



6th February 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

### Play Leaders at Lunchtime

We are delighted to share that Year 6 Ashfield pupils are leading play sessions on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes. These sessions are always extremely popular and not only enhance playtimes for our children, but also develop leadership, responsibility and confidence among our Year 6 Ashfield pupils.

### Traffic

We are aware that traffic disruption in the local area continues to be a concern for families. We remain in regular contact with the relevant authorities and other local schools to seek clarity and updates. As soon as we receive any confirmed information, we will share this with parents and carers. Thank you, as always, for your patience and cooperation at drop-off and pick-up times as we work together to keep everyone safe.

### A Happy Face

The Merry Hill Way remains at the heart of our school community, and it has been wonderful to see children consistently demonstrating our expectations across the school.

### Team Points Focus:

**EYFS – We use quiet voices in the classroom at all times**

**KS1 – We are relaxed and calm at busy times such as when walking in from the playground**

### Children's Mental Health Week & Safer Internet Day

Next week we will be celebrating Children's Mental Health Week alongside Safer Internet Day.

At Merry Hill, we support positive mental health through regular exercise and outdoor learning, mindfulness areas in every classroom, our restorative approach to behaviour as well as our behaviour curriculum and PSHE sessions.

For parents and carers who would like to read further around managing screen use, we would like to signpost you to an external resource offering practical advice about this topic. This guidance from Coram Life Education (SCARF) supports families in creating healthy, balanced approaches to screen time at home:

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

## A Learning Place

### Mastering Number at Home Workshops

This week we welcomed Reception and Year 1 parents into school to take part in our *Mastering Number at Home* workshops.

Parents were first given information by our in-house maths specialist, Mrs Ineson, before being invited into the classroom to practise the games alongside their children. These sessions highlighted the importance of strong foundations in maths and how learning through play supports children's understanding and confidence.

All children took home a maths resource pack on the day of their workshop. If you were unable to attend, a resource pack has been placed in your child's book bag, and a recording of the workshop is now live on the school website.

Thank you to all parents who attended this week — we are very fortunate to have such a strong parent partnership. Please remember to practise the games regularly at home.

We look forward to welcoming Year 2 parents to their workshop next week.

### Staff CPD

At Merry Hill, staff are continually engaged in professional development to ensure our teaching and practice remain high quality and responsive to the needs of our children. While this week has been particularly busy with training opportunities, including Year 2 teachers attending moderation training, Mrs Summers attending SEND training and Mrs Ineson attending maths training, professional learning is an ongoing commitment shared by all staff.

We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and committed team, with staff working together to reflect, learn and continually improve. This shared approach ensures we provide the very best support for our children and families, both in and beyond the classroom.

## A Growing Space

### Sustainability

Sustainability is a key part of our School Development Plan (SDP), and both staff and pupils have been looking for ways to reduce our environmental impact. Our whole-school approach includes:

- Saving energy and switching off unused screens and lights
- Reducing waste and promoting recycling
- Caring for our outdoor areas to support biodiversity and learning
- Encouraging sustainable behaviours across the school community
- Linking our actions to our school values of **Ready, Respectful and Safe**

This focus on sustainability also shapes our upcoming **World Book Day celebrations on Thursday 5th March**. Children will be exploring texts and themes that connect with caring for the environment, and we will be highlighting sustainability in creative ways during the day.

We would love to involve our families in supporting sustainability projects at school, such as **planting, gardening, or other eco-activities**. If any parents or carers have a passion, interest, or career linked to sustainability and would like to share their knowledge with our pupils, we would be delighted to hear from you. More information about opportunities to get involved will follow, and your expertise and support are always warmly welcomed.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend.

Ms Melissa Adams  
Headteacher

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