



8th May 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope you all enjoyed the bank holiday weekend and had some lovely family time together!

Despite it being a shorter week, it has certainly been a full one! Our Reception children have been exploring what makes a good friend as part of their learning this week. On Tuesday afternoon, the children created wonderful "forest friends" during their outdoor learning session, which beautifully tied together their understanding of friendship with our celebration of the natural world and, in particular, the person whose birthday we are celebrating today!

Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday Celebration

We were delighted to celebrate Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday today with a wonderful whole-school event. Our 'Teddy Boroughs' picnic was a great success, bringing all our children together to share lunch outdoors. It was a joy to see everyone embracing nature whilst enjoying their picnic, perfectly capturing the spirit of Sir David's lifelong passion for the natural world.



We look forward to welcoming many of you at 3.00pm to hear our special song and the environmental pledges our children have made.

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

After-School Club Vacancy

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Ms Miah-Kilinc, who has helped run our popular after-school club, at the end of this academic year. Since helping to establish the club when it first launched a year ago, Ms Miah-Kilinc has been instrumental in building it into the brilliant and successful provision it is today. Her enthusiasm, dedication and care have helped create a welcoming and enjoyable environment for all of the children who attend, and we are extremely grateful for the positive impact she has had on the club and our school community.

As Ms Miah-Kilinc will be leaving us this summer, we are now recruiting for an After-School Club Assistant to join our team from September.

The role: 3:15pm–6:00pm, term-time | Starting salary: £24,796 (pro rata)

We're looking for a caring, enthusiastic individual to supervise children, support their wellbeing, and help create a fun, safe environment at the end of the school day. Experience with children is preferred but not essential.

Interested? Application forms are available from the school office or by email.

Closing date: Monday 18th May 2026.

Please share this opportunity with anyone who might be interested in joining our warm and supportive school community.

https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view.afterschool-club-assistant_112715.htm

A Happy Face

The Merry Hill Way remains at the heart of our school community, and it has been lovely to see the children consistently living out our expectations in all areas of school life.

Team points:

EYFS: We ask for a turn with something someone else has

KS1: We request a turn with something someone else has and show patience whilst waiting

A Learning Place

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 more:

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

A Growing Space

2026 - The Year of Reading

Building on our reading journey together

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Last week, we shared our first set of Reading Top Tips (attached again below for anyone who missed it). This week, we are excited to introduce you to another fantastic resource to support reading at home.

This week's resource: Book Trust's online read-alongs

We have included a link to <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/how-we-help/have-fun-at-home/storybooks-and-games/>, which offers free access to stories you can read together with your child online.

Why try read-alongs?

Reading along with online stories:

- **Engages children** through interactive storytelling with audio support
- **Builds fluency** by allowing children to hear and follow along with confident, expressive reading
- **Makes reading accessible** - perfect for busy families as you can access books anytime, anywhere
- **Supports reluctant readers** by removing the pressure and making reading feel more like an enjoyable activity

How to make the most of read-alongs at home

1. **Choose a time** when you and your child can sit together without distractions (even 10 minutes makes a difference)
2. **Let your child choose** the book - ownership increases engagement
3. **Listen first**, then encourage your child to join in on a second read
4. **Talk about the story** - ask questions like "What do you think will happen next?" or "How do you think the character is feeling?"
5. **Celebrate their reading** - praise effort and progress, not just accuracy

Have a lovely weekend!

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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Reading Together: A Guide for Parents



Why It Matters

Reading with your child is one of the best ways to support their learning. It builds vocabulary, imagination, and a love of stories – while giving you valuable time together.

Making Reading Fun at Home

- **Create a cosy space:** Find a calm, comfortable spot away from distractions.
- **Little and often:** Just 10 minutes a day makes a big difference. Fit it in when it works for you – bedtime, after school, or weekends.

Top Tips for Reading Together

- **Let them choose:** Library visits help children find books they enjoy. It's fine to reread favourites, and all reading counts – stories, comics, and non-fiction.
- **Talk about the story:** Ask questions, chat about characters, and link stories to real life.
- **Bring it to life:** Use funny voices, look closely at pictures, or act out parts together.
- **Celebrate effort:** Praise their reading, support tricky words, and keep it positive.

Beyond Books

- **Reading is everywhere:** Share recipes, signs, shopping lists, and cards.
- **Talk together:** Conversations build vocabulary and confidence.

Need Support?

If you'd like advice or ideas, please speak to your child's teacher – we're happy to help.

Remember: If you're enjoying reading together, you're doing it right!



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