



Merry Hill

Infant School and Nursery

Headteacher: Ms. Melissa Adams MA, NPQH

17th October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the final week of this half term, it feels like the perfect moment to reflect on what a positive and productive start to the year it has been. The children have settled beautifully into their new classes, embracing routines and showing real enthusiasm for learning.

This term also marks the successful launch of our new behaviour curriculum, **The Merry Hill Way**. It has been wonderful to see how naturally the children are beginning to use the language of our three rules '**Ready, Respectful and Safe**' in their day-to-day learning and play. Teachers have been explicitly teaching pro-social behaviours such as sharing, turn-taking and problem-solving, as well as helping children to recognise and manage their feelings using our "feeling words".

The calm, purposeful atmosphere around school is a credit to both our pupils and staff, and we are delighted by how confidently children are demonstrating our core values of inclusion, responsibility, resilience and communication. Thank you for the way you are supporting *The Merry Hill Way* at home; together, we are helping every child to feel happy, secure and ready to learn.

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.

This Autumn, our focus is on 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.

This week we have focused on the rule **Safe**:

- **EYFS** – *We know who to ask for help when we need it*
- **KS1** – *We are confident to ask questions for clarification*

These skills are central to children's emotional wellbeing — helping them to feel safe, confident, and supported when facing new challenges.

A Learning Place

On Wednesday, we welcomed Reception parents and carers for our Phonics and Reading meeting. Mrs Ineson and Mrs Summers led an informative session in the hall before Miss Reuben demonstrated a live phonics lesson with the children; this was a wonderful way to show how early reading is taught at Merry Hill. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this valuable workshop.

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

Next week, on Wednesday 22nd October at 9.00 am, we will hold the Phonics and Reading meeting for KS1. We look forward to seeing many of you there as we continue to share strategies to support reading at home.

A Growing Space

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/>

FoMH

On Monday evening, I attended the Friends of Merry Hill committee meeting. We met via Zoom to ensure everyone could take part, and it was such a positive and uplifting discussion. A big thank you to Mrs Khanderia for leading the meeting so brilliantly and to Miss Bullock for organising everything so smoothly. We are also very grateful to Mrs Bahia, Mr Ravigan, Mrs Webster, Mrs Jenkins, Miss McClymont, Mrs Hayes-Hall, and Miss Coxall for joining and for their continued commitment to supporting and helping our events and activities run so successfully.

The committee were busy discussing everyone's roles and responsibilities and whilst we are still looking for someone to take on the role of **Chair**, the team work together so seamlessly that it all seems to run like clockwork! That said, if you're interested in getting more involved, it is a wonderful opportunity to join a friendly and supportive team.

We talked through the exciting events planned for this year, and the highlight will undoubtedly be our **Winter Fair**, taking place at Merry Hill on **Friday 6th December from 11am–2pm**. This is always one of the most magical days of the year, children visiting the grotto, parents enjoying a mulled wine (and possibly some churros this year!) and a real sense of festive joy throughout the school. The fair can only happen with your support, so please do sign up to help run a stall or lend a hand on the day. Every little bit makes a difference!

The committee is also working closely with the school to decide how best to spend the funds raised. We are very fortunate to be in a good financial position at the moment, which allows us to invest in wonderful things for the children to enjoy. A few years ago, a significant contribution went towards our playground, and I have to say that, compared to many other schools, Merry Hill's play spaces are truly exceptional. With your continued support, we'll keep making our school the very best it can be, a place full of opportunities, fun and happy memories for our children.

Please **pencil in the Winter Fair date** and do not forget, this **Friday evening is Movie Night!** Children are invited to come along in their cosiest pyjamas, bring a friend, and enjoy a relaxed film night together. It is sure to be a lovely way to end the week.

If you are interested in joining the Friends of Merry Hill or stepping into the Chair role, please do get in touch, the team would love to welcome you!

Welcome to Merry Hill Tours

Finally, a reminder that on Tuesday 21st October at 9.00 am, we will host our first Welcome to Merry Hill Tour for families with children starting Nursery or Reception in January or September 2026. Please do spread the word — we are always proud to showcase the warmth and excellence that make Merry Hill such a special place to grow and learn.

Have a wonderful weekend!

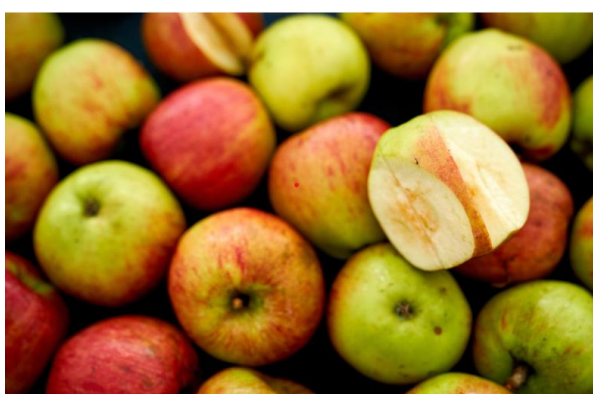
A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

Shenley Park Apple Day
12.00-4.00pm on Sunday 19th October
Walled Garden, Shenley Park WD7 9DW

**Celebrating all things apple, our annual apple day event in the Walled Garden.
Many unusual varieties of apple to try and buy, apple juice, produce, craft
stalls & childrens activities. Entrance £1 per person, under 3's free.**



Scouts 
64th Bushey & Oxhey
Scout Group

TESCO
**Stronger
Starts.**

Please vote.

64th Bushey and Oxhey Scout Group has been selected for the Tesco Stronger Starts grant towards the development of our outdoor space.

The grant will enable us to transform the Scout Hut's outdoor space into a sustainable, practical, and safe environment, empowering leaders to deliver high-quality Scouting programmes that enhance young people's knowledge and experiences.

If you are shopping at the Tesco branches listed, please ask for a token and vote for us!

Bushey Heath Express,
WD23 1EL
Leavesden Watford Express,
WD5 0BT
South Oxhey Express,
WD19 6EG
Shenley Express,
WD7 9LP
Watford Extra,
WD17 2BD
Watling Street Radlett Express,
WD7 7LA
Watford Express,
WD25 0EL
Harcourt Road Express,
WD23 3PP
Watford Whipendell Express,
WD18 7NB
Watford Street Albans Road Express,
WD24 4AU
Watford High Street Express,
WD17 2BU
Watford Langley Express,
WD17 4BU

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