



Merry Hill

Infant School and Nursery

Headteacher: Ms. Melissa Adams MA, NPQH

29th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Winter Fair Reminder

The wait is almost over... our highly anticipated **Winter Fair is tomorrow!!!!** We can't wait to see you all for a magical day filled with festive fun, laughter, and holiday cheer.

We will have some exciting activities, fabulous stalls, and plenty of treats organised by the wonderful FoMH and ASHA, there's something for everyone to enjoy. We look forward to seeing you there!

Coffee Morning with Mrs Summers

We warmly invite you to join us **at 8.45am on Monday 2nd December**, for our Coffee Morning with Mrs Summers. This informal gathering is a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents and carers and share experiences. Whether you have questions, insights, or simply wish to meet others in a similar situation, we look forward to welcoming you and signposting what supports are available including parenting courses, how to improve routines, learning support, SEND queries, etc.

'Curious Learners' – *what we learn*

History at Merry Hill

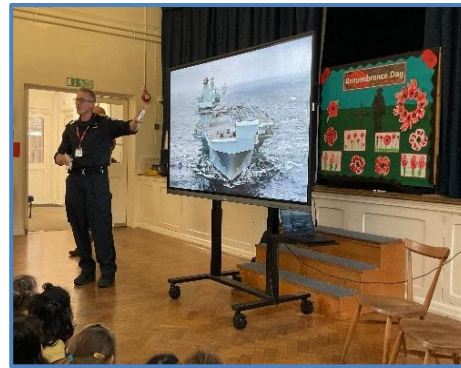
Throughout November, we have been exploring the theme of **Remembrance**, honouring our history, heritage and community. This week marks the end of our month of Remembrance at Merry Hill and on Wednesday we held a military celebration assembly where Mr Price and Mr Wills kindly came in to talk to the children about their roles in the Navy and the Army. The children also learnt about some of the other job roles in the armed forces, including chefs and engineers. They had some interesting questions to ask such as "How many people are in the armed forces?", "What does that badge mean on your uniform?" and "Why did you want to join the army/navy?" The resounding message was that these gentlemen joined the armed forces because they wanted to serve and protect us and they also enjoyed travelling around the world. We would like to extend a huge "thank you" to Mr Price and Mr Wills for supporting us in building community connections and celebrating diversity within our school.

As part of our curriculum and in celebration of our Victorian roots as a school, our Year One children have been diving into history. They explored the difference between schools in the Victorian era and today, looking at how technology, clothing, and classroom resources have transformed over time.

The children learned about key historical milestones, such as how Queen Victoria abolished child labour and made schooling mandatory for all children, a turning point in educational history. To bring this learning to life, the children visited Reveley Lodge this week. They had an unforgettable experience dressing up as Victorian children and participating in activities that gave them a first-hand understanding of what school life was like during that era. It was a truly enriching day, sparking curiosity and appreciation for how education has evolved.

Thank you to all who have supported this month's events and activities, helping to make history relevant and engaging for our children!

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space



Curriculum Development Visit

On Monday, our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner visited to review our progress in enhancing the school's history and geography curriculum. One of our school development priorities is **redeveloping our history and geography curriculum to ignite curiosity and deepen understanding**. The improvement partner provided some excellent feedback, which will help us to refine teaching strategies and curriculum design in order to best support our commitment to this ongoing development. The visit was very successful and I wanted to take a moment to thank the entire team for the dedication and endeavour to ensure our children receive the best possible start to schooling.

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/>

'Ambitious Learners' – how we act when we learn

This Week's Focus: The Golden Rule – 'We are gentle'


Team Points Focus: Cooperative Behaviour

This week's Team Point focus is cooperative behaviour. We are encouraging the children to work together both in class and outside and focusing on specific actions such as sharing resources, equipment and space. Our team are actively praising specific examples of children demonstrating this cooperative behaviour to positively reinforce.

How you can help at home:

Encourage Team Activities: Involve your child in group tasks like cooking, cleaning or playing games that require collaboration. Highlight and praise the sharing seen.

Discuss cooperation: Talk about the importance of working together and helping others. Use stories and specific examples to explain how cooperation benefits everyone e.g. Stone Soup by various authors.

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| 25.11.24 | <p>Cooperative – when we work together towards the same goal. We are looking for children who share resources, equipment and space and help one another.</p> <p>GR we are gentle</p> |  <p>cooperative</p> |
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Celebrating Excellence in EYFS

This week, we proudly welcomed an EYFS leader from another Hertfordshire school, who visited to observe and learn from the exceptional practice of our Early Years Foundation Stage team. Their visit provided a wonderful opportunity to showcase the dedication, expertise, and creativity of our staff, whose hard work ensures the highest standards of education for our pupils. This collaboration not only reinforces our commitment to excellence but also strengthens our practice through shared learning. A special thank you to our children for enthusiastically talking about their learning and to all the staff who helped out or were involved in making this visit such a success.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and encouragement. I look forward to seeing you at the winter fair tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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