

# Merry Hill Infant School and Nursery

ESTABLISHED 1827



## Prospectus

A HAPPY FACE, A LEARNING PLACE, A GROWING SPACE

# Welcome to Merry Hill

At Merry Hill, we are more than a school - we are a community. A close-knit and supportive network of children, parents, staff, governors and friends, united by a shared belief in the power of inclusion, resilience, responsibility and communication.

“

Being happy at school is about more than just academic achievement—it's about creating a space where curiosity thrives, friendships bloom, and every pupil feels valued. We've created that space here at Merry Hill.

”



## A message from our Headteacher : Melissa Adams

I am delighted that you are considering Merry Hill for this important stage of your child's education, and warmly welcome you to our wonderful school.



### Caring learning environment

We know how special your child is to you, and it is important to us that they are happy and feel secure and valued at school. With this in mind, we try to make our school an extension of a caring home, creating a safe, welcoming space where children flourish.

### Enriching and stimulating environment

As teachers, we believe that given opportunities and choices that spark curiosity in an enriching and stimulating environment, children will be eager to learn. When children are encouraged to talk and interact with friends and adults in positive surroundings, they feel safe and able to explore all opportunities.

### Pastoral care

Alongside our high academic achievements, children also enjoy a wide range of sporting, musical, and cultural experiences, as well as regular trips. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring all children are kept safe, supported and nurtured both inside and outside school.

## Vision

The Merry Hill School Vision is a simple statement of the type of school we wish to see. In many aspects it is a reflection of what we have already achieved at Merry Hill; in others it is a statement of how we would like to develop the school. Overall it is at the heart of everything we do from preparing lessons, to working with the children, to recruiting new staff and improving our facilities.



### Merry Hill School believes:

Every child's emotional wellbeing is supported so that they are happy and ready to learn  
**(A Happy Face)**

Every child should be valued for their individuality, culture and heritage  
**(A Learning Place)**

Every child should be encouraged to develop their full potential in a safe, stimulating and caring environment  
**(A Growing Space)**

# Behaviour at Merry Hill: The Merry Hill Way

Our bespoke behaviour curriculum, **The Merry Hill Way**, is written by our staff specifically for our children. It helps them understand how to be **Ready, Respectful, and Safe** while at school and fosters our **four core values**:

**Inclusion – we care for and welcome everyone**



**Resilience – we try our best and learn from mistakes**

**Responsibility – we take ownership of our learning and actions**

**Communication – we share our ideas and listen to others**

Children learn how to be **Ready, Respectful, and Safe** in every part of school life: from classrooms to the playground, dining hall, and assemblies.

Staff model these expectations consistently – whether in the classroom, staff meetings, or when welcoming visitors—ensuring children always see positive examples.

Each week, children are taught a **learning behaviour**, such as active listening, asking for help, or moving safely around school.

Teams earn points for demonstrating these behaviours, and the winning team is celebrated in Friday's assembly.

This approach ensures children develop **strong social and emotional skills**, setting them up for success both in school and beyond.



## Our Curriculum: Exciting learning opportunities



“

Our curriculum is knowledge rich and delivered through adaptable, child-centred topics designed to ignite curiosity and equip children with the confidence and independence they'll carry with them for life.

”

From the very start in the **Early Years**, children learn through **play and exploration**, following a spiral curriculum where ideas, skills, and language are carefully revisited and built upon over time.

Vocabulary is carefully mapped and explicitly taught, recognising its vital role in accessing the curriculum and supporting future success.

We believe that strong academics go hand-in-hand with a deep sense of **emotional security** and **resilience**. That's why our approach places equal emphasis on **wellbeing** and mindset empowering children to take risks, learn from challenges, and grow with **confidence**.

## Our Curriculum: Exciting learning opportunities (continued)

Our Victorian heritage enriches learning; children experience life in a Victorian classroom at Reveley Lodge and explore local places that bring history and community to life. Through this rich context, our children develop curiosity, confidence, and a lifelong love of learning.



### Physical Education and Games

Physical Education is an exciting and dynamic aspect of life at Merry Hill, designed to inspire a lifelong love of movement and wellbeing. All pupils participate in **two PE sessions each week**, delivered by **specialist sports coaches**.

These sessions offer a **broad and engaging curriculum**, including gymnastics, dance, games, and team sports, allowing children to develop physical skills, coordination, and confidence.

**Our well-equipped school hall** features a range of traditional gym apparatus—such as rope climbs, wall bars, large gymnastics mats, and mini-trampolines—providing a safe and structured environment for pupils to build strength, balance, and resilience. Through our PE programme, we aim to nurture teamwork, perseverance, and healthy lifestyle habits, empowering children to thrive both physically and socially.



## Music

Music plays a valued role at Merry Hill. All children enjoy weekly lessons led by a **specialist music teacher**, with opportunities to sing, perform and explore instruments. We also offer **Rocksteady band sessions**, where pupils can learn guitar, drums, keyboard or vocals and perform together, building confidence and teamwork.

## Extra-Curricular clubs

Throughout the school year, we offer a range of clubs, including:

- Drama
- Football
- Gymnastics
- Street / Hip Hop Dance
- Music
- French
- Art

## Educational trips

To enrich our curriculum and bring learning to life, all children take part in a variety of educational visits throughout the year. These include local experiences as well as trips further afield. Recent examples include visits to the **Roald Dahl Museum**, the **Paddington Bear Experience**, library visits, zoo trips, **Ruislip Lido** and **hands-on workshops linked to Science, History and the Arts**.

These experiences deepen children's understanding, spark curiosity, and help them make meaningful connections between classroom learning and the wider world.



## Outdoor Learning and Play

Merry Hill is set in **spacious grounds** that support **outdoor learning**, exploration, and nature-based activities. Our children benefit from regular outdoor play, **Forest School-style experiences**, and opportunities to learn in the natural environment.



Merry Hill Infant School is situated on a **four acre site** and includes a playground, adventure play areas, large field, wildlife area and a pond. All children at Merry Hill enjoy **year round lessons in our beautiful woodland area.**

As well as being a lot of fun, learning outdoors also provides a range of health benefits for our children, including improved mental health, enhanced physical health, increased self esteem and confidence.



## Uniform

High standards of personal presentation support our positive learning ethos. Parents are asked for full support and co-operation to ensure that all children wear school uniform.

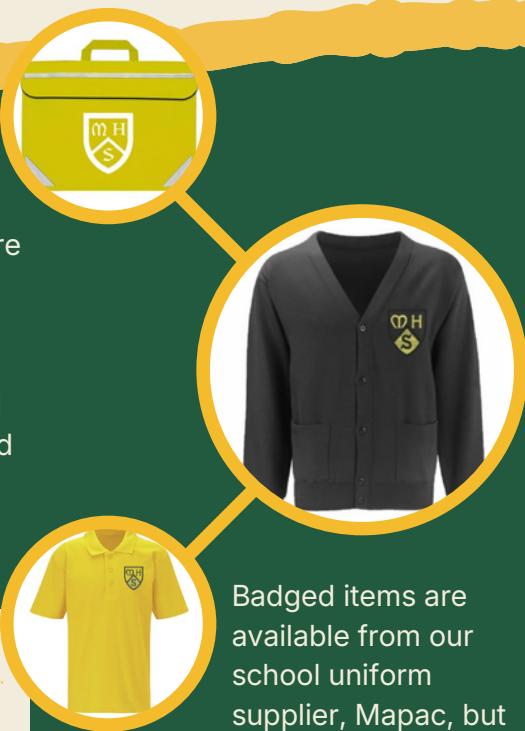
Children in the nursery wear the same uniform as the rest of the school but are encouraged to wear elasticated trousers or jogging bottoms while we support their developing independence and dexterity.

## Onsite Breakfast and After School Club

**The Breakfast Club** is open **from 7.30am**, term time only, offering a safe and friendly environment in which children can play and enjoy a healthy, nutritious breakfast under the supervision of qualified staff.

**The After School Club** offers several sessions between **3.15pm to 6pm**.

Children can take part in a variety of activities including homework sessions. Healthy snacks are provided from 4:30pm daily, including wraps, sandwiches, fruit, and vegetables.



Badged items are available from our school uniform supplier, Mapac, but

please note that non-badge alternatives are available from most large supermarkets and department stores, along with grey trousers, skirts and dresses.



## School Meals and Nutrition



At Merry Hill, we are committed to promoting healthy eating and ensuring all pupils have access to nutritious meals during the school day.

All meals are **freshly prepared on-site** each day using organic ingredients, designed to provide a healthy, balanced diet for children. Families may instead opt to provide a packed lunch. If so, we kindly request that these lunches reflect healthy choices and exclude chocolate, fizzy drinks, and any items containing nuts.

Merry Hill is a **nut-free school** due to the presence of life-threatening allergies.

All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to **government-funded Free School Meals**, and we strongly encourage families to apply, even if they do not intend to use the meals, as this may also provide additional school funding through the Pupil Premium.

Every child receives a piece of fruit or a vegetable each morning, and milk is also available—free for nursery children and pupils under five, and payable for those aged five and above.

## Getting Involved

At Merry Hill, we are extremely proud of the excellent relationships that exist between our pupils, staff, parents, governors and the wider community. **The power of partnership** that exists between home and school ensures every success in our children.

### School PTA: The Friends of Merry Hill

We are incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated group of parents and friends who make a real difference to life at Merry Hill.

#### The Friends of Merry Hill

(FoMH) organise fun events, fundraisers, and activities that bring our school community together while enhancing the learning environment for our children.

Many of the friendships made through FoMH have lasted for years, creating a strong and supportive network of parents who share ideas, help at events, and contribute to school life in countless ways. Their tireless work enriches every child's experience, from supporting classroom projects to improving our facilities.

We warmly encourage all parents to get involved—being part of FoMH is a rewarding way to see the smiles on children's faces and become part of the Merry Hill family.



## Getting Involved (continued)

### Governors

Our Governing Body plays a vital role in the life of Merry Hill. Governors work closely with staff and families to support the school, champion our children, and help shape our vision for the future. They come from all walks of life and bring a wealth of experience to the role, including backgrounds in law, education, accounting, school improvement, law enforcement, and even professional sport.

We are always keen to welcome new voices and skills. If you are interested in becoming a Governor or would like to find out more about the role, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact the school office for further information.

### Volunteering in School

At Merry Hill, parents and members of our community are warmly welcomed to support life in school. Volunteers bring smiles to children's faces—and to their own! Some join us as "surprise readers," popping into classrooms to share stories, while others help with school trips, workshops, or practical projects like shaping and developing our forest area.

Many of our volunteers have been giving their time for years, and some have even gone on to become permanent members of staff. Every contribution, big or small, makes a real difference to the children's learning and enjoyment, and we are incredibly grateful for the energy, skills, and care our volunteers bring to our school.



## Our School Hours



## Come and see for yourself

Merry Hill truly is a special place, where children are known, valued and supported to shine. We would love you to experience the warmth of our school community in person.

Please contact the School Office  
to arrange a visit:  
Telephone: **0208 950 2166**  
or email:  
**admin@merryhill.herts.sch.uk**

Visit our **website** for information  
about **admissions**



@merryhillinfants



### Nursery

Morning sessions are: 8.30 – 11.30am

Afternoon sessions are: 12.30 - 3.30pm

All day sessions are 8.30 - 3.30pm

### Main school hours

Before School: the bell rings at 8:45am  
for a soft start.

The gates close at 8:55am

Morning session: 8.55am-11.45am

Lunch Break: 11.45am-12.45pm

Afternoon session: 12.45-3.15pm

**Merry Hill Infant School  
School Lane  
Bushey  
Hertfordshire  
WD23 1ST**