



26th June 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

As I write this newsletter, I had hoped I would be sharing photographs and celebrating a wonderful Sports Day with you all. Sadly, that wasn't to be. Please know that making the decision to cancel was absolutely the last thing we wanted to do. Following the updated red weather warning and the Department for Education guidance advising against strenuous physical activity, we simply could not take the risk with the health and wellbeing of our children, staff and families.

We are already looking to see if an alternative date or a different event may be possible. We are also exploring whether we can still collaborate with the Junior School, as the Year 6 children play such an important part in our Sports Day. Every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the year, they give up their own time to support our children at playtimes, and Sports Day is another opportunity for them to demonstrate the leadership, kindness and responsibility they have developed. It is a very special event for them too. Whilst they always appreciate the treat organised by our amazing office team afterwards, it is the opportunity to encourage, support and inspire our younger children that they value most.

I also recognise the impact this cancellation has had on our families. Many of you had arranged annual leave, changed work commitments or rearranged appointments in order to be with us, and I genuinely appreciate the effort that takes. Thank you for your understanding and support. Several of the emails we received following the announcement were incredibly thoughtful and kind, and they meant a great deal to both myself and the staff. Your understanding during what was a very difficult decision is something we truly appreciate.

Staffing for Next Year

As we begin to look ahead to September, I am delighted to share the wonderful team who will continue to make Merry Hill such a special place to learn, grow and belong. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated group of professionals who work tirelessly behind the scenes and in classrooms every single day. Every member of staff plays an important role in ensuring our children feel safe, valued, inspired and happy.

Our Leadership Team remains unchanged. I will continue as Headteacher, supported by our exceptional Assistant Headteachers: **Mrs Sarah Ineson**, who continues her county-wide mathematics leadership work alongside her role at Merry Hill; **Mrs Fay Summers**, who leads Behaviour and Inclusion and provides invaluable support to children, families and staff; and **Mrs Gemma Hall**, who continues to support teaching and learning remotely through curriculum development, peer mentoring, lesson observations and quality assurance.

Our class teachers for September will be:

- **Nursery** – Mrs Elishia Jones, supported by Mrs Rebecca Parker
- **Reception** – Miss Poppy Reuben, Mrs Helen Gavriel and Miss Sarah O'Donnell, supported by Mrs Tamsin Barnes, Mrs Ellen Ogilvie Jones, Miss Hansa Ananda and Mrs Cassie Hill.

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

- **Year 1** – Miss Gracie Finch, supported by Miss Binita Senghani and Miss Ellie Willingham.
- **Year 1/2** – Miss Katie Honnor (our Key Stage 1 Lead), supported by Mrs Lisa Kemp, Mrs Sarah Bradbury and Mrs Fatima Shahzad
- **Year 2** – Miss Isobel Malin, supported by Mrs Kirsty Rogerson.
- **PPA Teacher** – Mrs Trudie Goodwin.

Beyond the classroom, we are equally fortunate to have an outstanding wider team who enrich the children's experiences every day. Mrs Alison Mitzman will continue to deliver Drawing and Talking therapy, therapeutic support and our much-loved Mini Forest Explorers sessions, alongside supporting children across Key Stage 1.

Our **Breakfast Club** continues to be run by Mrs Christine Krangel, Mrs Gabriella Michaelson, Miss Binita Senghani and Miss Ellie Willingham, providing a warm and welcoming start to each day.

Our **After School Club** team welcomes Miss Millie Lay who joins Mrs Avi Acton, Miss Binita Senghani and Miss Ellie Willingham in providing a fun, caring and engaging environment for our children after school.

Behind the scenes, our dedicated **administration and site team** keep the school running so smoothly. Mrs Emma Stephenson continues as our Office Manager, along with Mrs Annette Tooley as our Business Manager and Mrs Christine Krangel as our Administration Assistant, while Mr Cliff Johnson, our Caretaker, works tirelessly to ensure our school environment is always welcoming, safe and well cared for. Mrs Amber Heathcote continues to work remotely, our Marketing Manager, to promote our exceptional school.

Of course, no school day would be complete without our wonderful **catering team** from Herts Catering. Mrs Gabriella Michaelson and Miss Becky McDonagh continue to prepare delicious meals enjoyed by our children every day.

Over the coming weeks, every child will have the opportunity to spend time with their new teacher and class. Staff have already begun holding detailed handover meetings, carefully discussing each child's strengths, learning journey and any additional information that will help ensure a smooth and successful transition. For children who benefit from extra support with change, personalised transition books and additional classroom visits will also be provided.

You will shortly receive a letter from your child's new class teacher introducing themselves. There will also be invites to one of our **'Welcome to...'** meetings. These sessions will provide an opportunity to learn more about the curriculum, classroom routines and expectations for the year ahead, whilst giving you the chance to meet the team and ask any questions you may have. We hope these meetings help both children and families feel excited, confident and ready for another wonderful year at Merry Hill.

A Happy Face

EYFS: We are independent

KS1: We are confident to make our own choices

A Learning Place

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:

[A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space](#)

A Growing Space

Before I finish this week's newsletter, I could not let the week pass without saying how incredibly proud we are of every single one of our children. They have shown remarkable resilience, maturity and positivity throughout what has been an exceptionally hot week. Staff have worked tirelessly to ensure the children had regular opportunities to drink plenty of water, spend time in the shade and adapt activities when needed, and the children have responded brilliantly. They have continued to smile, learn and support one another despite the challenging conditions, embracing every opportunity to learn and enjoy school. They have been an absolute credit to themselves, to their families and to our Merry Hill community.



Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to another three exciting weeks of learning, laughter and memorable experiences before the summer holidays.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Ms Adams
Headteacher

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