



23rd November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Book Fair Success

We are absolutely delighted to share the success of our recent book fair at Merry Hill. The total sales amounted to an impressive £803.08, resulting in **£401.54 in rewards earmarked for books for our school**. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to all who contributed towards this. The substantial sum accrued will be invested in books for our classrooms and library and will really benefit our children here at Merry Hill.



FoMH Contributions

As we approach the festive season, we are filled with much appreciation for the incredible support and generosity we have seen within our school community. A special thank you goes to our FoMH for their tireless efforts in organising and fulfilling various fundraising activities. Your commitment has truly made a difference, and we are immensely grateful for your hard work.

We also extend our sincere thanks to all the parents who have contributed to our fundraising initiatives, especially as we gear up for the Winter Fair this weekend. The incredible support received has made these events possible and been instrumental in acquiring essential resources for our pupils. Thanks to the funds raised so far, we are excited to share with you that we have been able to purchase a new interactive whiteboard for the hall. This invaluable addition will enhance our assemblies, providing an interactive and engaging platform for both the pupils and teachers.

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Our previous screen was no longer fit for purpose, but thanks to your collective efforts, we now have a tool that opens up exciting possibilities. From enriching visuals to captivating videos and even workshops for our wider learning community, the interactive whiteboard has already proven to be a versatile asset. We hope that you too can see the whiteboard in action at our upcoming maths workshops next week.

Once again, thank you to each and every one of you for your ongoing support. We look forward to a wonderful Winter Fair and many more enriching experiences made possible by your generosity.

Inclusion Award

At the core of Merry Hill's vision is a commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment where every child's unique qualities are celebrated. Our commitment to achieving this vision involves collaboration between staff, parents, governors and the local community. Our dedication to this vision is reflected in the meticulous review of practices and implementation of key changes designed to benefit the inclusion of all pupils.

This week, we were privileged to welcome the SENDIASS external verifier into our school to showcase our exceptional work in this area. The verifier conducted a comprehensive learning walk, observing the embedded nature of inclusion throughout the school. Additionally our portfolio, highlighting exemplary practice at Merry Hill, underwent thorough examination.

During the visit, I alongside our dedicated SENCo, Mrs Summers, delivered a presentation about our journey. Moreover, the children shared their learning experiences, providing a first-hand account of our inclusive educational approach. To gain diverse perspectives, an interview was conducted with a working party consisting of parents, governors and teachers explaining our collaborative efforts to provide the best support for our pupils with SEND.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Summers, for her exceptional leadership in the realm of SEND. Mrs Summers leads with dedication and a deep understanding of the diverse needs of our pupils.

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

Road Safety

On Monday, we launched Road Safety week with a Road Safety assembly. We shared and discussed the Green Cross Code and the children confidently shared their knowledge about how to be a safe pedestrian and how to cross the road safely with a grown up.

FIND a safe place to cross.

STOP on the pavement, just before the kerb.

LOOK all around and **LISTEN** for traffic.

LET traffic pass, then look and listen again.

WALK across when it's clear. Do not run.

This year the theme is "Let's talk about speed". We discussed the fact that it is always better to arrive somewhere safely and this means *walking* on the pavements and when crossing the road with a grown up, and always driving within the speed limit.

Let us all work together to make sure the roads around Merry Hill are as safe as possible for our children and community.

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'Curious Learners' – what we learn

Please click on the link below to have a peek 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

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.

Bentley Priory Museum

What:

Bentley Priory Museum, previously RAF Headquarters Fighter Command, is a site of national historical importance and from where the Battle of Britain was won. Throughout the year they welcome guests to explore the splendour of this amazing Sir John Soane extended property, which has hints of Italian grandeur and where many Second World War and Cold War secrets were hidden within.

Where:

Bentley Priory Museum
Stanmore
HA7 3FB
HA7 3HT for Sat Navs

When:

The Museum is open Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Bank Holiday Mondays, 10am – 4pm during October – February. Last admission is at 3pm. Between March – September, last admission changes to 4pm with the Museum closing at 5pm. The Museum closes from Mid-December to Mid-January.



Single Admission (including optional 10% Gift Aid)	Single Admission (without optional 10% Gift Aid)
Adult	£8.80
Concessions (Over-60s/NUS Student/On Benefits)	£7.70
HM Forces	£5.50
Child (6-16yrs)	£4.40
Child (Aged 5 and under)	Free



I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and look forward to seeing you at the Winter Fair on Saturday (11:00 – 14:00 at Ashfield Junior School).

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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Family Christmas Day

Saturday 2 December 2023

11am - 4pm

Step back in time this December with our Christmas Family Day! Try your hand at historical Christmas crafts, play traditional seasonal games, visit our Christmas Craft Fair and don't forget to keep an eye out for a very special Christmas visitor straight from the North Pole!

For more event details, charges and to book please scan the QR code or visit discoverbucksmuseum.org



Your ticket includes the Family Christmas Day, Christmas Trail, Roald Dahl Children's Gallery, I Grew Up 80s exhibition & Craft Fair.

Adult £5.50, Child £8.50,
Under 3's Free

Family tickets available
discoverbucksmuseum.org

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