



24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Parent workshops**

A huge thank you to Mrs Ineson for holding our fantastic Year 2 workshops aimed at improving reading, writing, and maths. We are incredibly fortunate to be able to offer these sessions, and I hope that those parents who have attended found them both enjoyable and beneficial. One of the highlights of these workshops is seeing the children join their parents in the learning experience. This unique opportunity strengthens the home-school connection and allows parents to gain valuable insights into how they can support their child's learning journey. We look forward to further workshops next week.

We listened carefully to your feedback from last year, and in response, we have provided these sessions to better support you in helping your child thrive. The partnership between our school and our families is truly special, and we are grateful for your engagement and commitment. Thank you to everyone who has taken part – your enthusiasm and support make all the difference!

### **Full Governing Body**

This week we held a Full Governing Body meeting, followed by a learning walk to observe our school priorities in action. During the meeting, we discussed our ongoing school improvement initiatives and reviewed the strategies in place to enhance standards across the curriculum.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated and experienced governing body, whose expertise helps shape the direction of our school. Their commitment ensures that we continue to provide the best possible education for our children. If any parents or members of our wider community are interested in joining our governing body, we would love to hear from you.

A huge thank you to our governors for their time, dedication, and valuable contributions!

### **Attendance Matters**

At Merry Hill, we are committed to ensuring that every child attends school every day, as we know that consistent attendance is key to academic success. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for prioritising attendance and making every effort to ensure their children come to school regularly. Our current attendance figures are strong, and this is a testament to your dedication and support.

We understand that children may occasionally fall ill, and we appreciate your honesty in keeping us informed. As part of our attendance policy, we will ask for evidence for any exceptional leave requests, as we work together to maintain high attendance levels.

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If your child is reluctant to come to school or is facing any barriers to attendance, please do not hesitate to speak to any member of staff. We want to work in partnership with you to understand any concerns and provide support where needed. Our aim is for all children to run into school happily in the morning and leave at the end of the day feeling fulfilled and excited for the next.

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

**This Week’s Focus: The Golden Rule – ‘We are good listeners’**

**Team Points Focus: Good manners – waiting our turn to speak**

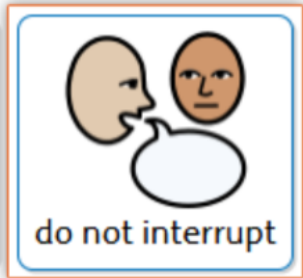
All schools are legally required to promote the fundamental British Values of: Democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. One of the reasons that British values are so important is that they help to prepare young people for life in modern Britain as they grow older and leave school. This term we are focusing on **mutual respect** through the development of our children’s manners.

This week we will praise the children and award team points for children who are not interrupting others. This can be quite tricky for young children so we use a variety of scaffolds and strategies to help our children develop this skill such as using sand timers (which visually show how long the child needs to wait), modelling and role playing, gentle reminders and positive reinforcement. To reinforce this at home try:

**Modelling behaviour:** practise patience and wait for your child to finish speaking, which shows what respectful communication looks like.

**Timer:** you could also use a timer at home as a visual aid to show your child when it is their time to speak. This helps to develop the concept of waiting their turn. This is something we would gradually remove over time as the child develops this turn taking skill.

**Practice turn taking:** through games, conversations and other family activities use phrases like, “It’s your turn now, and then it will be my turn”.

20.1.25	<p><b>Do not interrupt– when someone is already speaking do not interrupt them</b></p> <p>We are looking for children who are waiting patiently for a turn to speak.</p> <p><b>GR We are good listeners</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/>

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## Parent Partnership

Research tells us that the most important learning opportunities occur through conversations and play between the child and others at home. As mentioned last week, we will continue to suggest some ideas and activities aimed at promoting language and literacy for you to use at home.

### Mealtimes



Mealtimes are a great way to spend time with your child and have a chat while you eat. Along with talking about your day, you can also chat about the food on their plate. For example, I can see two slices of banana there and one slice of banana there, that makes 3. This type of talk will support subitising whilst also developing communication and turn taking – as mentioned above. One parent was telling me that her family take turns to share something they are grateful for that day or to share a moment where they have been kind to someone else; what a lovely idea!

Or try some of these fun conversation starters:

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I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams  
Headteacher

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