



17th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to those of you who attended our 'Phonics and Reading' workshops this week. Your involvement plays a vital role in supporting your child's learning journey, and we were delighted to share with you how we teach phonics and reading here at Merry Hill. For anyone unable to attend, please click on the link below which will take you to the relevant section on our website. Here you will find written information about how we teach phonics at school using ELS as our programme provider, along with a video offering further explanation. There are also suggested reading lists for each year group. If you have any queries or require further support, please come into the school office or send us an email so we can arrange a time to meet with you.


<https://merryhill.org.uk/our-learning-community/our-curriculum/english/>

'Ambitious Learners' – how we act when we learn

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

Team Points Focus: Good manners – saying "Please"

This term we will further develop the children's manners by focusing on a specific manner each week. This week we will praise the children and award team points for children saying **"Please"** when asking for something (without any prompting and particularly when choosing their lunch).

13.1.25	<p>"Please" – When asking for something say please.</p> <p>We are looking for children who say "please" without being prompted especially when choosing their dinner.</p> <p>GR We are kind and helpful</p>	
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'Curious Learners' – what we learn

Early Years Advisory Visit

We were pleased to have a visit from Nicki Waller, our Early Years Advisor, who had some very positive feedback for our team. She complimented the staff on their excellent interactions with the children, noting that it is always a privilege to visit Merry Hill. Her kind words reflect the dedication and commitment of our staff in creating a nurturing and engaging learning environment for every child.

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

At Merry Hill, we work closely with external advisors to continually improve our provision. This partnership provides us with expert guidance, resources, and training to ensure that we are providing the very best learning experiences. Our team is always eager to learn and grow, seeking new ways to further support our pupils' development and well-being.

We believe that by being proactive in seeking external advice and reflecting on our practice, we can continuously enhance the learning environment and the outcomes for all our children. We are proud of the work we do, but we are always striving to be the best, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive.

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 see the wonderful learning that has taken place over the week.

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

'Collaborative Learners' – our place in the world

Parent Partnership

Here at Merry Hill we place great emphasis on parent partnership, knowing the impact you all have on your child's learning. Research tells us that the most important learning opportunities occur through conversations and play between the child and others at home. Over the next few weeks, we will suggest some ideas and activities which will help to promote language and literacy such as conversation topics, pretend play ideas and sharing books.

As we have held a phonics and reading workshop at school this week, let's start with sharing a book at home. Encourage your child to choose the book and spend time discussing what is happening in the story, modelling pointing at the words and asking your child to turn the pages. Please watch this very short (1.27 min) video to see a mother and her son interact while sharing a book.

<https://www.nhs.uk/start-for-life/toddler/learning-to-talk/learning-conversations-and-telling-stories-3-to-5-years/#video-read-and-talk-about-books-together>

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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