

Welcome to Nursery



Meet the team:



Elishia Jones
Nursery Teacher



Mrs Ellen Ogilvie Jones
Learning Support Assistant



Cassie Hill
Learning Support Assistant
Midday Supervisory Assistant



Helen Gavriel
Learning Support Assistant
Midday Supervisory Assistant

Our Vision



- A Happy Face-**
- A Learning Place-**
- A Growing Space-**

Our Vision

The Merry Hill School Vision is a simple statement of the type of school we wish to be. 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, to improving our facilities.

Merry Hill School Believes:

- Every child is entitled to enjoy their childhood.
- They should be valued for their individuality, culture and heritage.
- They should be encouraged to develop their full potential in a stimulating and caring environment.

We aim to achieve this vision by:

- Working together as a team – staff, parents and governors and the local community
- Providing a secure and caring environment that will encourage children to develop lively, enquiring minds
- Fostering the development of a positive self-image, independence and a sense of responsibility
- Enabling children to become aware of their own feelings and be sensitive to the needs of others
- Giving the children the opportunity to work both independently and collaboratively to enable them to begin to develop their potential
- Presenting a broad and balanced curriculum that will stimulate a natural curiosity and a love of learning
- Providing a curriculum that meets the needs of each child.

**We would wish the children to take with them happy memories
of their early years at Merry Hill.**

Healthy Learners—how we ensure we are ready to learn

Healthy body healthy mind
We know it's OK not to be OK
Independence
Positive resilience—growth mindset
Recognising and communicating how we feel—zones of regulation

Curious Learners—what we learn

Knowledge rich
Outdoor learning
Ask questions
Take risks
Independent
Curious about other cultures

Our Curriculum Drivers

**Skilled
Communicators**

Collaborative Learners—our place in the world

Parent partnership
Culture / diversity
Equity
Community links
Inclusion
Social and emotional

Ambitious Learners—how we act when we learn

Growth mindset
Risk taking
Personalised experiences
Responsibility
Pride

Ambitions

1. All children will be able to retell a narrative using ambitious vocabulary.
2. All children will be confident risk takers.
3. All children will be global green citizens.
4. All children will develop independence and take care of themselves.
5. All children will celebrate a variety of cultures.
6. All children will consistently use good manners



Early Years Curriculum

- **Overarching Principles:**

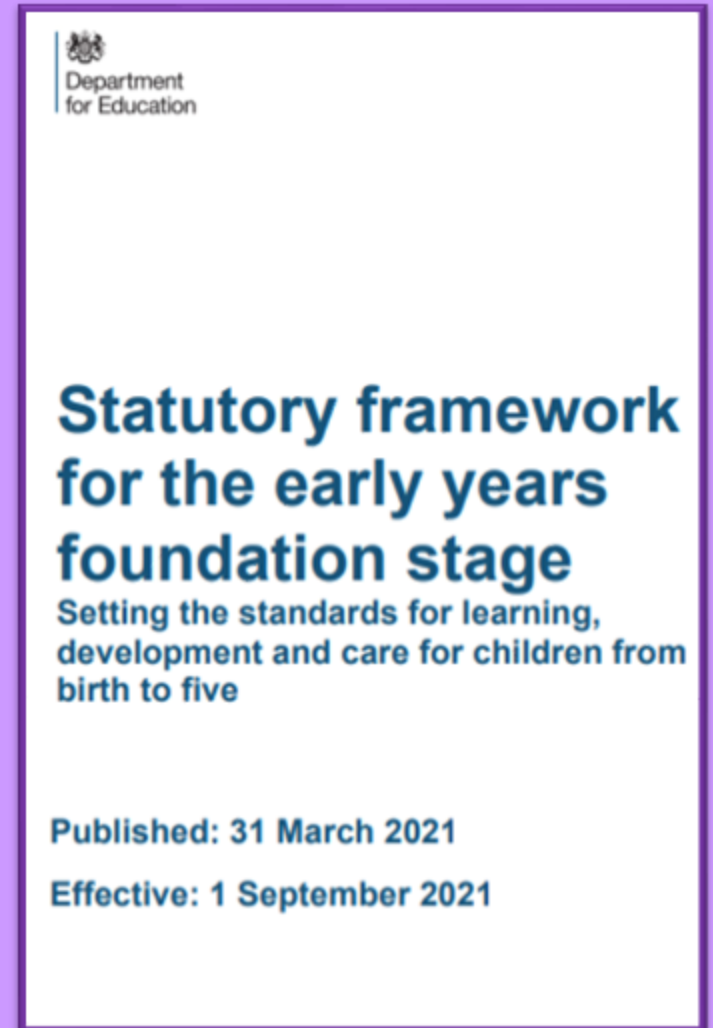
A unique child,
positive relationships,
enabling environments,
learning and development

- **7 Areas of learning and development**

- **Characteristics of effective teaching and learning:**

Playing and exploring
Active learning
Creating and thinking critically

- Assessments of the Early Learning Goals (ELG) take place at the end of Reception
- You will be kept informed about your child's development via **TAPESTRY** where we will post photos and anecdotes about your child's learning.



Jigsaw

Merry Hill uses the Jigsaw PSHE (personal social health education) programme. Jigsaw brings together PSHE education, emotional literacy, mindfulness, social skills and spiritual development. It aims to enhance self-esteem and positive behaviour and relationships within the school.

Jigsaw is a whole school approach, with all year groups working on the same theme (puzzle) at the same time.

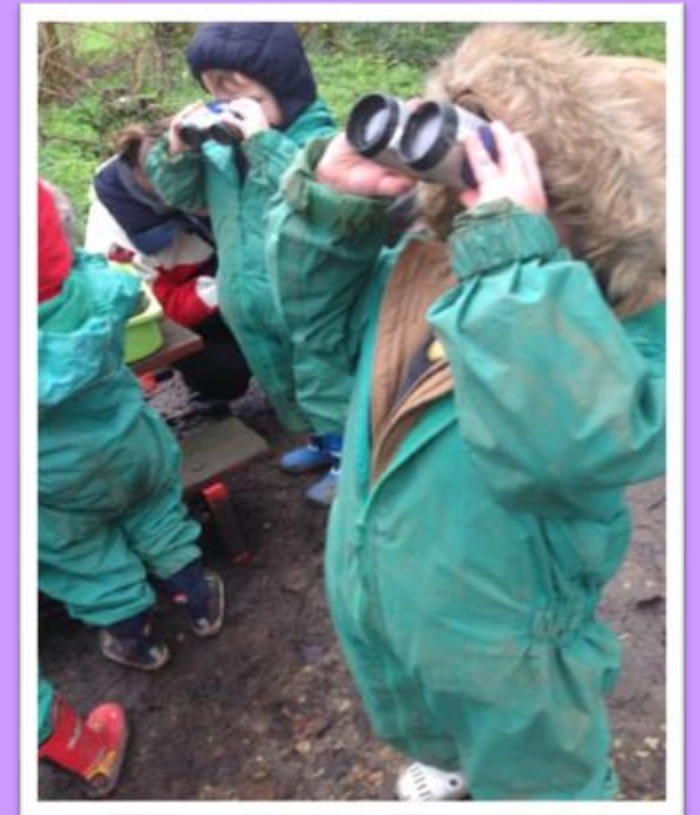
There is a weekly celebration that highlights a theme from that week's lesson across the school, and encourages children to reflect that learning in their behaviour and attitudes.



Outdoor Learning

We take part in our Mini Explorers every week, regardless of the weather.

With our mud suits and wellies on, we are able to carry on with our exploration and taking our maths and literacy learning outside.



Physical Education

We take part in weekly PE sessions.

We learn independence by getting changed into our PE kits. We learn how to look after our belongings and how to keep ourselves healthy.

In summer, we will have our PE sessions on the sports field and in the colder weather we will be in the main hall.



Reading

Children are immersed in an literature rich environment. Most of our topics are linked to a book and we have daily story times, our book nooks where children can look at books themselves. We visit our fantastic library every week and all children will be given a book of their choosing to take and read at home.



We encourage you to read to your child daily a text of their choice and if possible go to the local libraries for story sessions, etc. This will encourage a love of books and an enjoyment of reading

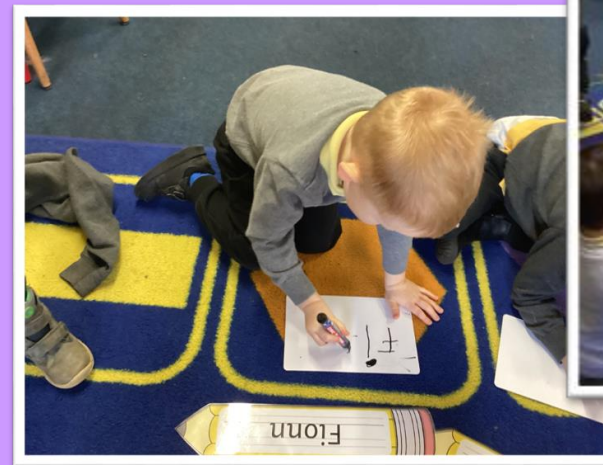


Daily Routines

- 8:30 Fiddly fingers
- 8:45 Tidy up & Register
- 9:00 Adult led learning (English or Maths)
- 9:20 Child initiated learning
- 10:50 Tidy up
- 11:00 Phonics
- 11:20 Story time, preparing for home / lunch
- 11:30 Home / Lunch

Afternoon session starts

- 12:30 Fiddly fingers
- 12:45 Tidy up & Register
- 13:00 Adult led learning
- 13:20 Child initiated learning
- 14:45 Tidy up, Phonics & Early leavers
- 15:00 Story time
- 15:15-30 Home time



Other Important Information

E-Safety:

Information Communication Technology (ICT) has become an important part of learning in our school. We expect all children to be safe and responsible when using any ICT. Please read and complete the ICT agreement with the rest of your admission documents.

Health and Absence from School:

If your child has to miss school, it is important that you tell us why. Please explain all absences as soon as possible by telephone, by email or in person. If you do not do this the absence will be noted as 'unauthorised'.

Most absences are for good reasons and will generally be authorised by the school if they are due to:

- Sickness/Unavoidable medical or dental appointments
- Days of religious observance

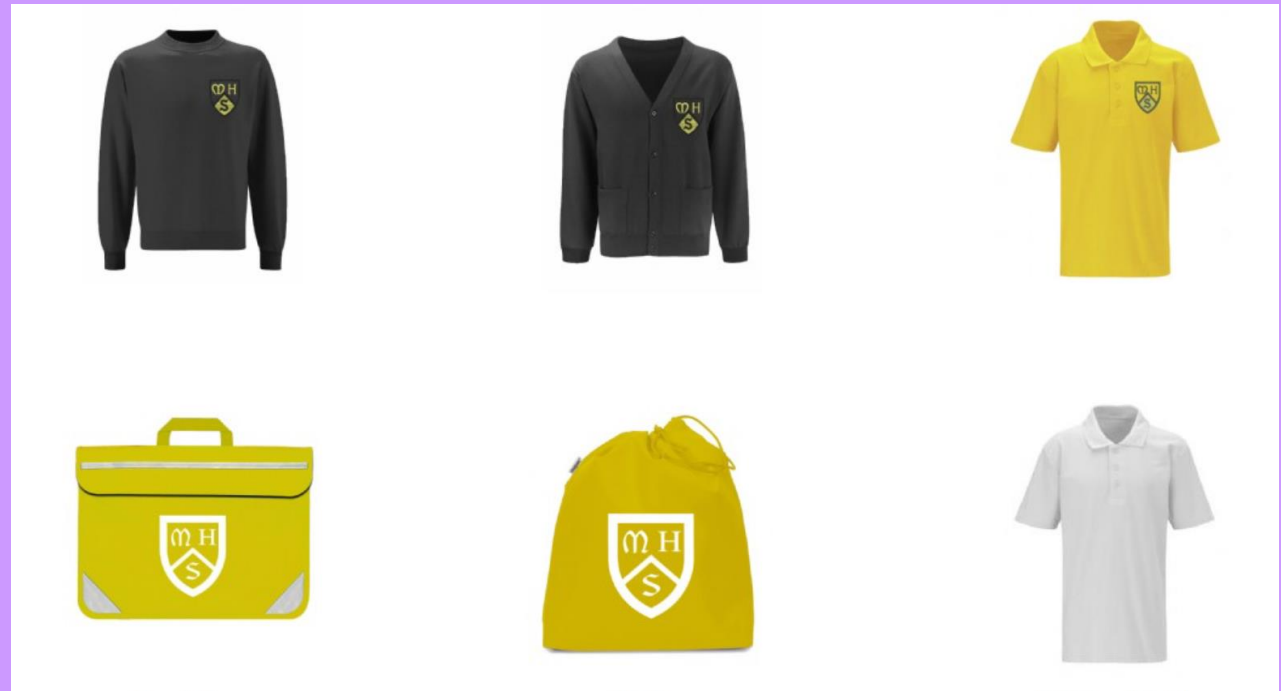
We follow the Health Protection Agency guidelines which are that children should not return to school for a full 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.

Uniform

- Black elasticated-waist jogging trousers (or elasticated-waist shorts in the summer)
- Yellow polo shirt and grey jumper or cardigan
- Sensible shoes – with Velcro, not laces or buckles, (No shoes with open toes or heels and not ‘Crocs’ or fashion boots)
- Wellington boots (to be left at school)
- Coat with a hood

Please note, the following is not permitted:

- Nail varnish,
- Temporary Tattoos
- Jewellery (other than plain stud earrings)



PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL ITEMS ARE CLEARLY LABELLED.

Lunchtime

There are 3 lunch choices:

1. A hot vegetarian meal
2. A hot non vegetarian meal
3. A school packed lunch

- The school dinners are cooked on the premises and there is always a choice of vegetables with the main course and a pudding. If you are uncertain about your child having school lunches, they may try them before you make a decision. Please let us know if your child does not eat a particular food for health or religious reasons
- If you choose not to have a school dinner, you can provide your child with a packed lunch from home. No fizzy drinks please, in line with our healthy eating policy. Please do not include nuts, chocolate or sweets. The packed lunch should be in a clearly named lunch box.

What should they bring to school?

- Book bag- please no backpacks and only 1 keyring
- Coat (even if it looks like a nice day)
- PE kit
- Wellies
- Water bottle

Please name all items so we can return them to you if lost.



Communications

Please email or call the school office for any attendance messages or changes to collection information.

Telephone: 020 8950 2166

Email: admin@merryhill.herts.sch.uk

Preparing for Nursery

It is really important to embed a good routine and encourage independence before your child starts in Nursery.



Importance of routine – Ensure your child has a regular bedtime and regular mealtimes (including eating breakfast). All of us need an adequate amount of sleep. Please ensure that your child goes to bed at a reasonable time.

Toilet training – Start now if you haven't already! Please visit Eric.org.uk if you need additional advice

Encourage independence - let your child do things for themselves whenever possible. For example, getting dressed independently, using the toilet independently and using a knife and fork at mealtimes.

Providing good experiences – Encourage them to look at and enjoy books and take them to the local library. Increase your child's memory and concentration by playing board and card games as often as possible. Also do jigsaws and play lotto and domino games. Children also enjoy and learn a great deal from visiting new places and these outings can form a valuable talking point.

Parental Involvement

Volunteering in School:

- Parents are welcome to help in school; please speak to your individual class teacher about an appropriate time. Your involvement in class activities is very beneficial to your child's education and we greatly appreciate any help you can give. Help may also be needed for any school trips or workshops.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS):

- All voluntary helpers who come into school on a regular basis, i.e. once a week or more must complete a DBS check (formally a Criminal Record Bureau/CRB check). Please ask at the school office for more information.

Class Reps:

- Every class will ask for two parents to be Class representatives. This provides a close link between school and parents. These parents will be asked to spread messages for their class and also attend meetings to represent their selected class.

What to do next:

Naturally, you know your child much better than we do, so we rely on you to form a partnership with us and share this knowledge.

It is particularly helpful for us to know about any personality difficulties like tantrums, shyness or hyperactivity, as well as physical conditions such as asthma, eczema or any allergies.

We would also be grateful to know of any personal family difficulties, e.g. divorce, separation, bereavement, etc.

Of course we also want to know about your child's achievements, abilities and particular interests. Your child's happiness and ability to settle into school life depends very much on this partnership.

Questions?

To find out any further information please go to our website <http://merryhill.org.uk/> and look under the section Our School – Starting School at Merry Hill.

On the right hand side of the page you will see a document entitled ‘Starting School Booklet’ which includes more detailed information.

Please email any further questions to the office.



Merry Hill Infants and Nursery School



A social story for starting Nursery in September 2023

This is my new nursery school.
I will be starting here in September.
My new school is called Merry Hill.



I will go through the big gate and walk
up the wide path until I reach the
Nursery classroom.





This is where I will come into Nursery.



This is where I need to hang my coat and PE kit up. I will have my own peg with my name on it, so I know it is mine.



This is where I keep my wellies. They will stay there and I can put them on when I need them.



This is where I put my water bottle during the day.
This is the snack area. I can help myself to water and a snack sat any time during Child Initiated Learning.



These are the Nursery toilets. You can use them at anytime throughout the day. Don't forget to wash your hands!



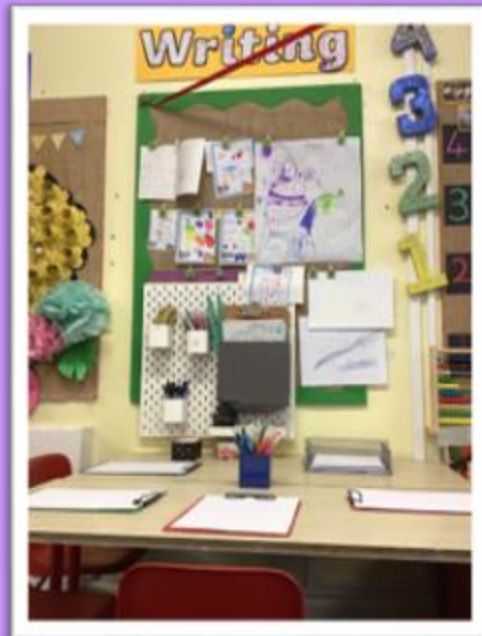
This is Nursery's Carpet Area and where we sit down to do some of our learning.



There will be lots of different activities to choose from.
Most times I will be able to choose my own activity (CIL).
I will help tidy up after an activity.
I know what is happening as my teacher will go through the visual timetable.



Reading Area



Writing Area



Maths Area



Creative Area