



9th January 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope the holiday period was a time of rest, relaxation, and enjoyment, and that you were able to spend quality time with family and loved ones.

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to sincerely thank you for your kind words, cards, and generous Christmas gifts. Your thoughtfulness and continued support are greatly appreciated and truly mean a great deal to us all.

We are very much looking forward to the term ahead and to continuing to create positive and memorable learning experiences for the children at our school. This spring term promises to be full of exciting opportunities and experiences. From Mr Marvel's Magic Show and World Book Day, to eggs hatching into ducklings and a visit to the RAF Museum to support Year 2's learning about Amy Johnson and the Battle of Britain, there is so much to look forward to.

We cannot wait to share another term filled with curiosity, learning, and unforgettable memories.

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.

Last term we began 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. For the first two weeks of the spring term, we will delve deeper into the core values which underpin our school rules.

These are the pupil friendly definitions we use here at Merry Hill:

Communication - talking, listening and understanding one another

Talking

- We use words to share ideas and answer questions



Listening

- We look at the speaker.
- We do not interrupt.
- We show we care.



Body Language

- We smile.
- We use eye contact.
- We nod.



A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

Inclusion - accepting each other's differences and making everyone feel welcome

We Are All Different 😊

- ▶ We can look different.
- ▶ We can like different things.
- ▶ And that's okay!



We Are All the Same ❤️

- ▶ We all want friends.
- ▶ We all want to feel happy and safe.



We Play Together 🎲

- ▶ Everyone gets a turn.
- ▶ Everyone can join the game.



Resilience - keep trying even when things are hard

Sometimes Things Are Hard 😞

- ▶ We might make mistakes.
- ▶ We might feel upset.
- ▶ That's okay!



We Can Try Again 🔄

- ▶ We don't give up.
- ▶ We try again and again.



Practice Helps Us Grow 🌱

- ▶ The more we practice,
- ▶ the better we get!



Responsibility - making good choices and looking after yourself and the things around you

Taking Care of Our Things 🛍

- ▶ We look after our toys.
- ▶ We put things away.



Looking After Others ❤️

- ▶ We are kind to friends.
- ▶ We help when we can.



Making Good Choices 🌟

- ▶ We follow the rules.
- ▶ We try to do the right thing.



Helping at School 🏫

- ▶ We listen.
- ▶ We tidy up.
- ▶ We try our best.



A Growing Space

Memorial Tree and Assembly

On Tuesday, we will be welcoming a special tree to our school grounds, which will be planted in memory of Zach Barnes, the son of our much-valued colleague Mrs Barnes, who works in Reception. Zach attended Merry Hill when he was younger and sadly passed away last year.

We will be holding a short, age-appropriate assembly with the children to gently explain the meaning of the tree and to help them understand that it represents remembrance, love and kindness within our school community. This will be approached sensitively, with a focus on care, compassion and supporting one another.

The tree will become a lasting part of our school environment and a quiet symbol of love, growth and remembrance.

If you feel your child may wish to talk about this at home, you may find it helpful to keep conversations simple and reassuring, focusing on kindness, remembering loved ones and caring for one another.

Have a lovely weekend, everyone.

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

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