



19th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another busy and exciting week here at Merry Hill. Each day the children amaze us with how quickly they are embracing our new behaviour curriculum. They are showing us that they are not only **ready** for learning but also eager to do their very best. It is wonderful to see their enthusiasm shining through in classrooms and around the school, this is a real credit to their hard work and the support you give at home.

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 **Respectful**:

- **EYFS** – *We follow adult direction*
- **KS1** – *We act on adult instructions immediately*

By practising these expectations in age-appropriate ways, the children are learning the importance of listening carefully. In EYFS, it has been lovely to see our youngest learners following adult direction with growing independence, while in KS1, children are showing maturity by responding promptly to instructions. These small steps are helping to build calm, respectful classrooms where every child can thrive.

A Learning Place

On Wednesday, our School Effectiveness Advisor visited Merry Hill to observe phonics and reading teaching across the school. She watched phonics lessons, interventions, and children reading to familiar adults to feedback on this fundamental element of our curriculum.

We are very proud to share that she was extremely impressed with the consistent implementation of our chosen phonics scheme; Essential Letters and Sounds. Phonics is such a vital part of the curriculum, laying the foundation for future learning, and we are delighted with how confidently and effectively it is embedded at Merry Hill.

As we are now in the fourth year of implementation, we have also arranged for an ELS trainer to visit in November. This will ensure that our excellent practice continues and that staff receive ongoing professional development to maintain our high standards.

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

Closing the Attainment Gap

This week we were honoured to host the Every Child Programme, a project designed to support disadvantaged children, including those in receipt of free school meals. On Wednesday, 7 schools came together here at Merry Hill to collaborate and share strategies for improving outcomes.

It was a fantastic day of partnership, and we are very proud that Merry Hill was chosen as the host school for this important initiative. We will keep you posted!

Governors

On Thursday, our Governing Body met to review our school priorities and plans for the year ahead. The governors play a vital role in school life, working closely with leaders to make sure every decision we take is the very best for the children. They ask thoughtful questions, celebrate our successes, and challenge us to keep aiming high.

Central to this discussion is our School Development Plan (SDP), which sets out the key priorities for the year and helps us to stay focused on what matters most, ensuring that every child at Merry Hill is happy, learning and making excellent progress. By working in partnership with our governors, we can be confident that these priorities remain at the heart of everything we do.

We will shortly be looking for a parent who is interested in becoming a school governor. This is a four-year strategic role within the school, and we would be delighted to hear from anyone keen to support us in shaping the future of Merry Hill. Please come and see Ms Adams if you are interested.

Communications

Our office team work extremely hard to support the smooth running of the school and are often managing a high volume of enquiries, especially at the beginning of the school year. If you contact the school by email, please be assured that the team endeavour to respond as soon as possible. However, it may take a little longer at busy times, and we kindly ask for your patience.

Please note that all emails will receive a response within 48 hours. If your query is urgent, or requires an immediate response, we ask that you telephone the office or come in person so that we can assist you promptly.

We are excited about the journey ahead and all that we will achieve together this year. Thank you, as always, for being part of our Merry Hill community. Together we are ensuring Merry Hill continues to go from strength to strength and that every child at Merry Hill has the very best start to their learning journey.

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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