



22nd September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We were delighted to have such a fantastic turnout at our coffee morning last Friday. It provided a perfect opportunity for everyone to take some time for yourselves, catch up with friends and make new friends all while supporting a wonderful cause. Many of our new families have expressed the warm welcome they received from both staff and the wider Merry Hill community. We sincerely appreciate you all for being so welcoming. A special thank you goes out to the FoMH for their outstanding organization of this event. Your efforts have truly made it special.

'Healthy Learners' – *how we ensure we are ready to learn*

Safeguarding Audit

This week, we underwent a thorough safeguarding audit, which involved a visit from a Safeguarding Consultant to our school. During this visit, our Designated Safeguarding Leads DSL's (myself Ms Adams and Mr B Reid) and our safeguarding policies, procedures and practices were closely examined. We are pleased to announce that the visit was highly successful, and the consultant was truly impressed by the strong culture of safeguarding that we have cultivated, as well as the rigorous policies and procedures we have implemented to ensure the safety of all our pupils. I would like to extend a sincere congratulations to the entire Merry Hill team, whose tireless efforts are instrumental in the safeguarding the well-being of each and every one of our pupils. Well done!

E-Safety

As we enter the new school year, many of us enjoy sharing photos of our children on social media platforms. However, it is essential to prioritise their safety when doing so. If you do post online, then try following these simple rules to help keep everyone safe:

- Avoid posting photos showing the *school logo/name* or *recognisable places* that could disclose your location
- Never include your *child's full name* in captions or comments
- Consider whether there are other children in the pictures you are sharing, do you have *permission* from their parent/carer to upload it?
- Consider whether your child is happy for you to upload the photo of them/comment about them? (What might seem 'cute' now could be embarrassing for them in the future)
- Ensure that your privacy setting on social media are appropriately configured

Alternatively, you can choose to share photos directly with individuals, like grandparents, friends etc. through private messaging platforms like WhatsApp or I Message etc. rather than on public social media profiles. This way, you can maintain a higher level of control over who sees the images.

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Further information

CEOP have published this article which includes advice on sharing photos of your child online:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Sharing-pictures-of-your-children/>

'Curious Learners' – what we learn

Please click on the link below to have a peak at some of the wonderful learning that has taken place in your child's classroom this week:

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

'Collaborative Learners' – our place in the world

Paryushana – Jain festival of forgiveness

On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome Jignasha, a representative from Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur, the Jain organisation in Bushey. Jignasha joined our KS1 classes for their Wednesday *Celebrations, Diversity and Around the World Assembly*. The children learnt about the Jain religion and how it was created over 2600 years ago in ancient India by Lord Mahavira. Jignasha focussed on the 8-day period of Paryushana, which is a Jain festival of forgiveness. The children learnt Jains believe forgiving is a great way to lighten your heart by letting go of wrongdoings and making a happy heart once more. Jignasha ended her assembly with a meditation that focussed on deep breathing and forgiveness. It was a lovely and calm way to end her visit. We are so grateful that Jignasha came to visit us and would like to thank her for taking the time to do so and share all about her special religion with our curious learners. Thank you, Jignasha!



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Cost of Living

Every week, we aim to feature a suggestion for a free (or inexpensive) family activity that you can enjoy together. If anyone has any tips or ideas of free or inexpensive activities you would like to share with our community, please let the office know. I hope you find these activities enjoyable and valuable for quality time together.

Free Autumn National Trust Visit

What:

Experience the awe of the season when you visit a National Trust place free of charge this autumn. By clicking on the link below, you claim a free, single-use autumn pass to use between 18 September and 20 October 2023. Each free visit ticket is single use and available to for up to for two adults and up to three children, or one adult and up to four children at a participating place we care for. Valid from 18 September until 20 October 2023. One ticket per household per order.

[Buy Free autumn National Trust pass Tickets online - National Trust \(nationaltrust-tickets.org.uk\)](https://nationaltrust-tickets.org.uk)



Wishing you a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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