



19th June 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Our Year 1 children have been wonderful authors this week, completing their Little Red storybooks. At Merry Hill, writing for an authentic audience is at the heart of our writing curriculum because we know it inspires children and helps them develop as confident writers.

This week, our young authors shared their stories with the Nursery children, who were captivated by every word. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to experience what it feels like to be a real author, sharing their work with an audience who genuinely enjoyed their stories.



Learning Communities

This week, we were delighted to welcome members of the local community to host a range of professional learning events. Mrs Ineson facilitated a Maths Subject Knowledge course, welcoming teaching assistants from other schools to develop their mathematical understanding and confidence. Mrs Summers hosted an Inclusion Cluster Meeting, bringing together colleagues to share ideas and best practice in supporting all learners.

We are proud to support both the maths and inclusion communities in this way, providing opportunities for collaboration, professional development, and the sharing of expertise across schools.

World Cup

On Wednesday, Mrs Barnes led a whole-school assembly about the World Cup, helping the children understand what was in store for England ahead of their match later that day. The children enjoyed learning about the tournament, the excitement it brings to countries around the world and the importance of teamwork, determination and sportsmanship.

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

Mrs Barnes also greatly entertained the children by sharing a photograph of her family dog, Harley, who was proudly dressed and ready to support England! Harley quickly became the star of the assembly, bringing lots of smiles and laughter from the children. The assembly created a real buzz around school, with many children eager to follow the match and cheer on England together.



A Happy Face

Team points:

EYFS: We listen to the views of others

KS1: We are tolerant of others, listen to and accept different points of view

A Learning Place

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/>

A Growing Space

Herts Shining Communication Award

We are incredibly proud to be holders of the Herts Shining Communication Award, which we achieved in June last year. The award recognises our commitment to supporting all pupils' speech, language and communication skills and helps us to continually develop our practice across the school.

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The award supports us in identifying areas for development, increasing staff knowledge and understanding of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), and raising the profile of communication across the school. At Merry Hill, we firmly believe that communication underpins all aspects of learning.

Mrs Gavriel and Mrs Mitzman continue in their roles as our Communication Champions and, alongside Mrs Summers, work hard to ensure that the award's principles are embedded throughout the school environment and daily practice.

Over the past year, we have continued to build on our communication-friendly approach across the school. We have introduced Fun with Sounds interventions to support pupils' speech and language development, enhanced our playground environment with visual prompts linked to the Merry Hill Way, and created opportunities for purposeful talk through conversation starters and a Question of the Day at lunchtime. We have also developed a mindfulness area to support pupils' emotional regulation and communication, while staff training in bilingualism has strengthened our provision for pupils with English as an Additional Language and helped us to identify additional needs more effectively.

On 1st July, we will be reassessed against the award criteria and are very much looking forward to showcasing the fantastic work that takes place every day to promote communication at Merry Hill.



FoMH

On Wednesday, the children enjoyed taking part in the FoMH Father's Day Secret Room event. They were very excited to choose and prepare a special gift for someone important to them and couldn't wait to take their surprises home. If you are celebrating Father's Day on Sunday, we hope you have a wonderful day with your loved ones. A huge thank you to FoMH for organising this lovely event for our children.

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A gentle reminder that the only way FoMH can continue to run activities like this is through your support. If you have not already paid and are able to do so, we would be grateful if you could make a £3 payment via:

- Scopay - under Products & Father's Day 2026
- FoMH bank transfer: Sort code 40-15-23, Account number 01395696

Thank you for your support.

Preloved Uniform Sale - 22nd & 23rd June

On Tuesday and Wednesday, we will be holding our preloved uniform sale in the shelter, as well as during the Nursery & Reception Stay and Play sessions.

If you have any clean, good-condition uniform that your child has outgrown or no longer needs, please drop it off at the office.

If you would like to pick up some uniform for your children ahead of the new term, please pop by and see what's available.

Thank you for your support!

Finally, a reminder that our reserve Sports Day is scheduled for Friday 26th June. We are keeping our fingers crossed for some sunshine and look forward to a fun-filled day of sporting activities.

Have a lovely weekend!

Ms Adams
Headteacher

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