



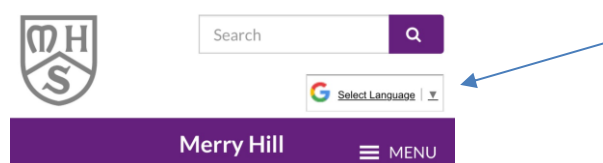
8th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

How wonderful to see the sun shining after all that rain; hopefully spring is now on its way! World Book Day was a huge success this week and served as a perfect opportunity to spark the children's enthusiasm for reading. Thank you for supporting this event. For further information and photographs, please see this week's class blogs.

English as an Additional Language

We are fortunate to have a diverse community here at Merry Hill and enjoy celebrating and learning about different cultures. Some of our families are learning to speak English so we wanted to make you aware of the translate option on our website. Please see below:



Staff News

Attached to this email, you will find a letter from Mr Reid, sharing news that he will soon be leaving Merry Hill to begin a new role as Deputy Headteacher at a local Primary School. Merry Hill was Mr Reid's first role as an Assistant Headteacher and I have seen him flourish during his time here. We are extremely grateful to Mr Reid for leading the school in our aim to obtain the Anti-Racism Award, for taking the time to get to know each and every one of the children and spreading joy and warmth. Mr Reid worked tirelessly to ensure every child is safe and happy here at Merry Hill and his love for books and reading has left a lasting impression on us all. We are very proud of Mr Reid for all that he has achieved during his time here and know that he will spread some of the Merry Hill magic in his new role. We wish him every success.

'Curious Learners' – *what we learn*

Please click on the link below to have a peek 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*

Thank you to the FoMH

I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the FoMH for organising the Mother's Day Creation Station this week. The children thoroughly enjoyed the event and we very much hope you enjoy the gifts!

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Baba Marta

Last Friday was Baba Marta which is the name of a Bulgarian mythical figure who brings with her the end of the cold winter and the beginning of the spring. Her holiday of the same name is celebrated in Bulgaria on March 1st with the exchange and wearing of martenitsi (red and white bracelets). One of our families kindly brought in information, colouring sheets and martenitsas for the children to wear. As you can see from the photographs, the children were really engaged and thoroughly enjoyed learning about this festival.



Ramadan

Ms Din and Mrs Shaz kindly led an assembly on Monday for the children in key stage one. They shared information about Ramadan and explained to the children what Ramadan means for children and adults of the Muslim community. Although younger children in the Muslim community do not tend to fast during the day light hours of Ramadan, most adults would. Ms Din and Mrs Shaz explained that it is not only important to fast during this time but to live as a kind and thoughtful member of the community. They talked about what a positive impact spreading kindness has from anybody at any time. The children had some great ideas to share on, both, how they *do* spread kindness to their peers and family and what they could continue to do into the future. Thank you to Ms Din and Mrs Shaz.

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Red Nose Day – March 15th

The funds raised for Red Nose Day are used to combat poverty, conflict and climate change. This year, we invite the children to wear a red accessory with their uniform or a red nose if you have purchased one but we will not be collecting funds in school. This is to ensure our community does not feel pressure to fundraise during this economic crisis. During the school day, we will be holding an assembly to teach the children about this worthy cause so they understand the meaning of wearing red.

Cost of Living

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.

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Celebrating Reading

As we have immersed ourselves in the enchanting world of books this week, let's celebrate the power that literature has on our wellbeing. In a fast paced world, finding solace in the pages of a book can be a profound and therapeutic experience. This week we have some ideas to celebrate reading and infuse a sense of calm. Quiet reading spaces: create a reading nook at home where both children and adults can escape into the world of a good book. Provide some pillows and soft lighting to create a calming atmosphere. If space is tight, think of creating a temporary reading den made of blankets or simply cuddling up on the sofa with a good book.



- Nature reading: take advantage of dry weather days and encourage children to read books under blankets outdoors.
- Book inspired mindfulness activities: try a yoga session inspired by characters or a calming craft related to a beloved story, these activities can promote relaxation and creativity.



World Book Day is not just about the stories on the pages but also about the impact literature can have on our mental and emotional wellbeing. I hope you enjoy these activities.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS

We are pleased to bring you the details of **9 online** courses starting in April and June, as well as 1 **face to face** group.

Each course runs over 6 weekly sessions and is offered FREE of charge to parents thanks to funding from Herts County Council:

Talking Additional Needs (2 online courses)
Talking Families (2 online courses)
Talking Teens (1 online course & 1 Hertsmere course)
Talking Dads (2 online courses)
Talking Anger in Teens (1 online course)
Talking Anxiety in the Family (1 online course)

BOOKINGS FOR THESE COURSES ARE NOW OPEN

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