everyone.

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

PS: Please see information below about a new Yoga class taking place at Merry Hill with discounts for parents & staff, and the local panto for families to enjoy.

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NEW YOGA CLASS

WED 6.30PM BUSHEY



REVITALIZE WITH YOGA

Find balance, strength, and inner peace in our energizing
Yoga Class.

- Merry Hill Infants School, Bushey
- Wednesdays 6:30pm 1 hour hatha yoga
- £8 per person *
- £2 off discount for parents/staff of Merry Hill School
- You must pre-book online spaces are limited

www.marymclellanyoga.com

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