



21st March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Thursday this week, our Year 2 children excitedly clambered onto the coach and set off to visit the RAF Museum in Hendon. As part of their current learning about the history and development of aviation, the visit provided a unique opportunity to enhance their understanding of this remarkable technological achievement. Throughout the day, the children took part in a fascinating workshop where they explored the materials used in early aviation. They were amazed to discover that some of the first planes were made of wood, with wings constructed from fabric! According to the children, the real highlight of the day was when they worked together to create a huge plane cut-out!



It was wonderful to see the children coming to school wearing their red accessories in support of Comic Relief today. In assembly, we learnt all about the meaning behind Comic Relief and the important work the charity does to help those in need. We looked at some of the projects carried out by the charity such as creating a multibank to reduce waste and provide families with the things they need. The children enjoyed hearing about the individuals and how the charity has positively impacted them. While we chose not to ask for donations directly, if you would like to contribute to this charity please visit the link below.

<https://www.comicrelief.com/>

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

This Week's Focus: The Golden Rule – 'Do work hard'

Team Points Focus: Good manners – asking for help and showing patience

At Merry Hill we have a carefully designed and structured behaviour curriculum to support our children's development. It is designed to help children understand and practice positive behaviour in a structured way. This is delivered continually through PSHE, stories and assemblies as well as through every interaction between children and adults within the school.

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This week our stem sentence is, "Please may I have some help?" for the children to use when they are finding something challenging and need support. Having a pre-structured phrase as a model helps children to effectively communicate their ideas, needs and feelings.

17.3.25	Asking "May I have some help?" when you are finding something challenging. We are looking for children who seek help when needed. GR we work hard	
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'Curious Learners' – what we learn

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 all about World Book Day.

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

'Collaborative Learners' – our place in the world

Parent Partnership

Research tells us that the most important learning opportunities occur through conversations and play between a child and others at home. As mentioned previously, we will continue to suggest some ideas and activities aimed at promoting language and literacy for you to use at home. Spring officially began on Thursday 20th March, so why not shake off the cold of winter and set out on a spring nature walk. For the next few weeks we will have a different focus for a spring themed walk.



Go on a Spring Scavenger Hunt



A scavenger hunt is an exciting way to explore the natural world and helps children develop their observation skills alongside their language skills. It adds fun to family walks too (especially if you introduce a bit of friendly competition) and the possibilities are endless.

Tiny treasure hunt

You will need to keep your eyes peeled for this activity. Hunt for really small things you can fit into a matchbox. Collect little leaves, blades of grass, small snail shells, tiny twigs, feathers and pebbles. Turn it into a competition with your family – who can fit the most items inside their box?

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You can take a magnifying glass on your scavenger hunt to help children to investigate their finds. Can they see intricate patterns, subtle colour changes and interesting textures?

Colour scavenger hunt

This is ideal for younger children – simply encourage them to find different colours in nature. A red ladybird, blue sky, green grass, a yellow flower petal...

For older children, collect some paint colour charts from a DIY store and challenge them to match items to different shades of each colour.

Texture scavenger hunt

A scavenger hunt does not have to be sight-based. Have a go at exploring with your other senses, such as touch. Can you find...

- smooth stones
- furry catkins
- rough bark
- a tickly feather
- spongy moss

Throughout these activities talk to your child about what they are observing and build on what they say. For example, a child might say, "I can see a flower." The adult can build on this and say, "Yes there is a flower. The flower is called a daffodil. Let's look at the daffodil's bright yellow petals and green stem."

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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