



23rd October 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we reach the end of a wonderful half term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on all that has been achieved and to celebrate the fantastic progress our children have made. We are incredibly proud of how well everyone has settled into the school year. With the support of our dedicated and experienced staff team, the children have embraced new routines, challenges and opportunities with enthusiasm and confidence.



This week, our classes have spent time reflecting on and celebrating all that they have learnt over the half term. Looking back at their learning journey has reminded us just how much the children have accomplished in a short space of time. Whether mastering new phonics sounds, tackling exciting maths challenges, creating artwork, exploring new topics or developing confidence in the classroom, every child has something to be proud of.

Phonics Success

Our children have worked exceptionally hard in phonics this half term, and it has been a joy to see their progress. We would also like to thank our parents and carers for the support you provide at home. Reading regularly with your child and practising their phonics makes a huge difference to their confidence, fluency and progress.

In Nursery, children have been developing their early listening skills, tuning into the sounds around them and building strong foundations for future phonics learning.

Our Reception children have now learnt all of their Phase 2 sounds, along with 12 tricky words. They are becoming increasingly confident at blending sounds together and are making excellent progress as early readers.

Our Year 1 children have been learning Phase 5 sounds and are doing brilliantly as they continue to build their reading and spelling knowledge. Meanwhile, many of our Year 2 children are now working within the ELS spelling programme.

Every child is making progress from their own starting point, and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. The strong partnership between home and school plays a vital role in this success. By continuing to read regularly with your child, you are helping us to achieve excellent outcomes for all children. Last year, this partnership contributed to an outstanding 92% pass rate in the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, and we look forward to building on this success together.

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

A Happy Face – Our School Community

Harvest

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest collection. Your generosity has been greatly appreciated, and it was wonderful to see our school community come together to support others.

The Bushey Red Trust collected the donations this morning and asked us to pass on their sincere thanks to all our families. Your kindness will make a real difference to those who receive this support.



SEND Coffee Afternoon – Tuesday 24th November

We warmly invite all parents and carers who would like to find out more about our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision to join us for a SEND Coffee Afternoon on Tuesday 24th November.

This will be a relaxed, informal opportunity to meet other parents, share experiences and feel part of a supportive community. Whether you have questions about the support available for your child, would like to better understand school systems and processes, or simply want to listen and connect with others, you will be very welcome.

Over a cup of tea or coffee, and perhaps a pastry, we hope to create a friendly space where families can talk openly, share concerns, explore the advice and support available, and learn more about how we work together to support children with SEND.

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We know that navigating school systems and finding the right support can sometimes feel overwhelming. We hope this afternoon will help parents feel informed, listened to and reassured that they are not alone.

Further details about the time and arrangements will follow. We look forward to welcoming you.

A Learning Place- Learning, Sharing and Growing

The Merry Hill Way

Our children have also been busy reviewing all that they have learnt and achieved for their Team Points. It has been lovely to hear them talk so confidently about their successes and the challenges they have overcome. We are incredibly proud of the positive attitudes to learning that we see every day across the school.

Keep Up to Date with Our Learning

Would you like to know more about what your child has been learning in class?

Our weekly Year Group Blogs share highlights from the classroom, celebrate learning and offer ideas to help you continue conversations about learning at home.

Take a look at this week's updates here:

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

Celebrating our Wonderful Writers and Learners

We are delighted to celebrate the children whose fantastic work has been chosen to feature on our **Celebration Wall** this half term!

Having your work selected is a wonderful achievement and recognises the thought, effort, creativity and pride our children put into their learning. It is lovely to see so many children producing work that they can feel proud of and sharing their achievements with our whole school community.

A huge well done to all our children whose work has been chosen:

Teals: Alessia, Spencer, Livi, Aurelia, Musa and Mila

Kingfishers: Kwadwo, Abigail, Gianna, Millie, Raul, Theo-James and Sophie

Moorhens: Oscar, Martin and Zane

Lapwings: Alice, Coady, Ziddi and Archie

Hérons: Hana, Albie, Ava, Evan, Anni, Rowan and Kaylee

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

We are incredibly proud of you all! Keep up the wonderful work, continue to challenge yourselves and remember to take pride in everything you achieve.

A Growing Space – Our Wider Community

Attached to this week's newsletter are details of two local events taking place over the half-term break which we hope some of our families will find interesting.

As we begin the half-term holiday, we hope you all enjoy some well-deserved rest, time together and opportunities to make happy memories.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 2nd November**.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for playing such an important part in making Merry Hill such a special place to learn and grow.

Warm wishes,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher



Reveley Lodge & Garden
88, Elstree Road, Bushey Heath, WD23 4GL
www.reveleylodge.org

Halloween
AT REVELEY LODGE

Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th October
10am - 12.30pm, and 1.30pm - 4pm

- Halloween garden trail ● Spooky rock and ghoull hunt
- Giant Spiders, Flying Witches, Bat Cave, Dracula's Grave and more!
- Children's Halloween crafts* and activities ● Storytime ● Refreshments

Entry £6 per child (must be accompanied) and £3 per adult

Visit website to book *Extra charges apply

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space



 Halloween Mystery Trail at King George Recreation Ground!

Date: Saturday 31st October
Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm
Location: King George Recreation Ground

Two thrilling trails to choose from:

- **Younger Children:** A gentle, age-friendly trail around the playground with many stampers
- **Older Children Trail - Detectives Needed! A Halloween Crime Has Been Committed!** This Halloween, King George Recreation Ground becomes a crime scene... and only **YOU** can solve the mystery.

Put on your costumes, gather your team and follow the trail of clues around the park. Search for evidence, uncover secrets and race to solve the case before the culprit gets away.

On completing either trail and cracking the mystery, every detective receives a **small prize**.

 **Fancy Dress Competition – 12:00pm** Come dressed in your best Halloween costume! Every child who enters receives a **small gift**, and our judges will be looking for spooky, funny and creative outfits.

Bring your friends, bring your family, and get ready for a fun, safe and exciting Halloween adventure. Are you brave enough to take on the challenge we're ready for you.

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