



# Merry Hill

## Infant School and Nursery

Headteacher: Ms. Melissa Adams MA, NPQH

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Welcome to Merry Hill Tours

We were delighted to commence our 'Welcome to Merry Hill' tours this week for prospective Nursery and Reception families. Due to the high demand from parents wanting to visit, we are pleased to announce additional tour dates. If you know anyone starting either Nursery or Reception in September 2025, please let them know about these dates: Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 9:00am, and Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 9:00am and 2:00pm. Please encourage them to contact the school office to arrange a tour. We would love to show them what makes Merry Hill such a special place!

### Book Fair Success

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Book Fair last week! We are thrilled to share that we raised an impressive £655, earning £262.09 to spend on new books for our school. Your contributions make a real difference, and we could not have done it without our wonderful helpers as well—thank you for making it a success!

### Christmas Market

A huge thanks to FoMH for organising the fantastic Christmas Market at the Horse and Chains last night. It is always a busy and exciting time as we gear up for the Winter Fair, and we cannot wait to see you all next weekend! Your help in running stalls is invaluable—these events would not be possible without your support. Thank you in advance for your generosity and time!

### 'Curious Learners' – what we learn

#### Reception Children's Library Visit

This week, our Reception children had the wonderful opportunity to visit Bushey library on Monday and Tuesday. The excitement was palpable as they explored the wide range of books available, from captivating picture books to engaging early readers.

At Merry Hill, we believe in fostering a lifelong love of reading from an early age. A library plays a key role in this journey, offering a diverse selection of stories that spark curiosity, inspire imagination and help children explore different cultures and perspectives.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their time, eagerly choosing books to share with their friends and teachers. Visits like these not only build a love for reading but also help our young learners develop important literacy skills. We encourage all families to continue this enthusiasm at home by reading together and discussing stories—it is a great way to nurture a love for books and strengthen those all-important reading habits!

#### 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/>

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

This Week's Focus: The Golden Rule – 'We are kind and helpful'

### Team Points Focus: Respectful Behaviour

We continue to have a weekly focus when awarding Team Points. This week's focus is on respectful behaviour. We have taught the children that respectful behaviour involves showing care and consideration for others, themselves, property and the environment and we recognise and praise the children for demonstrating this behaviour.


#### How you can help at home:

**Model respectful actions:** show kindness, take turns and listen patiently to others. The children will learn through your example.

**Praise positive behaviours:** as we do at school, acknowledge when your child demonstrates respect, such as waiting their turn or being helpful

**Set clear expectations:** teach children to treat belongings, shared spaces and the environment with care, like putting toys away or recycling

**Encourage empathy:** discuss the importance of caring for others' feelings and the environment (e.g. how their actions affect others or the planet)

18.11.24	<b>Respectful</b> – behaving in a way that shows you care - about others, yourself, property, or the earth. We are looking for children who are waiting patiently for a resource, asking nicely for a turn and taking turns to speak GR We are kind and helpful/ honest	 respectful
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By working together, we can really develop our children's emotional literacy ensuring they have a deep understanding of each of the golden rules. Thank you for your ongoing support.

## 'Collaborative Learners' – our place in the world

### Road Safety Week

With the night's drawing in and daylight hours getting shorter, it is an important time to teach children about road safety. This week, we focused on key skills such as stopping, looking and listening carefully before crossing and always trying to use pedestrian crossings. During class discussion, some children suggested looking a second time because many of the electric vehicles are quieter than petrol ones. We also talked about the importance of being visible by wearing bright or reflective clothing during darker mornings and evenings. We look forward to seeing a splash of colour as you all brighten up the journey to and from school with visible and vibrant outer layers!

### Volunteering at Merry Hill

We are thrilled with how beautifully the children have settled into school this term, and we are now looking to establish opportunities for parent volunteers to get involved. Whether you can offer your time regularly or occasionally, your support makes a huge difference!

We are seeking volunteers to assist during lunchtimes, playtimes, reading or library sessions, or in the classroom. For those who can commit regularly, we will need to carry out a DBS check. If you are only available for a one-off visit—such as being a Secret Reader—you will be accompanied by a staff member throughout your time in school.

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Volunteering at Merry Hill is incredibly rewarding, and we would love to welcome as many of you as possible. If you are interested, please contact the school office to find out more or to sign up. Your time and support are invaluable to our children's learning experience. Thank you for helping us create a vibrant, collaborative community!

### **Non Uniform Days**

At Merry Hill, we understand that non-uniform days can be a fun way to engage children. However, we would like to share the reasons behind why we do not hold them as part of our approach.

Firstly, we know how busy family life can be, especially in the lead-up to events like the Winter Fair or Christmas. With so many things to remember; from bottles to chocolates, socks to jumpers adding non-uniform days into the mix can sometimes feel overwhelming. To simplify things, while still keeping them fun, we encourage children to wear accessories with their uniform, such as a festive hair accessory or colourful socks, turning it into an exciting challenge that's easy to manage.

Another important reason is that for some children, changes in routine, including wearing non-uniform, can be very challenging. At Merry Hill, we prioritise creating a consistent and predictable environment that helps all children feel secure, especially those who thrive on routine. By keeping things as close to normal as possible, we ensure that school remains a place of comfort and stability.

We also want to highlight that regular non-uniform days can sometimes create unintended pressures. While some children enjoy dressing up, others may feel self-conscious or worry about having "the right" outfit. By sticking to uniforms, we promote equality and inclusion, ensuring every child feels confident and valued regardless of their circumstances.

Finally, we know that children already have lots of opportunities to celebrate and express their individuality outside of school. Birthday parties, family gatherings, and playdates provide wonderful moments for children to dress in their favourite outfits. By minimising non-uniform days, we allow these out-of-school celebrations to feel even more exciting and unique.

We hope this explains our approach and reassures you that our decisions are made with the best interests of all our children and families in mind. Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams  
Headteacher

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