



# Merry Hill

## Infant School and Nursery

Headteacher: Ms. Melissa Adams MA, NPQH

7th November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderful start to the new half term at Merry Hill! The children have settled back beautifully after the break, full of enthusiasm for their learning and ready to embrace all the exciting opportunities ahead this autumn, including seasonal activities such as the Nativity, Christmas songs for parents and the Christmas fair.

This week, we also had the pleasure of showing prospective Reception parents around the school. I was amazed to hear one family say that they have lived in Bushey Heath their entire life and had only just heard about Merry Hill! As a small and unique infant school, we are incredibly proud of the learning environment we offer, and it is so important to us that more families know about our school and the wonderful experiences we provide.

I feel genuinely proud to come to such a fantastic learning community each and every day. Merry Hill is a very special place, and we hope you will help us share what makes our school unique with family and friends.

### Introducing Mrs Heathcote

For those of you who may not yet know her, we are delighted to introduce Mrs Heathcote, who is now supporting the school with marketing and communications. Many of you will recognise Mrs Heathcote from her time as Chair of the Friends of Merry Hill, a role she carried out with dedication and creativity over the past two years. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has done for the school and thrilled that she will continue to share her skills and enthusiasm in this new capacity.

Mrs Heathcote will be helping us to showcase the many wonderful things happening at Merry Hill through our website, prospectus, new Instagram page and wider community outreach. Together, we are preparing our new school prospectus and would love to include real stories from you, our families, to offer a genuine insight into life at Merry Hill. If you would be happy to take part, please do get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

### 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.

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 the rule **Respectful**:

- **EYFS** – *We smile and say “good morning”*
- **KS1** – *We are welcoming to everyone at Merry Hill*

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

We have seen so many happy faces greeting one another each day — what a lovely way to begin our mornings!

## A Learning Place

Our Reception children had a fantastic visit to Bushey Library on Wednesday. They were wonderfully behaved on the walk there and back, and listened carefully as the librarian showed them the different sections and explained how the library works.

The children loved exploring the shelves and choosing books to look through and share with an adult. This trip really supported our focus on reading for pleasure, helping children see the joy that comes from books and stories, as well as learning a fundamental life skill — using their local library.

If you have not visited yet, we really encourage you to go along as a family. You can find more information here: [Bushey Library](#).

## A Growing Space

At this week's staff meeting, we relaunched the Merry Hill Behaviour Curriculum, taking time to revisit our pledges and behaviour books. This provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on the positive culture we have built together and to ensure consistency in how we support and celebrate behaviour across the school. It was a lovely reminder of how our shared values underpin everything we do at Merry Hill; helping every child to feel safe, respected and ready to learn.

We also explored Mathematical Thinking, focusing on ways to deepen reasoning, problem-solving and curiosity in our maths lessons. We are very fortunate to have Mrs Ineson, our resident maths specialist, leading this area at Merry Hill. Her passion and expertise ensure that our maths provision continues to be engaging, challenging and accessible for all children. The session gave teachers fresh ideas to bring mathematical discussions alive in the classroom, encouraging children to think, question and explain their reasoning with confidence.

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe and nurturing environment, we also take regular opportunities to review and refresh our key procedures and risk assessments. This reflective practice ensures that our routines remain robust, consistent and aligned with the needs of our school community.

### Book Fair

Next week, we're looking forward to our Book Fair! It will be open on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3.15–4.15pm** in the Lapwing Classroom (please enter via the Year 1 door by the library). This is always a wonderful opportunity to browse a wide range of books and perhaps pick up a few early Christmas gifts. Every purchase also helps to provide new books for our school library.

### Fireworks

As we head into the weekend, many families will be celebrating Fireworks Night. If you are planning to watch a display, we hope you have a fantastic time — enjoy the celebrations and stay safe. Please see the attached firework safety message for some helpful reminders on keeping everyone safe during the festivities.

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

## My Child's Art

The children's artwork is now ready to order for Christmas cards, keyrings and lots of other exciting gifts. Your child will bring home a leaflet today which contains further information but, for ease, we have included the discount code link below. **This discount is valid for two weeks.**

<https://mychildsart.co.uk/find-artwork?username=MerryHill1&access-code=jdwzauq6>

Have a restful and sparkling weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams  
Headteacher



**FOLLOW THE  
FIREWORK CODE**

If you must have fireworks at home, please follow this safety advice.

**DOs** ✓

- Only buy fireworks from retailers registered with MFRS
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Follow the instructions on each firework
- Light them at arm's length, using a taper
- Stand well back
- Always supervise children around fireworks
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves
- Keep pets indoors

**DON'Ts** ✗

- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them
- Never give sparklers to a child under five
- Don't let fireworks off after 11pm

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