



9th February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a lovely week here at Merry Hill. The daffodils and snowdrops are beginning to bloom and it is now light after 17:00; it really feels as though spring is on its way! Inspired by Andy Goldsworthy, our children have ventured outside and created wonderful artwork using natural resources. Our Year 1 children created eye catching spiral designs whilst our Year 2 children focused on symmetry within their artwork as well as using a range of media to create detailed drawings of collected natural items. Please see the link to the class blogs below for further information.



Parent/Carer Consultations

We very much look forward to welcoming you all to the parent/carers consultations next week which will provide you with an opportunity to discuss your child's learning, celebrate the progress they have made and discuss next steps to further support them to reach their full potential.

'Healthy Learners' – how we ensure we are ready to learn

Mental Health Week

This week we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. We held an assembly on Monday for this year's theme which is "My Voice Matters". The children learned that believing our voice matters means that we know we can share our feelings and be listened to by people around us. This helps us to build healthy self-esteem, which in turn supports our mental health and wellbeing. Mental health and well-being is always a priority for us at Merry Hill. Mental health awareness week empowers, equips and gives a voice to all children and young people in the UK. If you would like to find out more, or utilise the Place2Be resources available for you to use at home, please click on the link below:

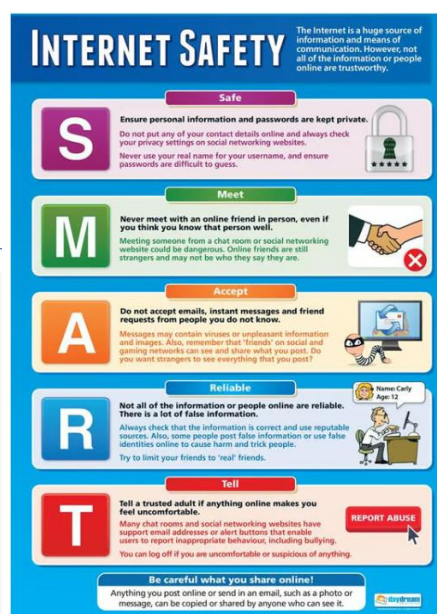
<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6th February marked Safer Internet Day. We held an assembly for the children and learnt about the importance of being safe when using the internet. We found out that no one really owns the internet so we cannot trust everything we see on there. The children know that filters stop them from seeing things that they should not but if they do see something, they must tell an adult they trust straight away. Sometimes when we play games other people might

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

try and talk to us and ask for our personal information. We know that this is not OK and we keep our personal information to ourselves, especially our names, address and the name of our school. Our smart poster below helps to remind us how we stay safe when using the internet.



'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

Tu B'Shevat

Rabbi Sharfstein visited our school last week to lead an assembly on Tu B'Shevat, the festival of trees. The children discussed the fact that every year trees grow and get bigger and stronger. Just like us, they need water and nourishment. As they suck this up from the soil the tree produces sap which spreads the nourishment around the tree and helps it to grow, get stronger and, in some cases, produce more fruit. Tu B'Shevat celebrates the fact that trees are not sleeping during winter, rather they are working hard at spreading sap around the tree to help them grow and get stronger through the rest of the year. Rabbi Sharfstein taught the children that the 3 fruits that are often eaten during this festival by the Jewish community are pomegranate, dates and grapes.



A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

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.

Go on a Wintry Adventure

Make wild art

Why not make some wild art? Frost-covered leaves and grass have very interesting textures. Try taking a small bottle of food colouring along and making frozen ice paint to give your art added colour.



Homes for wild animals

Or perhaps you could make a home for a wild animal – they need a safe, cosy and warm spot in winter more than ever. You may also spot different birds in winter, when many species have already migrated south for warmer climes. See if you can spot a robin with its bright red breast. What do you think it's up to? Listen out for its song.

Feed the birds

Chances are the birds will appreciate some food at this time of year. It's an easy thing to take along seeds, mealworms or peanuts for them to eat.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space