



3rd November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Surprise Reader

We are absolutely thrilled to bring back our '**Surprise Reader**' event and we would love for you to join in the reading fun! Picture the joy on your child/ren's face when a surprise guest steps into their classroom to share a wonderful story. Our 'Surprise Reader' events are all about making reading an exciting adventure for our pupils. They'll get to explore different types of stories, from amazing non-fiction to the magic of poetry. What makes it even more special is the element of surprise – the children can't wait to find out who their reader will be! The first 'Surprise Reader' event of this school year happened on Wednesday, so please ask your child about their magical experience.

And now, here's the exciting part - we are hoping to have even more readers visit our classes, and that includes you! By participating, you'll not only add to the fun but also introduce our young readers to a wide variety of stories, helping to nurture the love of reading. Surprise Reading is on a Wednesday at 3.00pm (Nursery – 11.15am & 3.00pm) and you can choose **any class** across the school to read to. We just ask that to be fair to all parents, if you would like to read to your child's class, that you only sign up once to their particular class. We have arranged dates until early December but additional dates will be added soon for 2024.

If you are keen to be a part of this wonderful event, please sign up through your Scopay account. Go to 'Parents evenings', select the relevant 'Surprise Reader' event and you can then choose whichever date is convenient for you. Your support would mean so much to us, and to the children as well!

Staff News

We are thrilled to share some special news with you. We received the wonderful announcement that Miss Reuben has been accepted into the PGCE apprentice program.

We could not be prouder of her achievement, and it has been a privilege to support her application for this program. Miss Reuben's dedication and commitment to education have been evident in her work here at Merry Hill, and we are excited to see her continue her journey to becoming an even more outstanding educator.

Congratulations to Miss Reuben on this well-deserved opportunity. We have no doubt that her passion and enthusiasm for teaching will inspire and positively influence the future generations of pupils she will guide.

'Healthy Learners' – how we ensure we are ready to learn

Fireworks

During Wednesday's assembly, the children learnt about Guy Fawkes Night. They discovered that Bonfire Night is celebrated on 5th November because that was the day when Guy Fawkes was sent to prison. The children also learned about the various ways people

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might celebrate this occasion, such as lighting fireworks and bonfires, burning effigies of Guy Fawkes on a bonfire and, of course, enjoying special treats like hot dogs and toffee apples.

Awareness of the potential risks associated with Bonfire Night was also discussed, and we talked about how to safely enjoy fireworks. We emphasized the importance of standing well away from any bonfires and, if we go to a public display, standing behind a barrier. Additionally, we discussed the necessity of wearing gloves and long sleeves when handling sparklers, with a bucket of water nearby to safely extinguish them once they have gone out. It was emphasized that only adults should handle the lighting of fireworks and that if a firework doesn't go off immediately, no one should go back to check it, as it may still be dangerous.

Finally, we talked about the fact that many pets and some children may be frightened by fireworks. To reduce exposure to loud noises and prevent fear, we advise that on Bonfire Night, pets and anxious children should stay indoors where it is warm, in order to limit the loud bangs that they are exposed to and stop them from getting scared.

You will find a poster about Fireworks safety attached to this Newsletter, which you might want to share with your child(ren) before Bonfire Night celebrations. We hope everyone in the Merry Hill Community enjoys a wonderful Bonfire Night celebration, should you choose to participate.

'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/>

Phonics and Reading Workshop

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Mr Reid for conducting a fantastic phonic workshop this past Wednesday afternoon. The aim of the workshop was to provide information to further enable you to support your child alongside us on their reading journey. The excellent turnout was truly appreciated, and it was wonderful to see many new Reception parents joining us for this informative session.

In addition to the phonic workshop, we had the opportunity to use the new interactive screen the FoMH has supported the school in financing. This exciting addition will undoubtedly enhance our education environment and the learning experiences of our ambitious learners.

Please note that all the workshop materials and resources will be available on the school website, and a separate email will be sent out with further details.

Thank you once again and we look forward to inviting you and your child to join us alongside Mrs Ineson for an exciting and engaging maths workshop in a few weeks' time.

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

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.

Elstree Aerodrome

What:

Elstree aerodrome is an exciting place for aspiring pilots to view the planes taking off and landing. On site there is also an Aerodrome Café which is open to all and whilst there you can enjoy a delicious range of meals, snacks and drinks with glorious aerodrome views. There is on-site parking available.

Where:

Elstree Aerodrome, Hogg Lane, Elstree, Herts, WD6 3AR



I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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Firework Safety



Never throw fireworks.



Keep pets indoors.



Always wear gloves when handling sparklers.



Keep fireworks in a closed box.



Stand well back.



Never go back to a lit firework.

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