



26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Merry Hill's Vocabulary Parade

We look forward to holding our Vocabulary Parade at Merry Hill on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The children will come to school as a word they are **proud to know** and through the variety of words we will celebrate individuality and uniqueness. The chosen word could be linked to a special interest or sport the children take part in, it may be a word in your home language or it may be a very long word that the children are proud to know.

It can be any type of word e.g. noun (karate), adjective (glamorous) or verb (sprinting)

### Two Rules:

- Show the word you have selected in a costume form
- Write the word and definition somewhere on the costume

The children can wear a costume, attach a picture/drawing of their chosen word, turn a hat into a vocabulary parade costume or decorate a t-shirt. If your child is not wearing a full costume, they can come to school in their school uniform but with the addition of their vocabulary parade accessory. We look forward to celebrating the children's words next Friday!

### Exciting News – Job Opportunities at Merry Hill

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, creative and dynamic **Learning Support Assistant** to join our team. We offer a warm and welcoming environment and provide targeted CPD to enable you to be successful in your role. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed and encouraged.

We also have vacancies for **Breakfast and/or After School Club Assistants** to join our successful team and help develop and grow our wrap-around care provision. We are looking for individuals who enjoy working with children, as part of a team, and are committed to supporting our fun, safe and friendly environment for children to continue thriving outside of school hours.

To find out more, please visit: [www.teachinherts.com](http://www.teachinherts.com)

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

This week, we had a visit from some Year 6 Ashfield children who have volunteered to become play leaders. Mr Reid talked to them about the qualities required to be a responsible play leader and how to successfully lead games with our children at Merry Hill. As they have had some training, they will be visiting Merry Hill during two lunchtimes per week to set up and play games with our children. We will keep you updated with their progress and look forward to having some exciting lunchtimes ahead where we can learn and play new games.

Task

**The Golden Hoop**

**Equipment:**

- basketball hoop
- basket balls
- cones

**What to do:**

This is a shooting game.

1. Place the cones 5 steps apart.
2. Each cone represents a different level.
3. The further away the cone, the harder to level.
4. The aim of the game is to score from each level.
5. Children take turns to throw the basket ball into the hoop.

**Football**

**Equipment:**

- football
- tall cones
- cones

**What to do:**

This is a ball skill game.

1. Place 5 hoops around the field.
2. Place a numbered cone inside (from 1 to 5). These will be the 5 holes.
3. Each hole needs a starting cone.
4. Children kick the ball to the cone and count how many kicks it takes.

**1. Information – how to play the game**

**2. Equipment**

**3. How to make it harder or easier**

## **'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**

### **Burns Night Assembly**

This week Padre Nicoll came in to lead our Burns Night Assembly. He taught the children that on January 25<sup>th</sup> each year, Scottish people celebrate the life and poetry of Robert Burns and that this occasion is called 'Burns Night'. Padre Nicoll is Scottish and he talked about his life growing up in Scotland. He shared some pictures of himself and his family celebrating Burns Night, and talked about the food that is often eaten; haggis, neeps and tatties. One of the highlights was when he read a page from the Gruffalo in Scots to them. Thank you to Padre Nicoll for his time.

### **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.

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### **Peace Doves**

**What:** Peace Doves is an art installation by Peter Walker Sculptor, in which thousands of paper doves hang down from the Cathedral tower. The Peace Doves installation is made up of thousands of doves, each with a message of peace, love or hope written by members of the community. Since September 2023, visitors to the Cathedral, the congregation and school groups have contributed their messages to the doves to create an artwork representative of St Albans.

**Where:** St. Albans Cathedral, Sumpter Yard, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 1BY

**When:** The Cathedral is open daily 8.30am – 5.30pm. Entry is free (donations welcome). Tickets Book online at [www.stalbanscathedral.org](http://www.stalbanscathedral.org), in person at our Box Office, located in the Cathedral Shop, or call 01727 890290.

For further information and to book specific events, please visit:

<https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/pages/category/peace-doves>



We have also included a link to 'Families' free online magazine which includes a range of family activities and events in our local area and further afield. [Families NW London Jan/Feb 24 Digital Magazine by Families Magazine - Issuu](#)

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams  
Headteacher

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