



7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a week full of excitement and celebration here at Merry Hill and within our community!

On Tuesday, our children learned all about Shrove Tuesday and its significance within the Christian community. Our EYFS children had great fun using their imaginations to create different pancake designs out of playdough. However, the highlight of the day was definitely the pancake tasting (not the playdough ones!)—where they tried different toppings while blindfolded. This activity encouraged them to fully engage their senses and describe the flavours, leading to some wonderfully rich vocabulary development!

Meanwhile, our Nursery children had the chance to get hands-on with pancake-making—and, of course, the best part, eating them!



Another highlight of the week was our fabulous celebration of World Book Day. The day began in the best possible way; sharing a book together, with so many of you who joined us. This special start not only created a real buzz around reading but also reinforced the joy of reading for pleasure.

Research tells us there are six key ingredients that help children develop a lifelong love of reading:

- Being read to regularly
- Having books at home and at school
- Having a choice in what to read
- Finding time to read
- Having trusted help to find a book
- Making reading FUN!

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

During the day the children listened to the teachers reading *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers which they absolutely loved. Throughout the rest of the day they engaged in a range of exciting activities to dig a little deeper into the language and meaning of the story.

Please take a look at the class blogs to find out what the children got up to.

### Work Experience Students

We were delighted to welcome a group of Year 10 Work Experience students from Bushey Meads into our school this week, many of whom were once pupils at Merry Hill! It was so lovely to hear them say how much they enjoyed being back, reminiscing about their time here and marvelling at how much smaller the school seemed, realising just how little they must have been back then!

They quickly made a positive impact, naturally connecting with the children. It was wonderful to see them intuitively bending down to the children’s height during conversations, listening intently, and responding to their interests with enthusiasm. We loved sharing what it’s like to work with children, guiding them in listening, responding, and extending learning through meaningful interactions.

A huge thank you to all our work experience students for being so fabulous this week—you’ve been an absolute credit to your school (s)!


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

### This Week’s Focus: The Golden Rule – ‘Do be kind and helpful’

#### Team Points Focus: Good manners – helping others

At Merry Hill we have a carefully designed and structured behaviour curriculum to support our children’s development. It is designed to help children understand and practice positive behaviour in a structured way. This is delivered continually through PSHE, stories and assemblies as well as through every interaction between children and adults within the school.

This half term the focus for team points is using stem sentences to help the children communicate effectively with one another. Children can use these pre-structured phrases as models to express their ideas, needs and feelings. These stem sentences continue to link to our Golden Rules, ensuring our children have a deep and secure understanding of each rule and the means to abide by them. By introducing these effective communication strategies early on, we are helping the children develop not only academically but also socially and emotionally.

3.3.25	<p><b>When you see someone is finding something difficult you can ask them, “would you like any help?”</b></p> <p>We are looking for children who actively help their peers and adults at school.</p> <p><b>GR We look after property</b></p> <p><b>We are Kind and Helpful</b></p>	
--------	---	---

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

## **'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 find out all about World Book Day.

<https://merryhill.org.uk/our-learning-community/year-group-blogs/>

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

### **Parent Partnership**

Research tells us that the most important learning opportunities occur through conversations and play between a child and others at home. As mentioned previously, we will continue to suggest some ideas and activities aimed at promoting language and literacy for you to use at home. This week the focus is – Reading for Pleasure – to tie in nicely with World Book Day!

#### *Supporting children's book choices:*

As children get older you can talk together about which books they like and why. When they are choosing a book, you can help them, for example, by reading the information on the front and back covers or by helping them to find books about things that interest them. Your child may choose to read a story, a non-fiction book or maybe a comic.

Once they have chosen a book, sit down together to look at it. You do not have to read it straight away. You can go through the pictures and talk to your child about what you both notice. Make comments and ask questions, such as, Can you see any animals? Why do you think the boy is crying?

While you read together, pause to give your child time to look at the pictures, make comments and ask questions. Ask them to tell parts of the story back to you, or predict what might happen next. Your conversations about the story and relationship with the characters will develop with each reading of a book. At the end, find out what they think. What did you like about the story? Would you read it again? This will help you and your child discover which type of books they enjoy.

Choosing a book gives your child the opportunity to feel in control and builds their confidence with making decisions.

### **Bushey Parade and Bushey Performing Arts Festival – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

Bushey Festival last took place in the 1990s but ended when it became too difficult and expensive to close the main road. However, we are delighted to announce that this wonderful event, celebrating culture, creativity and community is set to return this summer as a pedestrian event. Please see the flyer below for further information.

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



I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams  
Headteacher

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