



6th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parent/Carer Consultations

Next week, we will hold our parent/carer consultations and we are very much looking forward to welcoming you into Merry Hill. Working closely with parents is crucial as we strive to provide the best education for our children and to ensure they make the best possible progress in all areas of their lives.

Forces Club

This week we held our first 'Forces Club' of the year; a club we hold to introduce our military children to one another and an opportunity for us to provide support for our military community. The club is run by Mrs Nicoll, who is a military wife, as well as being a teacher at our school. Our commitment to knowing our pupils and families thoroughly allows us to tailor our support for all. For our Service families, who may experience extended periods of change and possible separation, we utilise this opportunity to get to know the children and work together with families to provide support when and if it is needed.

'Curious Learners' – what we learn

Please click on the link below to have a peak 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/>

'Collaborative Learners' – our place in the world

Forest Clean Up

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the group of parents/carers who have worked so hard to improve our outdoor learning space. The bird viewing hut, shed and outdoor table and bench have been repainted, the mud kitchen is decidedly less muddy and the space is now ready for some more exciting outdoor learning adventures! Thank you so much for supporting us, we are very grateful for your continued support.



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Harvest Assembly

On Wednesday afternoon, we welcomed Mrs. Bastable and Mrs. Penny from the Watford Schools Trust, a Christian organisation that visits schools within Hertfordshire to share ideas and values from the Christian religion. Our visitors led an Assembly all about Harvest festival and the importance of being grateful for what we have and sharing this with others who may be less fortunate than ourselves. The children were enthralled by the Assembly, which included some spelling, a bit of drama and even some magic! As you may know, we are currently collecting cans and dry foods to be donated to the Red Trust Bushey as a part of Harvest festival. Thank you to those who have already donated; we appreciate that the cost of living crisis is impacting everyone and that some families may not be able to give this year. In these tricky times, the foodbanks are being used by many people so we chose our local Red Trust Bushey Foodbank and Café to donate the collection to.

Thank you, Mrs. Bastable and Mrs. Penny, for coming in and reminding us how important it is to share what we have with others and how this can be so rewarding, sometimes in the most surprising ways!



Hindu House Warming Ceremony

Mrs Varia, Praneet's Mum, sent in some photos to show their family's house blessing ceremony. When someone from the Hindu community moves into a new home for the first time, they perform a griha pravesh puja ceremony which Hindu's believe purifies the space. The Varia family took 5 auspicious things (turmeric, milk, rice, coin and coconut) in their hands as they entered the house with the god's idol. These items were then kept near the sink in the kitchen. The family pray for their prosperity and happiness within their new home. Thank you to Mrs Varia for sharing this ceremony with us, we wish you every happiness in your new home.



Cost of Living

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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.

Go on a Nature Scavenger Hunt

What:

Create a list of items to find in nature during the autumn season, such as colourful leaves, acorns, conkers, pinecones, spider webs and types of birds. Explore local parks or nature trails together as you check off each item on the list. Please see the scavenger hunt attached to this newsletter.



Once you have completed the scavenger hunt you could try some of these questions to develop speaking and listening skills...

- What did you find that is smooth/rough/prickly?
- What did you find that is damp/dry?
- Was there anything on the list you didn't touch/pick up? Why?
- What is the most delicate object you found? Why do you say that?
- How would you describe [item]?
- What do you think would eat [item]?
- Where did you find [item]?
- Why do you think [item] ended up looking like that? What might have happened to it?

FoMH Quiz night Friday 13th October 2023

A reminder that the quiz night will be held in the school hall from 8.00pm next Friday. The entrance fee is £5; bring your own bottle and the prize for the winning team is a luxury hamper.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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THE LEAVES ARE FALLING, THE SUN IS LOW. IT'S TIME TO GET HUNTING, SO OFF YOU GO! CAN YOU SPOT THESE THINGS OUTSIDE? MAKE A COLLECTION OR DRAW YOUR FINDS.



ACORN



PINECONE



CONKER



MUSHROOM



**SHINY
EVERGREEN
LEAF**



**SPIDER'S
WEB**



BERRIES



SQUIRREL



**A PILE OF
LEAVES**



**PRICKLY
CONKER CASE**



PUDDLE



**BROWN
LEAF**



**RED
LEAF**



**LEAF BIGGER
THAN YOUR HAND**



**WINGED SEED
(LIKE A SYCAMORE)**



**PINE
NEEDLES**

REMEMBER: ONLY COLLECT FROM THE FOREST/WOODLAND FLOOR.

FACEBOOK: @FORESTSCHOOLLEADERS

INSTAGRAM: @THEPRACTICALFORESTSCHOOL

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