



28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to you all! I hope you all had a lovely half term and enjoyed the sunshine we have seen this week, though this morning's frost was a little unexpected! With brighter mornings and warmer days ahead, spring is certainly in the air. The children have returned eagerly, and our staff well rested; we are all very much looking forward to a wonderful half term ahead!

It is always a pleasure to welcome back our former pupils! Our Year 6 Ashfield play leaders started in the final week of the last half term and will be joining us every Tuesday and Thursday to lead games with our children. The sessions have already been a great success, with the children giving positive feedback about their experience.



### **World Book Day**

A reminder that our exciting World Book Day event will take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Children can come to school dressed in comfortable clothes or pyjamas. Please remember that we warmly welcome you to come into your child's classroom to share a book between 8:45am and 9:15am for Reception and KS1 and 8:30am and 9:00am for Nursery. We know that for some, this may prove difficult with other commitments, but we hope to have enough parents/carers to join groups of children together so that everyone is included. Please feel free to bring in a favourite book from home, this can be in any language. We love sharing books from different cultures as it really helps the children deepen their understanding of the world and celebrate all of the people within it. This also fits in beautifully with our theme for the day - kindness, with a special focus on showing kindness to our planet and reflecting on our role in caring for it.

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**‘Ambitious Learners’ – how we act when we learn**

**This Week’s Focus: The Golden Rule – ‘Do be kind and helpful’**

**Team Points Focus: Good manners – greeting others positively**

At Merry Hill we have a carefully designed and structured behaviour curriculum to support our children’s development. It is designed to help children understand and practice positive behaviour in a structured way. This is delivered continually through PSHE, stories and assemblies as well as through every interaction between children and adults within the school.

This half term the focus for team points is using stem sentences to help the children communicate effectively with one another. Children can use these pre-structured phrases as models to express their ideas, needs and feelings. These stem sentences continue to link to our Golden Rules thus ensuring our children have a deep and secure understanding of each rule and the means to abide by them. By introducing these effective communication strategies early on, we are helping the children develop not only academically but also socially and emotionally.

24.2.25	<p><b>When people ask you how you are, tell them and then ask them “how are you?”</b></p> <p>We are listening out for children who greet one another and adults when they meet. <b>GR We are kind and helpful</b></p>	
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**‘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 see the wonderful learning that has taken place over the week.

<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. As mentioned previously, we will continue to suggest some ideas and activities aimed at promoting language and literacy for you to use at home. This week the focus is – Exploring Nature!

Children love to investigate so think about providing opportunities for them to explore nature by:

- Moving stones
- Looking under logs
- Smelling and touching flowers and leaves

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Research shows that children benefit from hearing **8 new words every day**. Talking to your children as they investigate will help them to hear new words. Try naming the Minibeasts, plants, trees and flowers you see. Can you describe what they look like, what their habitat is like, what they need to survive?

We are fortunate to have lots of woodlands to explore in the local area such as Whippendell Woods, Merry Hill Wood, Oxhey Woods and Bentley Priory Nature Reserve to name but a few. Have fun exploring!

### Surprise Readers

This week, we had two very special Surprise Reader moments! Mr Asgeirsson joined us with his guitar, read *Frozen*, and then led a sing-along of *Let It Go*. The teachers felt like they were at a mini Glastonbury Festival, and the children absolutely loved it!



We also had Miss Willingham in Year One as a Surprise Reader, and she brought along baby Kyrie, which was such a heart-warming moment for everyone.

The stakes are getting high for Surprise Readers! We absolutely welcome creativity, so if any parents would like to bring a little flair to their reading; whether it's with a fun voice, a song, or something imaginative of course we would love to see it. However, it is not necessary as your child will be more than happy and completely surprised to have you there, no matter how you choose to join in. A big thank you to everyone who has already joined us and to those who will be joining us in the future!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams  
Headteacher

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