



25th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Celebrating Our Amazing Support Staff

This week has been both 'National Happiness at Work Week' and 'National Teaching Assistant Day', giving us the perfect opportunity to celebrate our wonderful team.



At Merry Hill, we are incredibly fortunate to have such a caring and dedicated team. Their commitment to our children shines through every day, whether they are supporting learning in the classroom, providing encouragement and reassurance, or helping ensure every child feels safe and happy.

As a school, we are known for being a team that genuinely cares for one another. Our "Happy Face, Learning Place, Growing Space" motto is brought to life by the people who work here, and our support staff are an essential part of what makes Merry Hill such a special place.

To say thank you, our governors, senior leaders and teaching staff treated the team to a special lunch as part of our celebrations. We are incredibly grateful for everything they do for our children, their colleagues and our wider school community.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning today and helped us support such a wonderful cause.

It was particularly lovely to welcome our Ashfield families who came up the road to join us for a coffee, cake and a chat. We really do miss seeing you and it was so special to have you back in school, even just for a little while. We hope you enjoyed catching up with familiar faces as much as we enjoyed seeing you!

A very warm welcome also to our new families, who popped in for a coffee to take away or stayed for a chat. We loved having the opportunity to meet you and begin building those connections that make our school community so special.

A special thank you also to Matthew Dokelman, one of our governors (and a former Merry Hill parent, although that was a few years ago now!), who joined us this morning. It was lovely to see him supporting our school community and catching up over a coffee and a slice of cake.

Alongside the coffee morning, we also held a pre-loved uniform sale, helping families access affordable school uniform while giving our school clothes another life. It was wonderful to see our community coming together to support one another, whilst also thinking about sustainability and reducing waste.

Thank you to everyone who donated, bought, chatted, drank coffee, ate cake or simply popped in to say hello. Your support, kindness and generosity mean so much to us.

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

A Happy Face

The Merry Hill Way

The Merry Hill Way remains at the heart of our school community and it has been lovely to see children consistently demonstrating our expectations in all areas of school life. We continue to teach our behaviour curriculum to ensure every child understands our expectations and is ready to learn.

This week's Team Points focus:

EYFS: *We walk in the classroom.*

KS1: *We move sensibly around the school.*

Thank you to all of our children for continuing to demonstrate these expectations so positively.

School Nursing Team Newsletter

The School Nursing Team has shared their latest newsletter which contains health and wellbeing information, practical advice and details of local support services available to children, young people and their families.

By sharing this information, we hope families can access trusted guidance and know where to seek support when needed.

View the newsletter here: <https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/7BK1-CJ6/hct-school-nursing-a26>

A Learning Place

Staff Training Day

On Thursday, our learning support team took part in a range of professional development opportunities. Throughout the day, colleagues attended a variety of CPD drop-in sessions, sharing expertise and exploring ways to further enhance the experiences we provide for our children.

We are incredibly proud of the commitment our team shows to their own learning and development, ensuring they continue to deliver the very best education for all pupils.

Reception Phonics and Reading Meeting

A huge thank you to all of our Reception families who joined us for our phonics and reading meeting, led by Mrs Ineson and Mrs Summers.

I have to say, I left the session feeling incredibly proud and from the conversations I had with parents afterwards, I know I wasn't the only one! It was wonderful to hear how proud our families were of the children and to see just how impressed they were with the way the children have settled into school life and, already, how quickly they are picking up our learning routines.

The session gave parents and carers an insight into how we teach phonics and early reading at Merry Hill, as well as some really useful ways to support their children at home. Mrs Ineson and Mrs Summers shared the thinking and theory behind our approach, and then seeing this brought to life with Miss Reuben and the children made it all feel very real.

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We had such a fantastic turnout from our families, and it was clear just how genuinely invested you are in your children's education. In fact, I even caught one particular dad at the back of the room cheering after the session as though we had just won a football match! It honestly made me smile and perfectly captured the pride and excitement in the room.

The partnership between home and school is so important, and seeing families engaging so enthusiastically with their children's learning was a real highlight. Thank you for giving your time, for your enthusiasm and, most importantly, for showing your children just how much you value their learning. We look forward to welcoming Year 1 families next week.



Year Group Blogs

Each week our class teachers post blogs, which give you an opportunity to find out more about what your child has been learning in school. They also provide ideas and information to help you reinforce and celebrate learning at home.

Please click on the link below to find out more:

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

A Growing Space

Sustainable Travel Survey

This week, teachers conducted a travel survey with children to learn more about how they travel to and from school.

The survey forms part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability and helps us understand how we can encourage healthier and more environmentally friendly journeys. Walking, scooting and cycling to school not only benefit the environment by reducing traffic and emissions, but also support children's physical health and wellbeing.

Thank you to all families who already make active travel choices where possible. Every journey makes a difference as we work together to care for our community and the world around us.

Harvest Assembly

This week, we were pleased to welcome Mrs Bastable from the Watford Schools Trust, who led a special Harvest Assembly.

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Children reflected on the importance of gratitude, generosity and helping those in need within our local community. Harvest provides a wonderful opportunity for us to think about how we can support others and make a positive difference.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Together, we continue to make Merry Hill a place where children are happy, inspired to learn and encouraged to grow.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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