



— Summer 2026: Issue 3 —

Merryhills Newsletter

Value of the Half Term: Responsibility

“You’re never too small to make a difference” — Greta Thunberg

Attendance

July’s whole school attendance was **95%**.
Well done to **Year 6** for the highest attendance of **97%**.

July’s House Points

1st - **Sapphire** - 16,723 points
2nd - **Ruby** - 16,610 points
3rd - **Topaz** - 15,859 points
4th - **Emerald** - 15,280 points



Upcoming Dates:

1st Sept	INSET Day - school closed to all children
2nd Sept:	1st day of Autumn Term
7th Sept:	Meet The Team Y1/2
8th Sept:	Meet The Team Y3/4
9th Sept:	Meet The Team Y5/6
22nd Sept:	Polling Day (Y6 PM)
27th - 30th Sept:	Y6 Residential to PGL
7th Oct:	Reception Curriculum Meeting
14/15th Oct:	Individual and Sibling Photos
2nd Nov:	INSET Day - school closed to all children
3rd Nov:	Y5 Swimming begins



A Message from Mr Hudson

My message from Mr Hudson in this newsletter is not going to be my final message - I’ll save that for my final letter to you all tomorrow. Above all, I want to take this opportunity to celebrate another great month here at Merryhills.

Sports Day was amazing! It was lovely to see so many families attend and for children to both have fun and to participate in some competitive sport - I loved seeing children leave school on those days proudly wearing their 1st place stickers!

This month, once again, we have been blown away by the children’s performances - Year 6 performed Naria, to a standard that would have been at home in the West End! Year 4 enjoyed a singing partnership event and the many groups taking part in Rock Steady, shared another concert with their families. It is so lovely to see children’s confidence to perform both on a big stage and with their peers.

As you’ll see in the Year group sections, an important part of curriculum in the summer term is our Migration Topic. In these lessons, children celebrate the positive impact migration has had on the United Kingdom. Linked to this topic of migration, all children walk 1 mile to help them reflect on the distances travelled. Through this sponsored event we were able to make a donation to Miles for Refugees. Thank you to the families who donated and supported this.

Within this final newsletter, there are some important messages about this term as well as messages to be mindful of for September. Thank you families for your continued support...here’s to making the end of term as memorable as it can be. Merryhills will always be a special place, thank you!

A final message from our Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister

This academic year has been a great success. Every year group has had something exciting to enjoy, from trips to workshops and practical lessons. Every child has had something to take on board, enjoying themselves throughout the year. Merryhills is a wonderful school, where you can both learn and have fun. Going through our primary school years, we have had the most amazing headteacher to go along with. It’s not just the Year 6’s leaving to go onto another chapter, we will also be leaving along with our fabulous headteacher, Mr Hudson. Thank you Mr Hudson and thank you Merryhills!

Written by: Christina in Oak and Oscar in Chestnut.



Year R - Knebworth and Pet Week

The children had a wonderful day exploring the beautiful grounds at Knebworth. They took part in an exciting Story Stomp adventure, where stories were brought to life through interactive activities, imaginative play, and teamwork. The children were also delighted to meet some dinosaurs during their visit, sparking lots of excitement and curiosity. One of the highlights of the day was exploring the adventure playground. The children showed great confidence and resilience as they climbed the fort, tackled challenging play equipment, and raced down the very long slides. They worked together, encouraged one another to try new things, and demonstrated excellent collaboration throughout the day. It was a memorable visit filled with exploration, adventure, laughter, and plenty of smiling faces!



Year 1 - Pizza Making

As part of our History topic on *Migration*, Year One have been learning about where foods from around the world originated before making their way to the United Kingdom.

As part of our Design and Technology curriculum, we then researched, designed, made and evaluated our own delicious pizzas.

It's safe to say that all of Year One's favourite part of the process was the tasting as they were absolutely delicious!

Well done Year One! It was a fantastic way to end the year!



Year 2 - Art work

Year 2 have been busy creating clay sculptures inspired by the artist Niki de Saint Phalle as part of our Art unit.

Children in Year 2 have demonstrated creativity and resilience, using the tools and techniques. Children were then able to use the skills they have learned to shape, mould and develop their fabulous sculptures.

We are incredibly proud of the imagination, care and perseverance the children in Year 2 have shown throughout this project!

Well done Year 2, we look forward to seeing more creativity as you move onto Year 3.



Year 3 – Tolmers and Overnight Stay



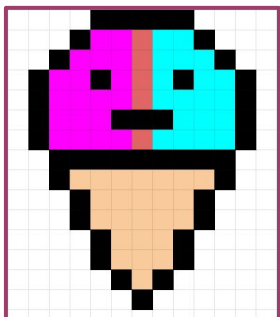
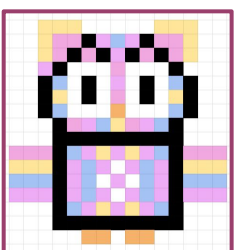
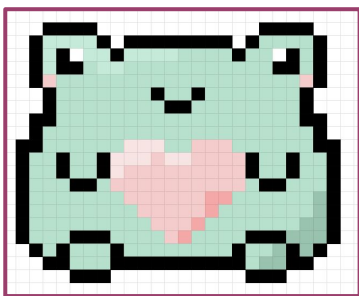
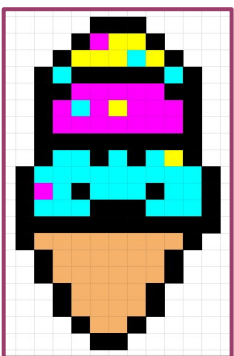
Year 3 had an unforgettable Activity Day and Sleepover, packed with exciting challenges and memorable experiences. Throughout the day, the children enthusiastically took part in a range of activities, including rock climbing, pedal cars, tunnels, team challenges, aeroball and archery.

In the evening, everyone returned to school to enjoy delicious toffee apples around the campfire with Mrs Nicolaou and Mrs Garner before settling into their classrooms for a fun sleepover with their friends. The following morning, the children continued the adventure with field games and scavenger hunts.

We were incredibly proud of the way every child demonstrated kindness, resilience and a positive attitude throughout the event. For many, it was their first time spending a night away from home and they embraced the experience with confidence and enthusiasm. We hope they all had a fantastic time and made memories that will last for years to come!

Year 4 – Migration Topic

In History this term, Year 4 have been learning about South Asian Migration. We have explored the various different push and pull factors that may cause people to migrate to another country. Then we explored South Asian culture by tasting food and listening to music from this part of the world. We used our senses to either taste, touch or smell: chapattis, sweet sakar para, and our personal favourite, poppadoms dipped in mango chutney!



Year 5 – Pixel Art

In Year 5, the children explored Google Sheets by creating their own colourful pixel art. They learned how to resize rows and columns to create a grid before using conditional formatting to automatically change the colour of cells. This fun and creative activity helped the children develop their spreadsheet skills while encouraging problem-solving, creativity, and attention to detail. The children also showed great resilience, persevering when their designs did not work as expected and carefully correcting mistakes until they achieved the results they wanted. They were delighted to see their pixel art creations and animations come to life!



Year 6: Enterprise

What a last few weeks of term Year 6 have had. It began with three evening shows of their production 'Narnia', where they showed their creativity and confidence. They were amazing, demonstrating fabulous acting and singing. Last Friday, Year 6 ran their enterprise fete on the field. They were responsible for delivering lots of fun activities to every year group, showing their leadership skills, collaboration and entrepreneurial spirit. From penalty shootout and the stocks, to bracelet making, nature art and karaoke, everyone had great fun! Year 6 finish their time at Merryhills with their Leavers disco, Leavers day and of course, their final assembly. We wish all of our wonderful cohort every success at Secondary School and look forward to hearing how they get on.



★ Special Mentions: Merryhills on stage

Following their work with a local dance group, several of our children were lucky enough to perform at the Indigo O2 this weekend at Chance to Dance. The children have worked incredibly hard and we are proud to see them able to perform at such a big occasion.



We were delighted to hear that James in Year 5 has been performing as part of the children's chorus in La Bohème at the Royal Ballet and Opera, from 1st-25th July. It's been a wonderful experience and he can't wait for the next opportunity to perform like this again in the future. What a fantastic achievement James!



Other News...

As you will have seen in recent correspondence, Merryhills are currently reviewing our Relationships, Sex and Health Education Curriculum following updated guidance from the Department for Education. As a part of this we have shared our revised curriculum with you, and have [this survey](#) available for you to share your views. We would appreciate you taking the time to complete this to support our implementation of this curriculum.

As you know the catering provider will change from Radish to Dolce in September, please look out for a welcome email to set up your child's account.

Due to the size of the school kitchen, Merryhills will be unable to provide both Halal and non-halal options, therefore, having considered the results from the recent survey Merryhills will continue to serve non-halal meat. We will work with the catering company to ensure they are able to provide options for all children whenever possible. As always, we will continue to review our procedures moving forwards.

- Sensory Stones
- Marble Mesh
- Muslin Squares



As a school, we have seen an increase in squishes, slime, fidget toys and cuddly toys being brought into school. Please can we remind all families that 'fidget toys' should only come into school once they have been agreed with the inclusion team, class teacher and as part of their LSP.

This is to ensure these 'tools' help, not hinder learning.

From September, all fidget toys will need to be sensory stones for focus tools or muslin squares for comfort. We have added these items to our Amazon Wish List so that parents and children can be prepared for September. If you have any questions regarding this, please speak to your child's class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.



Special Mentions: Merryhills Careers Fair

Year 5 had a fantastic time at our Careers Fair, where they had the opportunity to meet a range of inspiring professionals. We were delighted to welcome volunteers from a variety of professions, including a vet, physiotherapist, firefighter, GP, surveyor, architect, environmental health inspector, florist and business owner. They shared valuable insights into their jobs, the qualifications they gained, the different routes they took into their careers, and the skills and personal qualities needed to succeed. The event encouraged our children to think about the exciting opportunities available to them in the future, supporting the British Value of individual liberty by helping them understand that they have the freedom to make choices about their own aspirations and ambitions.

Throughout the morning, our Year 5 pupils demonstrated our school value of curiosity by asking thoughtful, insightful questions and showing a genuine interest in each volunteer's experiences. Their enthusiasm was infectious—they were so engaged that many of them didn't want the event to end! The children gained so much from the experience and represented the school brilliantly with their excellent manners, respect and attentive listening. A huge thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers for giving up their time to inspire our pupils. Your generosity, knowledge and enthusiasm made the event a truly memorable and valuable experience.



Sports Day 2026

Our Sports Days this year all ran to schedule and for that we are very grateful. For KS2 this year, we opted to mix children into their house teams and encourage them to participate on behalf of their houses, gaining as many points as possible for their team. We are delighted to announce the results for the combined scores of Sports Day 2026.



1st place - Ruby - 1565 points

2nd place - Emerald - 1517 points

3rd place - Sapphire - 1489 points

4th place - Topaz - 1466 points

Thank you to all children for participating and showing our values! We hope you all had a memorable morning/afternoon of sports. Thank you to the PA for serving refreshments and as always you as parents for supporting the event. We look forward to next year's event!

Sporting Achievements

We are delighted to announce that our former pupil Jorjia March has been selected by Team Great Britain and Northern Ireland (GB & NI) for the fifth edition of the European Athletics U18 Championships, which will take place in Rieti from the 16-19 July.

We wish Jorjia all the very best in the 800m and were delighted to hear that her talents were first spotted at a Cross Country Event where Jorja was representing Merryhills.





Spotlight on Inclusion

The Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) is running once again during the Summer holidays. The HAF vouchers were emailed out to all eligible families on Wednesday 17th June at 10am. This year's programme runs between 20th July – 28th August excluding weekends.

Please see here for a [link](#) to the full details.

Please see [the letter](#) sent to all eligible families in June.



Please see [here](#) for additional family support groups being offered between Sept - Dec 2026.



Spotlight on Online Safety

Over the Summer Break it is essential that children's time online is closely monitored. Government guidance encourages families to ensure screen use does not replace sleep, physical activity, reading, outdoor play or time spent with family and friends.

Openness and transparency is vital when it comes to managing children time spend online - know what children are doing online and talk to them about it. We urge families to get to know what children enjoy doing online. Below you will see a [poster and link](#) to upskill families understanding of Roblox.



Childline offers this [helpful support](#) for how to help have a brilliant summer break.



Or **Amazon Wishlist** you can find items we would love to have in our school, from wet play equipment to equipment outside. If you can help in anyway, we are always very grateful.

[Amazon Wishlist link](#)

[Book Wishlist link](#)



On **Arbor shop** you will find a list of ongoing items that you can purchase that help us to fund the things we need for the day to day running of the school e.g. tissues, glue stick, stationary sets, additional phonics books to replace ones that need repair.

[Home](#) [Our School](#) [Learning](#) [Daily Info](#) [News](#)

On **our website** you will find information regarding our policies, curriculum, tea time clubs and lots more. **Our news** section is regularly updates by our Year 6 Promoters so please don't forget to take a look.

<https://www.merryhills.net/>

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

All year groups came together to perform some of Mr Hudson's favourite songs. With the field a sea of colour, glitter, sequins and song, a memorable morning was had by us all. Mrs Bowkley wrote a speech which was read to Mr Hudson and the children of Merryhills. We wanted to share these kind words and some photographs from the event with you all too.



Resilience



Kindness



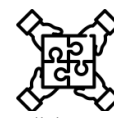
Respect



Curiosity



Responsibility



Collaboration

Mrs Bowkley's MerryFest Speech

Every year, you stand in front of our Year 6 children and leave them with words they'll carry into the future.

Today, just this once, it's our turn.

This year's MerryFest feels rather fitting.
The children have chosen songs we know you'll love.
An Oasis concert...with a few extra voices,
a few extra smiles, and a lot more enthusiasm than Liam Gallagher could ever manage.

And somehow...that feels very Merryhills.

Because you've always believed school should be more than lessons.
It should be memories. It should be laughter. It should be belonging.

Over the last fourteen years, and especially the last seven as our Headteacher, you've built exactly that.

Sometimes in a white shirt. Sometimes in a tie.
Sometimes as Willy Wonka. Sometimes as the Mad Hatter.

But always...you.

Your voice has echoed through these corridors,
across the playground, around Sports Day,
into reading groups, into the classrooms,
and into the hearts of every child lucky enough to know you.

You taught us that schools are built on three simple words.

Inspire. Future. Values.

Not words painted on a wall, but words lived every single day.
You inspired children to dream bigger. To ask "Why?" To be curious.
To be courageous. To believe that their future could be extraordinary.
And every child here knows another three words.

Ready. Respectful. Safe.

Not because they're rules. Because they're who we are.

They help us look after each other. They help us be brave enough to try.
They help children walk through these gates knowing they belong.

It's our culture. That's your legacy.

You've never been driven by results alone.

Yes, our school achieves wonderful things.

Yes, our children succeed.

Yes, we're incredibly proud.

But that's never been your measure of success.

You've always asked a different question.

"Will our children remember this?"

Will they remember the workshops...
the trips...the festivals...
the sports days...the dress-up days...
the learning that jumps off the page?

The answer is **yes**. They **will**.

They'll remember the Headteacher who can rap The Gruffalo.

They'll remember maths lessons taught with infectious enthusiasm.

They'll remember seeing you at breaktime, knowing every conversation mattered.

They'll remember you reading in Reception, visiting children at Gilwell, celebrating every success, and noticing when someone needed a quiet word.

Because that's who you've always been.

Present. Listening. Caring.

You often tell families that Merryhills isn't an exam factory. It's so much more.

And when you walk around this school, you can see exactly what you mean.

Children who are kind. Children who are confident.
Children who look after one another.

Children who are excited to learn.

Teachers who laugh together. Staff who believe in one another. A community that feels like home.

That didn't happen by accident.

It happened because someone dreamed big enough to believe a school could be exceptional without ever losing its heart. That's the story you've given us.

You reminded us that joy belongs in schools.

That children deserve wonder. That learning should make us smile. That kindness matters.

That every child matters.

So today, while the children sing the songs you love, we hope you hear something else too.

The joy on this field. The confidence in these children.
The kindness they show each other.

The excitement with which they come through these gates.

Because all of that...is your song too.

Thank you for inspiring us.

Thank you for believing in our future.

Thank you for leading with your values.

And thank you for showing us that the very best leaders don't stand in the spotlight.

They help everyone else find theirs.

Thank you, Mr Hudson.

You'll always be part of Merryhills.

