



25th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

I hope you all had a wonderful two-week Easter break, we were certainly blessed with the weather! It has been lovely to see the children return with such energy and enthusiasm.

We are also thrilled to share how well our new afterschool club has been received. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, the children are really enjoying the activities and it has been a pleasure welcoming pupils from Ashfield too. If you have not yet explored the club, we encourage you to take a look, it is a fantastic extension of the Merry Hill experience.

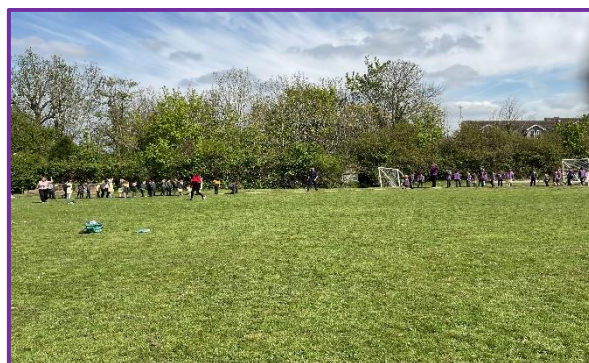
We are incredibly proud of our school – a nurturing, happy place where every child is known, valued and supported to thrive. Due to a lower birth rate in recent years, we currently have a few spaces available across the school, including Reception places for September 2025. If you know any families looking for a school place, we would love for them to visit and see what makes Merry Hill so special.

Thank you for being part of our school community, your support and word-of-mouth recommendations make all the difference.

Purple Up Day

Today we proudly celebrated Purple Up Day, a day dedicated to showing support and appreciation for the children of military families. We had an assembly where we learned all about the different branches within the Armed Forces; the Army, Navy, RAF and Royal Marines. The children listened with great interest and joined in with the dandelion song, which is a song comparing military children to dandelions because, like dandelions, they are resilient, adaptable and able to grow almost anywhere.

A highlight of the day was welcoming one of our own serving military parents, Mr Price, who kindly led the children in some exciting team building activities. The children were put through their paces in a fun and energetic way, learning the importance of teamwork, resilience and encouragement; all key values that reflect the spirit of military life.



A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

A huge thank you to Mr Price, our staff and our families for supporting Purple Up Day and making it so special.



A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

Author Visit

We are thrilled to announce that on Wednesday 14th May 2025 we will be welcoming renowned children's author Laura James to Merry Hill for an inspiring afternoon filled with storytelling and creativity.

We feel very lucky to have Laura visit and would like to thank Mrs James for helping to organise this special event. Laura is the proud Aunty of Sienna and William, and also Godmother to Evie – so it will be a particularly lovely occasion for our school community.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to meet a real author, ask questions and gain an insight into the world of writing. You can explore more about the author and her wonderful books at: <https://laurajamesauthor.com/>

We sent a book order form on Wednesday which allows you to pre-order books for Laura to sign on the day. There will also be a small selection available to purchase after school, but to avoid disappointment, we highly recommend ordering in advance.

If your child already owns one of Laura's books, she is more than happy to sign it – just bring it along!

'Ambitious Learners' – how we act when we learn


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

Team Points Focus: Demonstrating British Values – children showing respect and treating others as they would like to be treated

This term we will be awarding team points to children demonstrating the British Values. We live in a diverse society and our curriculum and life at Merry Hill reflect this. Underpinning everything we do are the values and understanding of Democracy, Law, Liberty, Respect and Tolerance. For more information on how we promote British Values here at Merry Hill, please have a look at our website:

<https://merryhill.org.uk/our-learning-community/promoting-british-values/>

This week we have been awarding team points to children demonstrating the British Value of Respect. We have been watching for children who work together and speak to one another with kindness and I am very proud to say we were able to award a large number of team points to children demonstrating this value.

22.4.25 Respect	show Respect Treating others how you want to be treated We are watching for children who work together and speak to one another with kindness. GR We are kind and helpful	
--------------------	---	---

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

'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 more:

<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. This week we celebrated Earth Day which is an annual event to demonstrate support for environmental protection and raise awareness about environmental issues. In honour of this event, why not discuss how you and your family could reduce your environmental impact throughout the year and make a family pledge. Some ideas could be:

Reducing waste – we will recycle more, compost food scraps and avoid single use plastics

Saving energy – we will turn off lights when leaving a room and unplug devices not in use

Using less water – we will take shorter showers and fix any leaks at home

Spending time in nature – we will take time to appreciate the outdoors, and leave nothing behind but footprints

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space