



Merry Hill

Infant School and Nursery

Headteacher: Ms. Melissa Adams MA, NPQH

5th December 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

This season is always a reminder of what makes our community so special: the kindness of our children, the support of our families and the dedication of our staff. As the school fills with lights, music and celebrations, we continue to focus on creating a happy, safe and inclusive environment for every child.

Christmas has arrived at Merry Hill, bringing that extra sparkle to our days. Our Christmas tree is up, the post boxes are ready for children who may want to send cards to their friends, and classrooms have been filled with the sound of singing as the children prepare for their upcoming performances.



We're excited to share that Merry Hill has kindly been donated a beautiful Christmas tree by **Pines and Needles**. As part of their gift, they are also offering parents **10% off Christmas trees** from their London pop-up stores and online shop. You just need to use  **Discount Code: SCHOOL10**

Follow **@pinesandneedles** for festive activities at local stores, and visit www.pinesandneedles.com for full details and all store locations across London and the surrounding area.

A Happy Face

At Merry Hill, we believe that children learn best when they feel happy, safe and respected. That is why our behaviour curriculum, *The Merry Hill Way*, is central to everything we do.

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

This Autumn, our focus is on instilling the *core rules*: **Ready, Respectful, Safe**. They underpin all of our behaviour expectations and are carefully taught through assemblies, PSHE lessons and daily routines.

This week we have focused on all three rules:

EYFS: *We are ready, respectful and safe in our classroom.*

KS1: *We are ready, respectful and safe around school.*

How you can support at home:

Be Ready

- Build small routines into the day, like putting shoes by the door or laying out clothes the night before, to help children practise being prepared.
- Give gentle reminders such as, “*What do we need to be ready for?*” rather than doing it for your child as this will promote independence.

Be Respectful

- Model respectful language at home, saying “please”, “thank you”, “excuse me”, and taking turns to speak.
- Encourage children to listen to others fully before responding.
- Involve them in small, helpful jobs around the house to develop respect for shared spaces and belongings.

Be Safe

- Talk calmly about what “safe” means, both physically and emotionally. For example: using kind hands, staying where an adult can see them, or speaking up when something doesn’t feel right.
- Practise safe habits such as walking when inside the house or holding hands when crossing roads.
- Praise safe choices when you notice them: “*You waited for me before crossing - that was a safe decision.*”

A Learning Place

Reveley Lodge

This week, our Year 1 children stepped back in time during their exciting visit to Reveley Lodge. As many of you know, Merry Hill is a Victorian school, and we make the most of this unique heritage to bring history to life for our children. At Reveley Lodge, the children had the chance to role-play what it was like to attend a real Victorian classroom from the strict routines to the slate boards!

A highlight of the day was, of course, tasting the delicious Victoria sponge cake, which never fails to be a firm favourite among the children. It was a wonderful hands-on experience that helped deepen their understanding of schooling in the past.

Thank you to the Merry Hill team and our parent helpers who made this trip possible!

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

Tudor Houses

Our Year 2 children have also been busy developing their historical skills. As part of their learning about the Great Fire of London, they have been constructing their own Tudor houses. This hands-on project allowed them to explore the architectural style of the period while gaining a deeper understanding of life in 17th-century London. The children had great fun bringing history to life through their creations! Thank you again to the parents and carers who came in to support this learning.

Hanukkah Assembly

On Wednesday, KS1 gathered for a special assembly with Rabbi Yosef Sharfstein, who spoke to the children about Hanukkah. They learned about the traditions and significance of this festival, and had the chance to ask questions and reflect on the celebration. We wish all our families who celebrate a joyful and meaningful Hanukkah!

A Growing Space

Book Fair Funds

We are delighted to share that thanks to all of you, we earned £235.00 to spend on new books for our school. This will help us continue to build a rich, inviting reading environment for all our children. Thank you!

Supporting Autistic Children During the Holiday Season

The holiday period can be a magical time for families but it can also bring changes in routine, busy environments, and new social expectations that may be challenging for autistic children. Making small, thoughtful adjustments can help ensure all family members enjoy the season. We have included tips from the National Autistic Society at the bottom of this newsletter to support families in creating a calm, inclusive festive experience. We hope you find the information useful.

Winter Fair

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at the Winter Fair tomorrow between 11am and 2pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Merry Hill community to come together and build relationships whilst supporting the school. Thank you to the team who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to prepare for this wonderful event.

Have a lovely weekend, everyone.

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

6th December
11am to 2pm



Winter Fair

fun for the
whole family



SANTAS GROTTO ☆ SNOWBALL TOSS ☆ GLITTER
TATTOOS ☆ FACE PAINTING ☆ REINDEER FOOD
☆ RAFFLE ☆ CHOC AND BOTTLE TOMBOLA ☆
GINGERBREAD DECORATING ☆ MULLED WINE ☆
AND LOTS MORE!

Adults
£2

KIDS GO FREE



MERRY HILL INFANTS SCHOOL AND NURSERY
School Lane, Bushey WD23 1ST

With thanks to...



A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

12 Tips for an autism-friendly Christmas

Christmas can be a magical time, but if someone in your family is on the spectrum, there's extra pressure to get it right. These simple pointers may help:

- 1** Have a designated place to relax and retreat, especially if you plan to have a houseful of guests. You could even label it as a 'quiet room'.
- 2** Be clear about when friends, family or neighbours may visit. Write up a schedule and stick it on the fridge or somewhere it is easily accessible.
- 3** Use advent calendars to your advantage – a countdown can be really beneficial to make people aware of upcoming events.
- 4** Some families opt for a one-day Christmas, when decorations and lights are put up and taken down in the same day.
- 5** Alternatively, how about decorating a designated 'Christmas room' to limit the impact of changes to other rooms in the house.
- 6** Look at the world through the eyes of your loved one – what aspects of Christmas do they enjoy? There are no rules – Christmas can be whatever works for you and your family.



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12 Tips for an autism-friendly Christmas

Have some Christmas-free time away from the festivities – this can be helpful to reduce anxiety. A quiet stroll in the park or feeding the ducks could help, if this is what you normally do to relax.

- 7** Father Christmas can cause anxiety. Prepare your loved one by showing them pictures, or perhaps Father Christmas could drop off presents at a family member's house instead.
- 8** Find out about local events, such as autism-friendly grottos and pantomimes. Decide which events your loved one would enjoy and book in advance.
- 9** Christmas dinners can be individual, so stick to what you know will be popular. Who says it has to be roast turkey?
- 10** On Christmas Day, try and keep to a routine that suits your family. If you need to make changes, then prepare in advance, using photos or social stories to explain what is happening.
- 11** Christmas is about enjoying yourself. It's your time, too, so always ask for help from family and friends if you need it.



Wishing you a very merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Autism Together's children and families service offers parenting courses, social groups, activities for little ones and support groups for families. And we do so much more! Read about us at www.autismtogether.co.uk.

www.autismfamily.co.uk | T: 0151 334 7510

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