



Merryhills Primary School

Newsletter



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Value of the half term: Resilience



"Being brave isn't the absence of fear. Being brave is having that fear but finding a way through it." **Bear Grylls**



A Message from Mr Hudson

We have had a busy two weeks here at Merryhills, with trips: Year 6 have visited Westminster Abbey; experiences: Year 1 have had their Autumn Walk and loved their visitors from the Little Angel Theatre workshop. Thank you to parents for supporting these important experiences.

Our Art Gallery was a real success and it was incredible to see so many families come and celebrate the children's work. Shortly after half term, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Ramsay, we wish her the very best as she begins her maternity leave. We cannot wait to hear the news of your arrival and we wish Mrs Ramsay lots of luck from the whole of the Merryhills community. Taking over and working in Elm Class after half term will be Mrs Ford, the children enjoyed meeting her at their class assembly and we know she'll be blown away once she begins teaching them.

Coming up in the next half term, there will be whole school learning conversations in early December, these will take place both virtually and in person. Attached to the newsletter email was information regarding how and when to book.

As you will have seen from emails, Year 5 begin their swimming after half term. Children loved having a pool in school last year and we look forward to children learning, practising or perfecting their swimming skills here at Merryhills.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 3rd November.



Attendance

This week's whole school attendance was **96%**. Well done to **Reception** for the highest attendance of **97.6%**.



End of Half Term House Points

- 1st** - Sapphire - 80 tokens
- 2nd** - Emerald - 79 tokens
- 3rd** - Ruby - 70 tokens
- 4th** - Topaz - 59 tokens



School Parliament

This week I met our Christina our PM and Oscar our Deputy PM. Their first task was to find out the playtime equipment children most want to be bought. I look forward to placing the order and getting our playtimes each more active!



Science in Year 3

In Science lessons this term, Year 3 have been learning all about the human body and our skeletons. We learnt about how muscles work in pairs to make our bones move and even had a go at creating our own working muscles using cardboard and rubber bands. We observed how when one muscle contracts, the other relaxes and the opposite when we want the bones to move in the opposite direction.



Secondary Transfer

The secondary transfer window closed on October 31st, please ensure all applications are made by this date. Full details can be found [here](#). The local authority have also produced a step by step [guide](#) on how to apply. Slides from the session led by Mrs Croton and Miss Charles have been emailed out to all Year 5 and 6 families.



Learning in Year 1

This half term Year 1 have been exploring the 'five senses' as part of their Science topic on The Human Body. They have used their senses of smell and touch collaboratively. They have also been able to carry out investigations in order to guess the hidden objects based on how they feel and smell. They are particularly excited about using their sense of taste after half term to identify ingredients that are sweet, sour, bitter and salty!



Girls Rugby

Today our girls rugby team were joined by the rest of Year 6 girls to have a taster Rugby session run by our local club Old Grammarians Rugby Football Club. This was a great opportunity for the girls to try out a new sport after the success of the England women's Rugby World Cup. Old Grammarians are always looking for new players so please keep an eye on [their website](#) for any sessions.



Debating

In assembly this week, Year 4 have performed their debating showcase. The debates were all about the idea of dreams and goals, connected to their work in RSHE this half term. The children showed great passion and enthusiasm, making a series of brilliant, thoughtful and intelligent points. Well done to all of Year 4 and watch this space for future debates across the school in the year ahead!



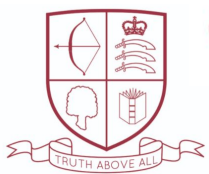
Coming Up



- 3rd November:** Year 5 Swimming begins
- 4/5th November:** My Young Mind working with Year 4
- 5th November:** Author [Thomas Halliday](#) visits KS2
- 10th November:** Anti Bullying Week begins
- 10th November:** Reception Forest School Session
- 11th November:** Wear Scout Association uniform
- 11th November:** Whole School 2 minute silence 11am
- 11/12th November:** My Young Mind working with Year 4
- 14th November:** Year 3 visit to Forty Hall
- 17th November:** Year 4 Swimming Begins

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Merryhills Football Team

Merryhills' football team played their second round of league matches last week. They played two tough games against Eversley and Grange Park Primary School. The children worked so hard and showed such resilience in two tough matches. We kept two clean sheets, and drew both matches 0-0.

Our record this season is: W1 D: 3 L:1

We have one league match remaining and a cup match booked in for after half term.



Merryhills Cross Country

On Friday, Coach Eddie took the girls and boys A and B Cross Country Teams to the Enfield Schools Competition at Enfield Playing fields for the 2km run. We were delighted for Georgia and Niamh finishing in the top 6 to then be selected to represent Enfield at the London Schools competition. All races were very quick races and it was lovely to see all children race so hard, cheer on each other and to celebrate each other's achievements. A great afternoon was had by all - well done!



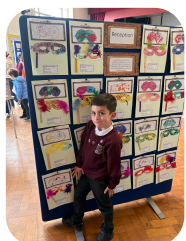
Year 1 Autumn Walk

On Wednesday morning, Year 1 donned their wellies and raincoats and headed for a seasonal walk around Boxer's Lake to look signs of Autumn. The children used their observational skills to spot tell signs such as red, yellow and orange leaves, muddy ground, bright berries, scurrying squirrels, seeds and fungi. The children are pleased to report that Autumn is definitely here!



Art Gallery

A huge thank you to all families for visiting our Art Gallery on Tuesday. This half term we have had a whole school art focus on Canaletto's 'A Regatta on the Grand Canal'. At Merryhills we want all learning to have a real purpose, so an art gallery was a lovely way to showcase children's achievements. All children created and named their own piece. Well done children.



Year 6 Westminster Abbey Visit

Year 6 were given a guided tour around Westminster Abbey this week as part of their learning about the Tudors. The children: saw the coronation chair where Richard III was infamously crowned, sat in the Chapter Room where Henry VIII banished the monks from the Abbey and touched the tomb of Henry Tudor and Elizabeth who united the warring families of Lancaster and York. The children were captivated by the Abbey's rich history. As teachers, we were incredibly proud to receive wonderful comments from the guides about the children's knowledge, curiosity and excitement about history. Even some commuters on the tube told us how delightful our children are. Well done, Year 6.



SEND Spotlight - Zones of Regulation

To support children emotional development at Merryhills we are proud to use Zones of Regulation. Each Zone is related to a colour and an emotion. We use these zones for children to learn the language of how they are feeling and to begin to communicate this to others. It means that older children in the school are able to learn strategies to move from one zone to another, and to understand and relate to how others are feeling.

			
Blue Zone	Green Zone	Yellow Zone	Red Zone
Sad Bored Tired Sick	Happy Focused Calm Proud	Worried Frustrated Silly Excited	Overjoyed/Elated Panicked Angry Terrified



Remembrance Day

On Tuesday 11th November, we invite children belonging to any of the Scout Association's to come to school in their uniforms. We will have a 2 minute silence for all children at 11am.

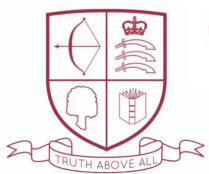


Tottenham Coaching Session

Since our last newsletter, Year 2 and Year 3 have taken part in the coaching sessions. They have absolutely loved the opportunity to work with the coaches. There has been a change made due to Year 5 swimming. After half term, Reception will all have a session with the coaches. Please can all Reception children come into school in PE on Friday 7th November. Year 5 will have their session with the coaches on 5th December after swimming has finished.

"We inspire children and foster curiosity; together we create a better future, with values at the heart of everything we do"





Black History Month

During the month of October, Black History Month is celebrated nationally. At Merryhills, Black History Month has been talked about in lessons, assemblies and across the school as a whole. The theme for Black History Month UK 2025 is "Standing Firm in Power and Pride," a powerful tribute to the resilience, strength, and unwavering commitment to progress that defines the Black community across the globe. Beyond the Month, at Merryhills we are committed to ensuring our curriculum reflects our diverse society and celebrates our mixed cultures and heritages- through the core books used; to the musicians and scientists we explore to our focus on identity and migration to create a sense of understanding and belonging. Additionally, the children have anti-racism lessons throughout their journey at our school so they know how to be upstanding citizens in our world; recognising how to support one another and reflecting on the importance of language used. To find out more about our commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, please click on [here](#) to be redirected to our website.

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH.**

**Standing Firm
in Power and Pride**



Winter Festival

The Winter Festival takes place on Friday 21st November, this promises to be a brilliant family event. There will be food, drinks, snacks and games. The PA have secured 5 fairground rides for the children to enjoy too!

If there are any businesses who are able to sponsor this event or part of the event, we would be hugely grateful. The rides and lighting are a significant cost and any support towards them would much increase the funds raised for the school.



Write to Speak

A group of children in Year 6 were selected to perform their spoken word pieces at the Dugdale Theatre on Thursday following a session led by Yossi and the team at Write to Speak. The children loved the sessions and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of performing to a large audience. Well done everyone!



Anti -Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week 2025 will take place from Monday 10th - Friday 14th November, with the theme: Power for Good. The week will kick off with Odd Socks Day on Monday 10th. At Merryhills we are asking the children to come in on this day in socks of their choice. There is no money associated with this event. This could be:

- Bright Colourful Socks
- Long socks
- Short socks
- Patterned socks
- Odd socks or even their school socks if that's what they choose.

The theme Power for Good ties in nicely with our value of the half term: Kindness. During this week, year groups will be encouraged to discuss what they are going to do to encourage and celebrate acts of kindness around the school. These ideas will be shared with our Merryhills Parliament to see which acts of kindness we want to embed at Merryhills. We look forward to sharing with you our acts of kindness. : The children will also be discussing the definition of bullying as outlined here:

"The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power."

Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online."



Our Approach to Behaviour at Merryhills

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you how we promote positive behaviour at Merryhills:

- Three clear distinct rules: Ready, Respectful and Safe
- Use of the zones of regulations to help children communicate and express their feelings
- Values embedded throughout our curriculum
- Each year group have a school responsibility to show that positive actions have a positive impact e.g. Y2- litter picking, Y3 - Food bank collections, Y4 - Lunch Bunch Group etc.
- House Point System and 'Time to be Merry' half termly
- Awards weekly in assembly as well as special mentions
- Recognition boards in every classroom
- Trauma informed behaviour policy focused on restorative conversations.
- [Merryhills Pledge](#) adopted and signed by all children.

To see more information on Behaviour at Merryhills, please visit our [school website](#) to look at the Behaviour Policy. Here are some additional [useful links](#).

