



18th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

A Year of Achievement and Looking Ahead

It has been another busy and purposeful week at Merry Hill, with lots of opportunities to reflect on where we are as a school and, importantly, where we want to go next.

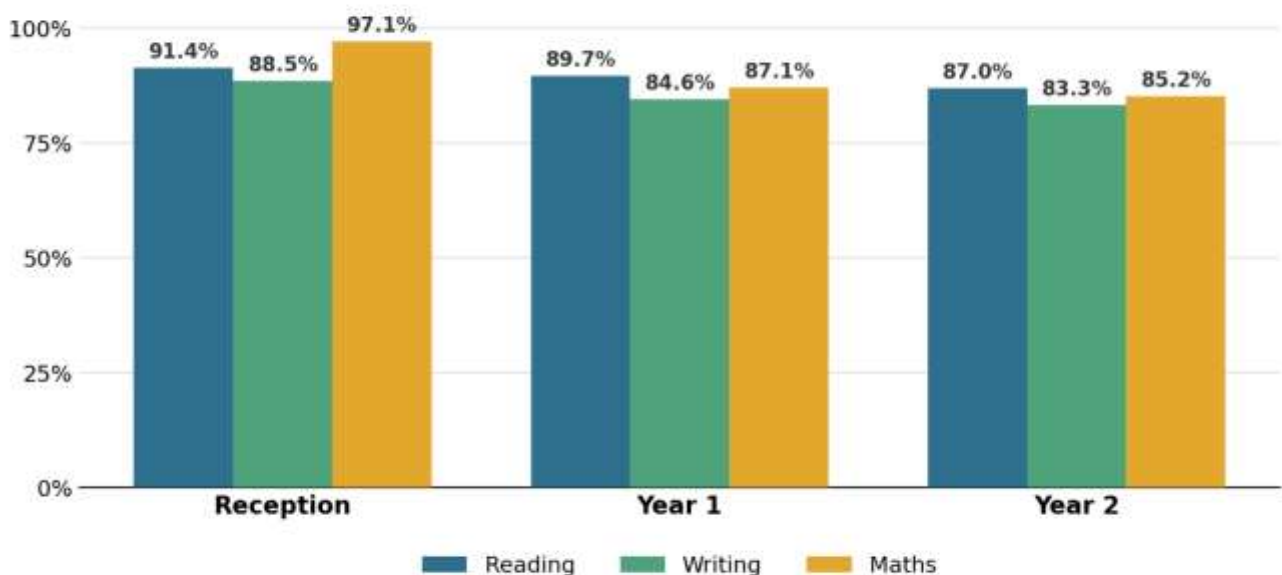
This week we welcomed our School Improvement Partner and our Full Governing Body, with a shared focus on our priorities for the year ahead. It is always important to take time to celebrate what our children and staff have achieved, while also being honest about where we can make an even greater difference.

Our Summer 2026 data gives us lots to celebrate. Across Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, between 83% and 97% of pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths. In Reception, for example, 97.1% of children achieved the expected standard in maths, while 91.4% achieved the expected standard in reading. Our Year 1 data also shows that pupils eligible for FSM achieved above the whole cohort in both reading and maths, something we are particularly pleased to see.

Our Summer 2026 Data at a Glance

Merry Hill Attainment at a Glance

Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths — Summer 2026



Summer 2026 whole-cohort data for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Summer 2026 whole-cohort data for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

What does this tell us?

We are proud of these outcomes and the hard work of our children and staff. At the same time, our data helps us identify the children who need us to do more. We have identified some gaps for disadvantaged and SEND pupils, particularly in writing and phonics, and this will be an important part of our work this year.

Our School Development Plan therefore has two clear priorities: ensuring that our most vulnerable pupils receive consistently excellent, well-adapted teaching and support, and continuing to develop sustainability across every aspect of school life.

We are very clear about what we want for every child at Merry Hill: to feel happy, to learn well and to grow in confidence and independence. The year ahead will be about building on our strengths, addressing the areas where we can improve and making sure that every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Our Governors – Looking Ahead

On Thursday, our Full Governing Body met to review our School Development priorities for 2026–27. Governors worked alongside school leaders to consider our attainment data, the needs of our pupils and the feedback from our external school improvement work.

Following this review, we have agreed two key priorities for the year ahead:

1. Helping every child to achieve their best

Our first priority is to strengthen provision for disadvantaged and SEND pupils, ensuring that teaching, assessment and additional support are closely matched to each child's starting point and needs.

This will include:

- targeted support for pupils who need additional help;
- a particular focus on reading, phonics and writing;
- continuing to develop adaptive teaching across the school;
- strengthening our partnership with families; and
- carefully tracking the progress of identified pupils throughout the year.

Our aim is simple: to reduce gaps in attainment and ensure that every child makes strong progress from their own starting point.

2. Growing a sustainable school

Our sustainability work made strong progress last year, with curriculum, classroom behaviours and outdoor learning all identified as areas of strength. This year we want to build on this further and make sustainability an even more visible part of everyday school life.

This will include:

- introducing Light and Water Monitors in every class;
- helping children develop practical energy and water-saving habits;
- embedding sustainability across all areas of the curriculum;
- involving families through activities such as a gardening and planting event; and
- continuing to develop the work of our Eco Team.

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A strong starting point

We are proud of the progress we have already made. Our Merry Hill Way behaviour curriculum continues to be embedded across the school, our sustainability work has made strong progress, and staff wellbeing remains an area of strength. These areas will continue to be monitored, while our main focus is on the two priorities above.

Our governors will continue to work closely with school leaders throughout the year, asking important questions, reviewing the evidence and ensuring that our plans are making a real difference for our children.

Could you help us?

We would also love to hear from any parents or carers who have a particular passion, interest or expertise in either of these two areas and feel that they could help support our school and governing board.

We currently have a Parent Governor vacancy and would be delighted to welcome a new parent to join our team and play a part in supporting the continued development of Merry Hill.

If this is something that might interest you, or you would simply like to find out a little more about what being a governor involves, please speak to Ms Adams.

We would love to hear from you!

A Happy Face

Emotional Literacy

Thank you to the many families who have been supporting our focus on emotional literacy at home. Children are becoming increasingly confident at recognising, naming and talking about their feelings using a wider range of vocabulary.

We continue to encourage children to express emotions through phrases such as *"I am feeling..."* and have seen some thoughtful discussions around our daily emotions. Our **Emotion of the Day** display remains a great way to introduce and explore new feeling words, helping children to develop the language they need to understand themselves and others.

A Learning Place

Year Group Blogs

Each week our class teachers post blogs, which give you an opportunity to find out more about what your child has been learning in school. They also provide ideas and information to help you reinforce and celebrate learning at home.

Please click on the link below to find out more:

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

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The Merry Hill Way

The Merry Hill Way remains at the heart of our school community, and it has been lovely to see the children consistently living out our expectations in all areas of school life. We have continued to teach our behaviour curriculum to ensure that all children are familiar with our expectations and are ready to learn.

Team points:

EYFS – *We follow adult direction.*

KS1 – *We act on adult instructions immediately.*

A Growing Space

Parents' Consultation Evenings

A reminder that booking for Parents' Consultation Evenings opened on Monday. If you have not already signed up, please do so as soon as possible. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress, celebrate successes and find out how you can support their learning at home.

National Poetry Day - 1st October

We will be celebrating National Poetry Day on Thursday 1st October. As many of you know, we use Word Aware across the school as part of our whole-school approach to vocabulary development. Communication is at the heart of our curriculum, and poetry is all about painting pictures with words.

This year's theme is "**Wonder**", exploring nature, the environment and climate science in partnership with Hot Poets and author Michael Rosen.

To help the children generate and explore exciting vocabulary, we would like them to come to school dressed as a word linked to **wonder**. For example, children could dress as a rainbow, a shooting star, a butterfly, a volcano, a cloud, an explorer or anything that inspires a sense of awe and curiosity. They could also wear their chosen word on a badge, hat or T-shirt.

We would also love to hear from any parents, carers or family members who enjoy poetry. If you would be willing to come into school and read a favourite poem to a class, please speak to the school office.

Jewish New Year Assembly

This week, Rabbi Yosef visited school and led a special assembly about **Rosh Hashanah**, the Jewish New Year. The children enjoyed learning about the traditions, celebrations and significance of this important festival within the Jewish faith.

We would like to extend our warm wishes to all families who celebrated Rosh Hashanah and hope you enjoyed a happy and peaceful New Year with your loved ones.

Have a restful weekend.

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER



FROM 8.45 – 11AM

**ALL PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT**



TO BE HELD IN MERRY HILL SCHOOL HALL.



Please drop in for some
coffee and cake.

This is a great chance to meet some
new people and raise money for
a wonderful cause.



**CAKE DONATIONS
ARE VERY WELCOME.**



- ♥ Please bring to Merry Hill school office.
- ♥ No nuts allowed.
- ♥ Please include a list of ingredients.



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