



Merry Hill

Infant School and Nursery

Headteacher: Ms. Melissa Adams MA, NPQH

18th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

At Merry Hill, we believe that the start and end of each day are valuable opportunities to build strong connections with children. Greeting them with a warm smile, making eye contact, and engaging in meaningful conversation shows that we are fully present and there for them. This moment of connection sets a positive tone for the day, helping children feel valued and understood. By stepping away from distractions like mobile phones, we send a clear message that their thoughts and feelings matter. At the end of the day, this connection is just as important, as it gives children the chance to share their experiences, reflect on their learning and feel supported. Through these small but powerful interactions, we foster a sense of belonging, trust, and open communication in our school community. Thank you to all the parents and carers for supporting this and greeting your child with your undivided attention each day.

'Curious Learners' – what we learn

Black History Month

This week, Dr. Ruddock delivered an inspiring assembly in honour of Black History Month. It was a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn about, reflect on, and celebrate the remarkable contributions of Black individuals throughout history. The assembly sparked curiosity and engagement as our pupils explored the achievements and legacies that have shaped the world we live in today.

A Message of Unity and Hope

Our assembly highlighted the importance of Black History Month not only as a time to reflect on the past but also to celebrate the present and look forward to a future grounded in fairness, kindness, and equality. Together, we can continue nurturing values of respect, understanding, and unity in our children, building a community where everyone is treated with dignity.

Thank you for your ongoing support in encouraging these vital conversations at home and in school. We are excited to witness how these early lessons will inspire our children to grow into compassionate, brave, and respectful members of society.

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/>

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

Parent Partnership

In response to parent requests, we have included a link below to remind you of the reading support available on our school website.

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

On this page are reading lists, videos explaining how we teach phonics, a guided demonstration on how to read our phonic books with your child as well as additional videos modelling the pronunciation of sounds within the English language. Our site has been designed to be mobile phone friendly and therefore requires clicking on the plus sign next to the headings to reveal further information. See below:

Essential Letters and Sounds – Information for Parents



Please speak to a member of staff if you require further assistance.

'Ambitious Learners' – *how we act when we learn*

This Week's Focus: The Golden Rule – 'Do Be Honest'

As we continue to focus on building strong, respectful and kind communities at school, we are ensuring the golden rules are securely embedded by focusing on one each week. *Do be honest* is a simple yet powerful rule which guides how we interact with one another and is key to nurturing empathy, understanding and positive relationships. For children, learning to consider others' feelings and perspectives is a crucial part of their emotional and social development.

How you can support at home:

Model the golden rule: children learn by example, so be sure to model kindness and respect in your interactions. When children see you speaking politely to others, showing patience or offering help they are more likely to follow your lead.

Encourage open conversations: ask your child about their day, focusing on how they treated others and how others treated them. These discussions help them reflect on their behaviour and the impact of their actions. Use open ended questions like:

How did you help a friend today?

Did you notice someone being kind to you?

What could you do if you see someone being treated unfairly/unkindly?

Praise acts of kindness: when you notice your child demonstrating the golden rule, acknowledge it. Positive reinforcement encourages them to repeat these actions. Even small gestures like sharing a toy, including someone in a game or offering a compliment should be celebrated.

Practice gratitude and mindfulness: gratitude helps children focus on the positive aspects of their lives, which in turn makes them more compassionate toward others. Simple daily practice like sharing something they are thankful for or pausing to consider someone else's feelings can reinforce the values behind the Golden Rule.

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By supporting your child in applying the golden rule both at home and in school, you are helping them build lifelong values of empathy, respect and kindness. Together we can nurture a community where every child feels valued, understood and cared for.

'Collaborative Learners' – our place in the world

Governor Appointment

We are also thrilled to welcome Ms Campbell, our new parent governor, to our team! As an experienced Assistant Headteacher, she brings invaluable expertise and insights that will greatly enhance our governance. Governors play a crucial role in supporting and challenging the school's leadership, ensuring that we provide the best possible education for our students. They contribute to setting the strategic direction of the school, oversee financial performance, and hold the school accountable for its educational outcomes.

Community Service:

Harvest Collection Success

On Monday, we were proud to hand over many generous donations from our Harvest collection to the Red Trust. The trust was incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support from our school community. Your contributions will make a meaningful difference to those in need, and we want to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who donated.

Upcoming Events

As part of our commitment to supporting charitable causes and raising awareness, we are excited to announce that Merry Hill Infant School will be taking part in two upcoming charity events:

- BBC Children in Need on Friday 15th November
- Save the Children on Wednesday 18th December

At Merry Hill, we are an inclusive school, and recognise the importance of maintaining routines, especially for our children's wellbeing. Research shows that when children's usual routines are significantly disrupted, such as wearing entirely different outfits, it can impact their behaviour and mental health. Studies suggest that routines provide children with a sense of stability and security, helping to regulate emotions and behaviours throughout the day. As a result, we ask that the children continue to wear their usual school uniform on these charity days, with a small, fun twist!

- For BBC Children in Need ('Make life lighter'), children are welcome to wear bright coloured socks alongside their school uniform.
- For Save the Children, we invite children to wear a Christmas or winter-themed jumper on the day.

We also want to clarify that the school will not be holding a collection for these events. If you would like to make a donation, we kindly encourage you to do so directly to the charities. This way, all children can participate, and families can contribute in their own way and at their own convenience, without any financial pressure.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to sharing these special days with the children and helping to make a positive difference for those in need.

Have a wonderful and restful weekend.

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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October Half-Term

26 October - 3 November 2024

Join us this October half-term for a fun-filled family-friendly week of arts and crafts topped off with a spooky family Halloween day on Saturday.

Discover more at discoverbucksmuseum.org
or scan the QR code



26 October - 3 November

- Explore our sensory dark den
- Add to our Halloween mural in our Tudor room

- Spot the ten Halloween monsters hidden in the museum

Monday 28 October – Modroc Mummies (5-11yrs)

Tuesday 29 October – Spooky Science (5-11yrs)

Wednesday 30 October - Let's Celebrate: Diwali Diyas (5-11yrs)

Thursday 31 October – Trick or treat in the oldest building in Aylesbury! Don't forget to dress to impress! (3-11yrs)

Friday 1 November – Young Creatives: Halloween Writing (7-13yrs) & Autumn Collage (3-11yrs)

Saturday 2 November – Spooky Stories & Crafts (3-11yrs)

Show off your best Halloween costumes, enjoy spooky stories and get crafty with our seasonal crafts.

Prices range from £3 - £5 per participant.

Make a day of it and visit the *Roald Dahl Children's Gallery* and the rest of the Museum including the *May The Toy Be With You* exhibition while you're here. We're now open Sundays 12pm - 4pm as well.



May The Toys Be With You on until 3 November 2024
From a galaxy far, far away comes a stellar exhibition of vintage Star Wars toys and original movie posters. A must-see for Star Wars fans of all ages.

Discover Bucks Museum
Aylesbury HP20 2QP
01296 331441
discoverbucksmuseum.org



For more event details, charges and to book please scan the QR code or visit discoverbucksmuseum.org

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