



29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This past week has been filled with delightful Easter learning experiences across the school. The children were absolutely egg-static as they participated in the traditional Easter Egg Hunt organized by our fantastic Friends of Merry Hill. The excitement was palpable as they eagerly searched for hidden treasures scattered throughout the school grounds, collecting stamps at various numbered stations along the way.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to all the parent volunteers who have dedicated their time and effort to help with the children's planting activities, making our playground burst with colourful blooms just in time for the summer term. Your contributions truly enhance the beauty of our school environment, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.



### Thank you and all the best Mr Reid

It is with a mixture of sadness and appreciation that we bid farewell to Mr. Reid, our very well respected Assistant Headteacher, as he embarks on a new chapter in his professional journey. Mr. Reid has been an integral part of our school community, leaving an unforgettable mark on both pupils, staff and parents alike. His infectious personality and true dedication have brought smiles to our faces every day, fostering a positive and vibrant atmosphere within the school. Mr. Reid's commitment to educational excellence and his genuine care for the well-being of all our pupils, makes him a truly remarkable leader. While we will miss his presence dearly, we are grateful for the lasting impact he has had on our school, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours. Thank you, Mr. Reid, for your invaluable contributions and for being an inspiration to us all.

### A message from Mr Reid

Thank you so much for your kind words and your kindness. I have been blown away with your best wishes, messages and very generous gifts you have given me. I am truly humbled and so thankful. It has been an immense pleasure to be part of Merry Hill School and it has given me memories that will last a lifetime. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with your children and to have had the opportunity to get to know the families at our amazing school. I am so thankful to have been a part of the Merry Hill Family and I wish you all the very best for the future ahead!

*A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space*

## Purple Up Day - April 26th

April is the month of the military child and during this month we love taking the time to celebrate our military children here at Merry Hill. This year we will celebrate Purple up Day on Friday 26th April and ask that all children come to school wearing a purple accessory on this day such as a hair ribbon, socks, cardigan or t-shirt. **Purple** is a colour used to represent all military services and shows unity with each other. This day is to celebrate the wonderful contribution our military children make to our community, bringing experiences from all around the world! We celebrate our military children and thank them for their service.

### 'Curious Learners' – *what we learn*

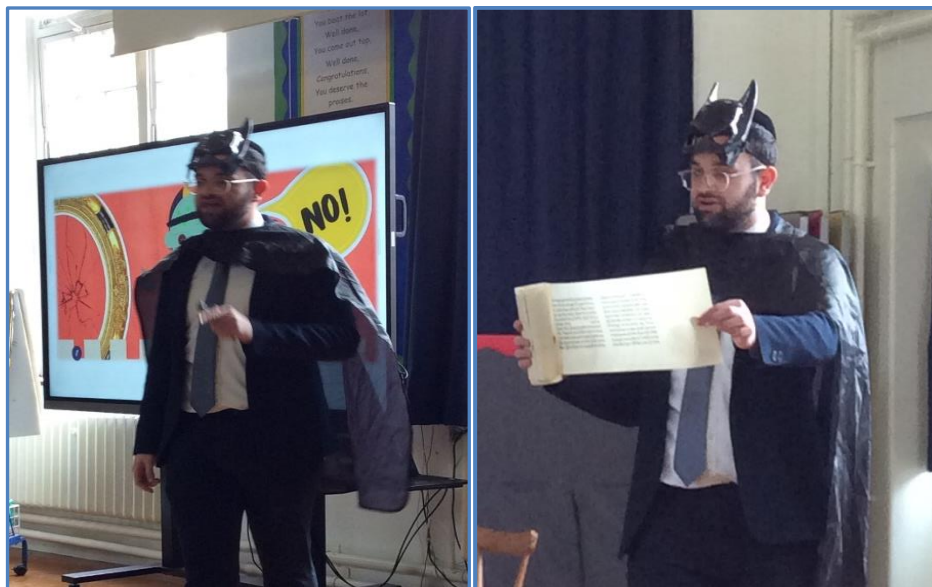
Please click on the link below to have a peek at some of the wonderful learning that has taken place in your child's classroom this week:

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

### 'Collaborative Learners' – *our place in the world*

#### Purim Festival

On Monday Rabbi Lister visited from Bushey United Synagogue and led an assembly about the festival of Purim. On Purim the Jewish community celebrate the bravery of Queen Esther, a very smart Jewish woman who was married to King Achashverosh. When Esther learned that Haman, who worked for the King, was plotting against the Jews, she summoned the courage to tell the King about Haman's evil plan and saved her people. Rabbi Lister showed the children the story of Purim written in a scroll in Hebrew. He led the assembly dressed up as Batman, because Jewish people often like to dress up during this festival.



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## 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.

## Kids eat for free or less this Easter in Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire County Council has rounded up a list of places to eat this spring school holiday where kids can eat for less or even for free! Please use the link below to access the list of which places will be taking part.

[Hertfordshire County Council | Kids eat for free or less this Easter in Hertfordshire](#)



# “What’s On?”



**Cassiobury Farm & Fishery Open Day & Giant Easter Egg Hunt**  
Sunday 31st March and Monday 1st April  
9am—4pm  
Hidden throughout the site are giant golden Easter eggs and popular Easter themed characters. Follow your treasure map to find them all!  
<https://allevents.in/watford/200026166269548>

**Easter Trail**  
Easter trail at Cassiobury Park.  
Self led trail to find all the hidden springtime characters around the park and earn a sweet treat! The trail takes about 1 hr for families to complete and each attending child must purchase a ticket through Eventbrite. Adults must accompany their children during the event  
<https://allevents.in/watford/200026253257736>

**Play Rangers**  
Join the Play Ranger team this Easter for lots of fun egg-citing adventures. We will be exploring local woodland and open spaces, toasting marshmallows, den building, campfires, rope swings, team games, sporting activities and lots more!  
Sessions are **FREE** to attend but you must register in advance.  
[https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/services/leisure-parks-culture/play/play-rangers#H-holiday%](https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/services/leisure-parks-culture/play/play-rangers#H-holiday%20)

**Woodland Fairytale Trail**  
Chorleywood Common  
4th/5th April 10am-2pm  
Suitable for all ages  
Sweet Treat Prize for all on Completion.  
Trail is walking only and suitable for Pushchairs.  
Come with wellies as the common can be muddy!  
Fancy Dress is always welcome...  
Trail lasts approximately 1hr  
Tickets will only be required for all children and must be accompanied by an adult when participating  
[Buy tickets – Woodland Fairytale Trail – Chorleywood Common, Thu 4 Apr 2024 10:00 AM - Fri 5 Apr 2024 5:00](https://www.buynow.co.uk/woodland-fairytale-trail-chorleywood-common-thu-4-apr-2024-10-00-am-fri-5-apr-2024-5-00)

**Atria Watford Spring Craft Workshops**  
FREE half-term Easter fun from Monday 8th April to Friday 12th April. Daily from 11am to 4pm in Charter Place near Puttshack.  
From personalised watering cans to ceramic bee feeders, there's something for every young maker to enjoy. Little ones can take home their unique creations, adding a touch of spring to your home or garden.  
<https://atriawatford.com/events/easter-crafts>

**Free Gym & Swim**  
Everyone Active's Watford Central and Watford Woodside leisure centres are inviting under 19s to keep active during the school Easter holiday with free access to their gyms and swimming pools from Monday 3 April to Friday 14 April 2023  
<https://www.everyoneactive.com/>

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I hope you all have a wonderful break and look forward to welcoming you back on Monday April 15th.

Sincerely

Ms Melissa Adams  
Headteacher

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