



18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the close of another wonderful year at Merry Hill, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to every member of our school community. This year has been filled with exciting learning, friendship and memorable experiences. Our children have demonstrated remarkable resilience, creativity and dedication and I could not be prouder of each and every one of them.

The Year 2 Leavers Show was absolutely wonderful! The children delivered an incredible performance that brought big smiles and more than a few tears! It was a wonderful way to celebrate their journey as they prepare to move to the next stage of their education. Seeing their growth and achievements has been incredible and we are very proud of each and every one of them. We wish our year 2 children the very best for the future and look forward to watching them continue to flourish in their next school be it at Ashfield Junior School or another school.

Today we say goodbye to Ms Din, who has been a wonderful member of our team. During her time with us, she has led targeted interventions, built strong relationships with the children and supported many to grow in confidence and independence. Through her thoughtful scaffolding and encouragement, Ms Din has helped children take ownership of their learning and develop a growth mind set – showing them that mistakes are part of learning and that effort and determination lead to progress.

We are incredibly grateful for all she has contributed and wish her every success in the future. She will be greatly missed!

### **Reflections on the Year**

From the classroom to the playground, it has been a year rich in memorable moments and meaningful progress.

- Our incredible Learning Support Assistants have completed their Supervisors Training, which has greatly enhanced the children's play experience and lunchtime enjoyment.
- We introduced a refreshed geography and history curriculum, rooted in our unique local context. Enriching trips such as our visit to the RAF Museum brought these subjects to life and ignited real curiosity in our learners.
- Behind the scenes, much work went into launching our after-school club, and we are delighted that it has been such a great success—providing extended opportunities for play, learning, and socialising.
- We achieved the Herts Shining Communication Award! This was wonderful recognition of the hard work and dedication of our fantastic team, and the inclusive, communication friendly environment we have created for all our children.
- Our Phonic Screening Check results were 90%! The National average is yet to be officially released but is expected to be around 80%. We are so proud of our amazing Year 1 children!

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Our pupils have demonstrated remarkable resilience and enthusiasm as they explored new learning, formed friendships, and contributed to our school community. Their kindness, creativity, and curiosity continue to inspire us every day.

## Looking Ahead to 2025–26

As we approach the end of another successful school year, we'd like to take a moment to look ahead and share some exciting updates with our school community.

As many of you know, Mr Reid will be retiring in the new academic year. He has been a valued member of our school community, and we will miss his calm presence and dedication. His retirement marks a shift in how we structure some of our operational responsibilities.

In response to the evolving needs of our school including the growth of our wraparound care and extracurricular provision we're delighted to announce that Ms Tooley will be stepping into the role of School Business Manager.

Having previously served as a Financial Assistant, Ms Tooley has already begun taking on additional responsibilities, including aspects of health and safety, premises coordination, and the business operations of our expanding club provision. She has approached this transition with professionalism, ambition, and a deep commitment to our school's values.

This new role reflects both her growth and the direction we're moving in as a school. We're confident she will continue to serve our community with care, efficiency, and vision.

As we look ahead to September, we're also excited to share a few key developments planned for the new academic year:

### Introducing 'The Merry Hill Way' – Our New Behaviour Curriculum

In September, we'll be launching a new whole-school behaviour curriculum. At Merry Hill, we believe behaviour should be taught, just like any other subject. Our new approach will support children in learning positive behaviours through clear strategies, consistent modelling, and plenty of opportunities to practise. Targeted support will be available where needed to ensure every child can succeed.

### A Refreshed Writing Curriculum

We're also excited to introduce a new writing curriculum, centred around high-quality, diverse texts. Our goal is to nurture a genuine love of writing by creating purposeful tasks that connect to real audiences. We can't wait to see our children's creativity and confidence shine through their written work.

### Launching Our Whole-School Sustainability Plan

At Merry Hill, we're committed to building a greener future. This year, we will launch a whole-school sustainability plan with practical, meaningful steps to reduce our environmental impact. From improving recycling practices to embedding sustainability into the curriculum and outdoor learning, we want our children to understand the importance of protecting our planet and feel empowered to take action.

We're incredibly proud of the progress we've made this year and even more excited about what lies ahead.

## Important Dates for Your Diary

- **Start of Autumn Term:** Thursday 4th September 2025
- **INSET Days for Staff:** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

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- Keep an eye on our school website for a full list of key dates and upcoming events.

### Thank You to our Parents and Carers

We extend our sincere appreciation to all our parents and carers. Your consistent support and involvement with school have been crucial to our children's success. Whether through assisting with home learning, participating in school events, being a surprise reader, or simply encouraging your children, your contributions have made a significant impact. Your ongoing partnership and support are the foundation of everything we do and I am so grateful for the wonderfully strong community we have grown here at Merry Hill.

### Thank You to our Staff

I am sure you will join me in expressing a huge thank you to our dedicated staff. Their hard work, passion and commitment to nurturing and educating our children have been outstanding. Each member of our team has played an essential role in creating a positive and enriching environment for our pupils to thrive. We also wish Miss Bates, Miss Stringer and Ms Din all the best in their future endeavours, confident that they will continue to inspire and educate wherever they go. Mr Reid we look forward to seeing you in September, but would like to take this opportunity to thank you for caring for our community and we wish you all the best in your retirement.

### Thank You to our Governors, FoMH and All Volunteers

We would also like to say a huge thank you to our Governors, the FoMH and all our Volunteers. Your leadership, support, and tireless efforts behind the scenes have been invaluable in ensuring our school continues to grow and improve, providing the best possible experience for our pupils.

As we head into the summer break, we hope you all have a restful and enjoyable holiday. Your contributions have been instrumental in our achievements this year and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new school year. Here's to more learning adventures and continued success!

## A Year in Merry Hill Infant School and Nursery

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

Throughout the year, we have seen remarkable growth in emotional literacy amongst our young children. As an inclusive school, we are committed to ensuring all pupils feel safe, supported and ready to learn. We understand that emotional wellbeing is the foundation for effective learning and we work hard to prioritise it across our school community.

This year we have reviewed and reshaped our mindfulness areas, ensuring they are grounded in research and used purposefully to help children regulate their emotions. These spaces play a vital role in helping pupils return to a place of calm and focus, ready to engage in learning.

In addition, we use a range of supportive strategies such as sensory circuits, sensory toolkits and daily check in zones. These help us to understand how children are feeling and allow us to respond proactively. By equipping our children with the language and tools to self-regulate, we are not only supporting their mental health but also empowering them to take ownership of their own wellbeing and learning.

This, coupled with daily exercise, ensures we continue our journey towards a healthier, more resilient community.

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## Clubs

Our clubs add to the wonderful opportunities that we provide for the children. This year the children had the chance to participate in the following clubs:

Football	Gymnastics
Forces Club	French
Rocksteady	Drama
Art Club	Street dance

## Curious Learners – what we learn

This week's blogs celebrate the learning that has taken place over the year. Please click on the link below to see highlights from the year.

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

## Ambitious Learners – how we act when we learn

At Merry Hill, we are committed to nurturing 'Ambitious Learners' through our approach to education. Our team works tirelessly to instil strong learning behaviours: focus, determination, perseverance and collaboration. We teach the children about the importance of the power of 'yet' and have seen so many moments where our children have persevered, adapted and succeeded because they kept going and didn't give up.



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## Collaborative Learners – our place in the world

Our collaborative learners have learnt about and celebrated a variety of cultures. Thank you to our local religious leaders and parents/carers for coming in to talk about their faith and enabling us to visit different places of worship in the community.

We ventured out into the community and learnt more about the world around us. Here is a selection of trip highlights from the year!

### Roald Dahl Museum – Year 2

Year 2 were very excited and full of magic when they began their trip to the Roald Dahl Museum.

They started in the Gallery and were introduced to the world of Roald Dahl. They were shown illusion games to play with and above all the magical TV from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory that transported them onto the screen! There was Fantastic Mr Fox's tunnel, James and the Giant Peach, and even Matilda's reading library! Some of us even got the opportunity to act out parts of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!



### Reveley Lodge – Year 1

The Year 1 children visited Reveley Lodge which is a Victorian home and were very excited to find out more about the Victorian era. They travelled back in time to live like Victorian children and dressed up in traditional Victorian smock dresses and waistcoats.



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### **Paddington Bear Experience - Reception**

The reception trip to the Paddington Experience in London was a real highlight! The children got to ride a train at Paddington station, meet Mrs Brown, explore the Brown's home and visit Peru where they made their own marmalade!



### **Ruislip Lido - Nursery**

Our Nursery children absolutely loved their trip to Ruislip Lido. They went on a train ride, built sandcastles, played on the climbing frames and swings and enjoyed their picnic lunches. What a marvellous first school trip!

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### **RAF Hendon Museum – Year 2**

Our Year 2 children visited the RAF museum in support of their learning about the history of aviation. They explored different hangers and looked at monoplanes, biplanes and triplanes. It was a fantastic hands on day that really brought to life their history learning.



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## Purple Up Day

We were fortunate to have Mr Price come into school and lead some exciting activities in honour of Purple up Day. At Merry Hill, we are very proud of our military children and the resilience they display each and every day and we loved celebrating them on this special occasion.



*"I love playing in the mud kitchen."*

Riaan

*"I loved going to Paddington in London."*

Omrah

*"I have loved playing with all of my friends."*

Emily

*"I loved making our puppets in DT. I made Leo and lion and I still have him at home. It was great fun sowing and I'm going to do some more sowing in the summer holidays."*

Diana

*"I have really enjoyed RE. I loved making the sukkahs in the forest."*

Evie-Rose

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*"I love maths. I like counting in 10s and using the rekenreks."*

Kofi

*"My favourite subjects are history and geography. I loved our trip to Bushey High Street."*

Theo

*"I have loved English because we get to write lots of stories. I loved learning Pumpkin Soup and writing my own story."*

Mia

*"My favourite lesson is Art. I really liked making the clay pumpkins in the style of Yayoi Kusama."*

Rose

*"I have loved playing football with my friends at lunch time."*

Reuben

*"I loved going to the Roald Dahl Gallery and making our own bags."*

Josh

*"I have loved P.E. and learning to play tennis, football and basketball."*

Omari

*"I love the sense of community and passion for learning that makes our school truly special. Have a wonderful summer break, and I hope you return rested and ready for another exciting year!"*

Ms Adams

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