



Merry Hill

Infant School and Nursery

Headteacher: Ms. Melissa Adams MA, NPQH

26th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to our Macmillan coffee morning today. This was a lovely opportunity for parents and carers to enjoy time together whilst raising money for an amazing cause. Thank you for the donations of pre-loved uniform which we made available during the event; recycling very much supports our sustainability goals. Thank you again for joining us and for supporting this community event.

This week, we would also like to wish a very happy New Year to our Jewish families who celebrated Rosh Hashanah. This special time marks the beginning of the Jewish year and is often celebrated with family gatherings, reflection, and sharing traditional foods such as apples dipped in honey to symbolise hopes for a sweet year ahead. We hope all our families who observed Rosh Hashanah enjoyed a meaningful and joyful celebration.

Welcome Mr Johnson!

We are delighted to welcome our new caretaker, Mr Johnson, who will start with us on Monday. Mr Johnson brings a wealth of practical experience to Merry Hill, having worked for many years as an electrician. We know his skills will be a real asset to our school community, whether it's helping to keep the site running smoothly, supporting improvements, or making sure our learning environment is safe and welcoming for the children. We are excited to have him on board. Please give him a warm Merry Hill welcome when you see him around school.

National Poetry Day – Thursday 2nd October

Next week we will celebrate National Poetry Day by giving the children time to share a much-loved poem with their class. If any parents, carers or family members are poets, we would love you to come in and share your work. Or, if you simply have a love of poetry, you might enjoy sharing some of your favourite childhood poems with the children. Please contact the school office if this is something you would be interested in.

A Happy Face

At Merry Hill, we believe that children learn best when they feel happy, safe and respected. That is why our behaviour curriculum, *The Merry Hill Way*, is central to everything we do.

This Autumn, our focus is on instilling the *core rules*: **Ready, Respectful, Safe**. They underpin all of our behaviour expectations and are carefully taught through assemblies, PSHE lessons and daily routines.

This week we have focused on the rule **Safe**:

- **EYFS** – *We walk in the classroom*
- **KS1** – *We move sensibly around the school*

The children are showing real maturity in the way they travel through corridors and shared spaces, helping to create a calm and safe environment for everyone.

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

The Merry Hill Way

We are all learning the Merry Hill Way and reflecting upon its successful implementation across the school. Inspired by the work of Paul Dix, it puts relationships, respect and consistency at the heart of everything we do.

As part of this journey, many of our teachers are taking on a 30-Day Pledge. Each pledge is a small, daily action designed to strengthen classroom relationships and routines. Some examples include:

- Thinking of new ways to warmly greet our children each morning. The teachers are greeting children at the door with choices like a high five, hug, signing, handshake or a smile, helping every child start their day feeling valued, unique and excited to be at Merry Hill.
- Using positive notes or recognition boards to celebrate success. We are trialling the recognition boards currently which are used for children going above and beyond our expectations.
- Spreading positivity - we are actively noticing and oxygenating positive behaviours, making sure that being ready, respectful and safe are recognised and encouraged across Merry Hill.

Each member of staff will implement one pledge consistently then reflect on its impact within their classroom. We have all agreed to commit to our chosen pledge for the full 30 days so we can analyse its effect fairly and learn from the experience. As reflective practitioners, our team continually look to improve their practice so that we can provide the best possible support for our children.

Why not try a 30-Day Pledge at home?

This is something you could try as a family. For example, you might focus on smoothing the morning routine, sharing a moment of gratitude at dinner, or recognising and praising effort each day. Small, consistent actions can make a big difference! Let us know how you get on!

Today is **National Teaching Assistant Day**, and we want to take a moment to celebrate our wonderful Learning Support Assistants. At Merry Hill, our Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) play a vital role in supporting children's learning, promoting independence and helping every child feel confident and included in the classroom.

To support their ongoing professional growth, our LSA team has access to fully funded online training, packed with practical strategies, resources, and the latest research on maximising impact in the classroom. This learning helps our TAs continue to make a real difference to children's experiences every day.

We are so grateful for their dedication, expertise, and care, and we celebrate all that they do to make Merry Hill such a special place to learn and grow.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams

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