



Merry Hill

Infant School and Nursery

Headteacher: Ms. Melissa Adams MA, NPQH

Friday 17th April 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

We were delighted to launch our new Chess Club at Merry Hill this week and what a fantastic start it has been! I was so impressed by the six children who joined the very first session. They showed wonderful focus, patience, and a real eagerness to learn. It was lovely to see them already beginning to develop their skills, thinking carefully about their moves and supporting one another along the way. There is clearly some brilliant strategic thinking in the making, and I cannot wait to see how their confidence and competence continue to grow over the coming weeks

School environment

Mr Johnson has been exceptionally busy over the school holidays, further developing and enriching our outdoor environment. He has created a new planting bed for our Year 2 children and, with the help of Sol, who kindly came in over the holiday to support a special project, introduced tadpoles into a carefully prepared habitat at the back of the forest area. This has already sparked great excitement, curiosity, and wonder among the children. Mr Johnson has also installed energy-saving lighting to help reduce our overall energy consumption. These additions will provide valuable opportunities for exploration while supporting our commitment to sustainability.



A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

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The Early Years team have also been hard at work, thoughtfully extending the outdoor provision to offer even more opportunities for learning and play. Among the enhancements is a post office, where children are enjoying writing letters and delivering them around the school, as well as an artist's studio, which is currently being developed to further inspire creativity and imagination.

The area looks fantastic, and it has been wonderful to see how engaged and enthusiastic the children are in this increasingly rich and stimulating environment.



A Happy Face

The Merry Hill Way remains at the heart of our school community, and it has been lovely to see the children consistently living out our expectations in all areas of school life. Each half term

Team points:

EYFS: We recognise the different strengths other people have

KS1: We pay compliments acknowledge the strengths and differences of others

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A Learning Place

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 more:

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

Mastering Number Packs

Each year group across the school has now received their final *Mastering Number* pack. If you are still playing the games at home, please do continue to do so and send the diaries in once you have completed each week. This additional maths practice has a significant impact on children's confidence and fluency with number, helping to strengthen their understanding and support their progress in the classroom. Thank you for your continued support.

A Growing Space

Purple Up Day

Next Friday, 24th April, we will be celebrating the military children within our community in recognition of April as the *Month of the Military Child*. We kindly ask that children wear a **purple accessory** to school on this day.

We would also like to invite any military parents who are available to come into school for one of our Q&A sessions to please contact the school office as soon as possible. The children greatly value the opportunity to meet military personnel in uniform and always enjoy asking questions and learning more about their experiences.

Warm regards,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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Essex Fire Museum

There is a family open day coming up at the Essex Fire Museum on: Sunday 26th April.

There will be opportunities for families to get involved in history trails around the museum, spot hazards in our fire safety room, partake in craft activities, sit on our fire engines (and squirt water 😊).

The museum is free entry (but visits are by appointment only.....as we are on the site of an operational fire station). If families are interested, could they please make a booking via Eventbrite:

[Essex Fire Museum Open Day Tickets, Sunday 26 April • 10:30 - 16 | Eventbrite](#)

Suggested last admissions are 2.30pm. This is just so that people have enough time to experience everything on site.

Essex Fire Museum

Open Days

2026


Sunday 26th Of April

10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS

Book Now >

Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

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