



Merryhills Primary School

Newsletter



Find us on twitter @Merryhillssch

Value of the half term: Kindness

*"Always be a little kinder than is necessary" J. M. Barrie*

A Message from Mr Hudson

As we head towards the end of term, Merryhills has been incredibly busy. Year 1 have wowed us with their production, Year 5 are working hard on rehearsals for their Carol Concert and Rock Steady Concerts began today! Performance is a huge part of Merryhills and we pride ourselves in giving children lots of opportunities to push themselves out of their comfort zones. Reception will get their first taste of performance next week during their singalong and we are looking forward to ending the term on a high. We have also seen children out in the local community over the last two weeks, we want all learning to be purposeful and real. Trips and visits are a vital part of enrichment beyond the curriculum. It was lovely to hear the Chicken Shed team speak so highly of our Year 2s. Over the last few weeks, we have had so many positive comments; our [parent survey](#) is still open. If anyone could take five minutes to complete this we'd be very grateful. All positive feedback given will be emailed directly to staff and we know this is always much appreciated. As the term draws to a close, may we also remind families that we are a nut free school. All snacks brought into school must be nut free and actual fruit or vegetables; no other alternatives. We look forward to enjoying the last week of term together and making it a good one!



Year 2 Chicken Shed Visit

Our Year 2's this week were lucky enough to take a trip to the Chickenshed Theatre. The musical performance of Red, a retelling of Little Red Riding Hood had the kids engaged from start to finish, with the character of the Wolf being a highlight for many. This was a memorable experience for all and a day in which we couldn't be prouder of how our school was represented as we navigated public transport and busy roads. The Year 2 team would like to once again thank our parent helpers that made this trip possible.



Year 1 Nativity

A huge well done to the Year 1 children for their fantastic Nativity Show. The children performed with such confidence, enthusiasm and happiness. It was lovely to hear 90 children singing and performing together. Thank you to the Year 1 team for their efforts in making this possible and to all the families who joined us this week.



Attendance

This week's whole school attendance was **94%**. Well done to **Year 6** for the highest attendance of **95.6%**.



Half Term House Points

1st - Emerald - 533 points
2nd - Topaz - 529 points
3rd - Ruby - 526 points
4th - Sapphire - 513 points



Learning Conversations

Last week, all parents had the opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher during our hybrid learning conversations. Both events were a success and our teachers enjoyed discussing all of the learning that has been taking place and the progress each child has made. If you were unable to attend an appointment, please contact the school office and arrange an alternative time to meet with your child's teacher. May we also take this opportunity to ask parents to complete a short [survey](#).



Year 4 - Ancient Egyptian Workshop

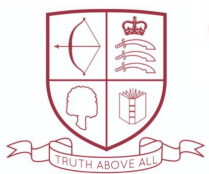
Year 4 enjoyed a wonderful Egyptian workshop on Tuesday. They were engrossed whilst learning about the creation of this influential civilisation and displayed such curiosity with their questions. From acting, to war games and even mummifying, the children, without a doubt had a fantastic time!



Coming Up

15th December: Santa Storytime: PA Event
15th December: Y5 Carol Concert Rehearsal
15th December: Pear Class Sing a long
16th December: Cherry Class Sing a long
17th December: Apple Class Sing a long
17th December: Year 5 Carol Concert
18th December: Time to be Merry
18th December: Christmas Dinner
19th December: Term ends at 2pm
5th January: Spring Term begins
9th January: Laurel Class trip to Forty Hall
12th January: Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop

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



Value of the half term: Kindness



Supporting Mental Health

Anna Freud - a national centre for children and families has produced two excellent documents to support families over the Christmas period.

"You're never too young to talk mental health" Anna Freud With this in mind, they have produced a document to provide families with [Tips for talking for parents and carers](#).

As well as another support sharing these [7 ways to support children](#) who are worried:

1. Create space for conversation
2. Demonstrate calm
3. Empathise and validate
4. Introduce alternative perspectives and ways of thinking
5. Reduce environmental stresses
6. Problem solving and coping
7. Check-in and monitor progress



Year 6 Forest School

Last week, Year 6 spent the morning at Forest School with Mrs Nicolaou. Each class was split into two groups and they carried out two different activities. The first activity saw the children make and toast cheese sandwiches over an open fire and the second activity gave children the opportunity to create a clay model on a nature inspired theme. The children loved their learning experience in the great outdoors and demonstrated our values of collaboration and kindness.



Litter Picking

A huge well done and thank you to the Merryhills Families Environmental Group, including pupils Daisy, Marley and Theo for collecting 14 bags of rubbish from around the local area!

The team will be putting many dates together in the new year and would love to have even more support. This is incredible work and it will make a huge difference to the local area!



Please [click here](#) for the December upcoming data letter which has been amended to reflect a couple of changes.



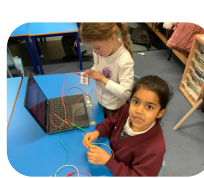
Lateness

Please remember that the school gates open at 8:40 and lessons begins promptly at 8.50am. Arriving on time helps children settle calmly into their learning, feel confident coming into class, and avoid missing important introductions and key parts of lessons. Many children feel uncomfortable arriving late, and a punctual start sets them up for a positive and successful day at school. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child be ready to learn each morning.



Year 1 Music Workshop

Today, the children in Year 1 took part in a music workshop. Representatives from Conductive Music, in partnership with The Enfield Music Service, came in to teach the children how to use the Makey Makey Piano app. The children showed great enthusiasm and collaboration as they worked in pairs to connect special controllers to their laptops and explore music technology. During the workshop, the children also explored science topics including materials and electricity as they were taught about how to create a safe and effective connection.



Christmas/Winter Jumper Day

On Thursday 11th December, Merryhills was decorated in a range of colourful jumpers with snowmen, father christmas' and even some festive flashing lights. It was lovely to see the school full of colour raising money for the Save the Children Please remember to make a [donation](#) to this charity and support such an important cause. We are delighted to have raised £500 already!!

 Save the Children

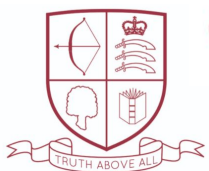
Christmas Jumper Day



Santa Storytime Event

We are delighted to announce that on Monday 15th December, our PA have arranged for the children in Reception and KS1 to visit Santa. Santa will also be visiting the KS2 classes. We hope all the children enjoy this magical moment at Merryhills and we are grateful to our ever active Parents Association for making this event happen.





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Autumn: Issue 7



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Spotlight on Online Safety

The festive season often brings new devices, smart toys, and increased screen time for children of all ages. While these can offer educational and recreational opportunities, they also introduce potential online risks. It's important to encourage age-appropriate use, set clear boundaries, and maintain supervision during device use.

Families can be supported with simple guidance on parental controls, safe browsing settings, Small, consistent steps now can help children enjoy their new technology safely throughout the holiday period. Check

www.kidsonlineworld.com for support with parental controls, safe browsing settings and choosing apps or games that are suitable for a child's age.

Holiday Devices and Screen Time

Keeping children safe online.

KIDSONLINEWORLD



Year 5 Design and Technology

This week has been very exciting for our Year 5 class as they have been mastering their cooking skills for their Design Technology project. As part of our cross-curricular topic on South America, the children have been designing and making their own empanadas, learning which ingredients are needed to make dough, how to choose healthy filling options, and how to use different techniques to seal each one. We ended the week with a thoroughly enjoyed South American feast!



Winter Walk in Reception

Reception enjoyed their walk to the postbox, where they proudly posted a letter to a member of their family. They enjoyed spotting words and numbers in the environment around them as they walked to the postbox and back to school.



Learning in Year 3

Our learning this week has been very seasonal. We have been creating a descriptive comic book strip of The Snowman and beginning our research into our biscuit making for Design and Technology. The children enjoyed sequencing the story of The Snowman and ordering it, before writing their own captions and drawing the images to go in their comics. Between the comic strip creations, children also tasted and tried various seasonal fruits before selecting which fruits they would like to use for their biscuits. Next week, we look forward to making these biscuits.



Arbor Shop and Amazon Wishlist

This term we received some invaluable donations via the Arbor Shop for glue sticks and tissues as well as the Amazon Wish List for resources. As a school, we are committed to providing the best for the children of Merryhills and if any families are able to contribute to the Arbor shop for more stationery or tissues please do so. Our [Amazon Wish List](#) is here too and we will ensure resources are allocated to the children's Classes as best we can. Thank you for your continued support.



Support Available from Enfield

As we enter a busy, expensive and stressful period for families, The Race Equality Foundation are here to support all parents and carers of children aged 0 to 18 in Enfield.

The Race Equality Foundation are running two fully funded online course for families to access. The flyers can be found here:

Strong Relationships

Strengthening Families

Online Course **Stronger Relationships**
For parents and other adult carers living together or apart

- Do you want to get some new ideas to help you be an even better parent?
- Would you like to reduce the arguments and disagreements in your family and cope better with stress?
- Would you like to enhance your relationship with your current partner, or improve communication with your ex or the other people helping to raise your children?
- How about learning at a time that suits you?

6 online sessions 6 group discussions Certificate on completion

What to expect...

- Information on strategies to identify and reduce arguments.
- Hear from other parents and carers.
- Downloadable worksheets and hand-outs.
- Videos, quizzes and interactive activities.
- Go sessions at a time that works for you.
- Weekly support from our course experts.

Topics covered...

- Healthy adult relationships.
- Identifying and managing disagreements.
- Understanding how conflict affects your children.
- Enhancing parent-child relationships.
- Managing stress, anger and emotions.
- Strategies to resolve conflict and create a parenting agreement.

Group discussion...

- Speak to a course expert and get answers to some of the questions you might have.
- Talk about how the strategies are going at home.
- Address other difficulties relating to your relationships.
- Hear from others about what works for them.

Online Course **strengthening families**
strengthening communities

Want to get some new ideas to help you be the best parent you can be?
Enhance your relationship with your children?
Learning at a time that suits you?

6 online sessions 6 group discussions Certificate on completion

What to expect...

- Information on strategies and child development.
- Hear from other parents.
- Workbooks and hand-outs.
- Videos, quizzes and fun activities.
- Go sessions at a time that works for you.
- Expert help from a real person each week.
- Choose a course that suits your child's age.

Topics covered...

- Healthy relationships.
- Understanding and managing behaviour.
- Enhancing children's self-esteem.
- Emotions and empathy.
- What to expect from the age of your child.
- Being part of a community.

Group discussion...

- Speak to a course expert and get answers to any questions you might have.
- Talk about how the strategies are going at home and how to adjust them for you.
- Address other difficulties relating to parenting.
- Hear from others about what works for them.

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