



17th November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, during our Welcome to Merry Hill tours, the SLT team took great pride in showcasing our school to prospective parents. The children confidently demonstrated excellent learning behaviours, approaching tasks with great determination and taking genuine pride in their learning. In a delightful moment, a child from Reception, stood back allowing a group of adults to access the outside space, despite his eagerness to play out there. One of our Early Years ambitions is, "All children will consistently use good manners," and I believe you'll agree that children are well on their way to achieving this goal. Additionally, some of our young performers had the pleasure of singing in front of the visitors, adding a touch of awe to the tours.

Love of Reading

We are passionate about our pupils at Merry Hill developing a life-long love of reading and were delighted to see so many of you at our Book Fair this week. Not only does the opportunity to browse books and choose one that piques your interest develop this love, but buying the books from the Book Fair also supports our school. We receive rewards based on the amount spent, allowing us to invest in additional books for our school. Thank you very much for your support.

This week, our reception children from Elephant class visited Bushey library. They were wonderful representatives of our school out in the community but most importantly, they absolutely loved their library experience. Please do sign up to the local library if you have not already done so. The awe and wonder on the children's faces when immersed in a world of books is fantastic. There are also events that take place which are really worth looking into. Please click on the link below for further information:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/events-and-things-to-do/library-events.aspx>

Do not forget our 'Surprise Reader' event, which takes place every Wednesday. The children absolutely love this event with the added excitement of discovering who is reading their book! If you would like to take part, please sign up using your Scopay account.

'Healthy Learners' – how we ensure we are ready to learn

Anti-Bullying Week (Monday 13th –Friday 17th November)

This year's theme, 'Make a Noise' about Bullying, has been a focal point at Merry Hill. In our Monday assembly, we emphasised the celebration of differences within our school community, highlighting that life would be rather dull if we were all exactly the same. We instil in our children the understanding that it's good to be different and that they should actively stand up against bullying. To facilitate this, it is important our Learning Community have a shared understanding of bullying so that we can all tell the difference between bullying and one off unkind behaviour.

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

Our child friendly definition of bullying that we use here at Merry Hill is: “People doing nasty or unkind things to you on purpose, over and over again, which is difficult to stop.”

In addition to our commitment to anti-bullying efforts, we recognise the importance of teaching conflict resolution in our school. Equipping children with the skills to address conflicts positively contributes to a more harmonious environment. By incorporating conflict resolution strategies into our curriculum, we empower our young learners to navigate disagreements and foster a culture of understanding and cooperation.

With everyone in the community coming together to encourage kindness and raising awareness about bullying, we can send a powerful message and make a positive impact. Thank you for your ongoing support in reinforcing this crucial message and promoting a safe and inclusive environment for our pupils.

‘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*

Governor Coffee Morning

On behalf of the governing board, we would like to extend our appreciation to all the parents who were able to attend the recent coffee morning. We wanted to take this opportunity to share the roles of the governing board:

Strategic Leadership: The governors play a crucial role in setting the strategic direction of the school, ensuring that the vision and ethos are in line with the best interests of our pupils at Merry Hill.

Accountability: Governors are responsible for holding the school leadership accountable for the educational performance and financial management of the school. This ensures that we maintain the highest standards and provide the best possible learning environment for our pupils.

Community Engagement: The governing board acts as a bridge between the school and the community, fostering strong relationships to ensure the school’s decisions align with the needs and expectations of our parents and carers.

During the coffee morning, we had the pleasure of engaging in some open discussions. The conversation centred on important topics parents brought forward such as; wrap around care, how to further promote and celebrate diversity and inclusion, pupil premium funding and how we can enhance and support our forces families. Several parents also praised the school’s communication systems, recent playground improvements and the positive transition arrangements that Merry Hill has established in collaboration with Ashfield. These arrangements aim to support our Year 2 pupils who transition from our school at the end of the academic year.

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Particularly noteworthy was the excellent feedback regarding the utilization of pupil premium funding. It is very welcome to know that our efforts in this area are making a positive impact on the academic and extracurricular opportunities for our pupils.

Thank you everyone who attended and for your valuable feedback. We look forward to having further coffee mornings with you.

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.

Bhaktivedanta Manor

What:

The manor is a spiritual sanctuary spread over 78 acres of land with plentiful gardens, an organic farm, and a protected herd of cows, a temple, a monastery and a community of spiritual seekers! There are many things to get involved in too. The manor welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to look around their beautiful temple and grounds. If you are a new visitor, they recommend booking a tour. The tour will last about an hour and you will visit the main building and grounds including the temple, cow protection centre, gardens and woodland walk. Tours are free and available every day. Click on the link below to book:

<https://www.krishnatemple.com/visit/>

Where:

Bhaktivedanta Manor
Hilfield Lane
Watford WD25 8EZ
(for sat-nav please use WD25 8HE)

Contact number: 01923 851 000

Please note that Bhaktivedanta Manor is only accessible via Hilfield Lane, off Sandy Lane. There is no access to the Manor from Letchmore Heath village.

When:

Visiting times: Mon – Sat 10.00am – 1.00pm and 4.00pm – 7.30pm | Sun 10.00am – 7.30pm



I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

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Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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GET READY FOR
CHANUKAH
WITH
NORWOOD



NORWOOD NIGHT PARTY:
Edible Dreidels, Cool Chanukah Crafts,
Fizz Kids Disco, Doughnuts, Chanukah Gift Fair

£10 children • £6 adults
Carers and babies under 1 year free

Everyone is welcome, this is an accessible and inclusive event

BOOK NOW
norwood.org.uk/norwoodnight23
or scan the QR code for tickets



WHEN
Sunday
3rd December
3.00 – 5.00 pm
Ideal for children under 11

WHERE
Borehamwood
Herts
WD6

Event Partner: **PJ Library**

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