



— Autumn 2026: Issue 1 —

Merryhills Newsletter

Value of the Half Term: Resilience 

“ You can't change what's happened, but you can change what happens next. ”

— by Dame Kelly Holmes



Attendance

September's whole school attendance was **96%**. Well done to **Year 6** for the highest attendance of **97%**.

September's House Points

1st - **Sapphire** - 1927 points

2nd - **Topaz** - 1911 points

3rd - **Emerald** - 1901 points

4th - **Ruby** - 1776 points



Upcoming Dates:

7th Oct:	Reception Curriculum Meeting
7th Oct:	Beech Assembly
8th Oct:	Food bank aid collection
9th Oct:	Hazel to Forty Hall
9th Oct:	Parents Coffee Morning
12th Oct:	Y3&Y5 Science Dome
14th - 15th Oct:	Individual and Sibling Photographs
17th Oct:	Prospective parents school tour
*20th Oct:	Whole School Art Exhibition *date change
21st Oct:	Y6 + Others Flu Vaccination

[Upcoming Dates Letter](#)



A Message from Mrs Worby

What a wonderful start to the new academic year we have had. It has been an absolute joy to join the Merryhills community as your new Headteacher, and I feel incredibly fortunate to be getting to know your amazing children, our dedicated staff, and all of you as families.

This half term we have been exploring the value of resilience – that wonderful quality that helps us bounce back when things feel tricky, keep going when we face challenges, and learn from our mistakes. Resilience is not about never finding things difficult; it is about having the courage to try, the determination to persevere, and the wisdom to ask for help when we need it. Throughout the term, we will be celebrating moments of resilience in our children's learning.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your incredible support and kind words during our Ofsted inspection last week. Your partnership with us truly makes a difference, and it was wonderful to see our school community come together during this important time.

At Merryhills, we recognise the importance of strong partnerships between home and school. We have an open door policy because we genuinely value your input, concerns, and ideas. We welcome opportunities for you to share any concerns or worries early on, so we can work together to best support you and your child.

Our staff are available at the end of each day to speak with you face-to-face. Whether it is a quick question or something you would like to discuss in more detail, catching staff after school is the best way to ensure your message reaches them. Our teachers are busy teaching and supporting children throughout the school day, so they do not have time to access emails during these hours, but they will be ready to help when you catch them after school.

It has been lovely to attend my first two assemblies and see Hazel Class and Lime Class perform so brilliantly. The children spoke beautifully about the wonderful jigsaw that makes up our identity, and it was a perfect reminder of how each unique piece of our school community fits together to create something special. I am really looking forward to learning more about the children's learning in the coming weeks.

Thank you again for making me feel so welcome. I look forward to a fantastic year ahead!



A Message from Our School Parliament

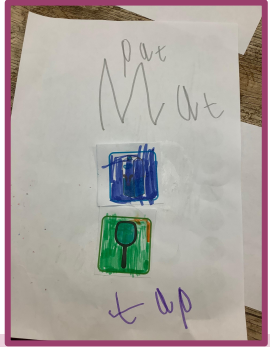
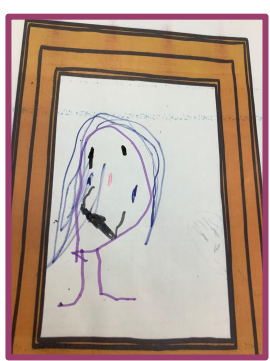
We are delighted to be elected as the Members of Parliament for the school year 2026/27. It is our job as school parliament members to keep our school clean and tidy. Our aims for the year are to make sure all children are happy and safe at school. We want to do this by continuing to make Merryhills better. Our first aim is to look at lunch times and how we can work together to provide games and activities for children to play and enjoy. We will work with the newly elected Prime Minister and our teachers to do so.

From *Year 6 MPs: Harry, Elisa, Katie, Azra, Luca and Raphael*



Reception

The children in Reception have made a wonderful start to life at school. They have become increasingly confident and independent as they have learnt their new routines, explored their classrooms and outdoor area, and formed new friendships. We are incredibly proud of how well they have demonstrated our Merryhills Values and followed our school rules: Ready, Respectful and Safe. It has been lovely to see the children's enthusiasm for learning and their confidence grow each day.



Year 1

Year 1 have stepped into an out-of-this-world learning adventure centered around the book Beegu.

The excitement began when the children discovered a mysterious crash site right in their playground, sparking fantastic predictions about who the unexpected visitor might be.

Upon discovering that a stranded alien named Beegu was feeling lonely, the children jumped into action to create new friends to make her feel welcome.



Year 2

In Year 2, the children have been exploring the theme of identity and what makes us unique. In their Art lessons, they have been experimenting with colour mixing to create handprints.

The children showed brilliant resilience and close observational skills to create their skin tones. They experimented with primary colours, white and black to match their skin tones as closely as possible. Each handprint is a reflection of their own unique and special identity.



Year 3

Year 3 have been discovering the fascinating world of rocks and fossils in their science lessons. The children have explored how fossils are formed and learned about different fossil types – including the amazing fact that 95% of all fossils are sea creatures!

They have also investigated the three main rock types: sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic.

To deepen their understanding, the children have sorted various rock samples into groups based on their characteristics and discovering which rock types share similar properties.

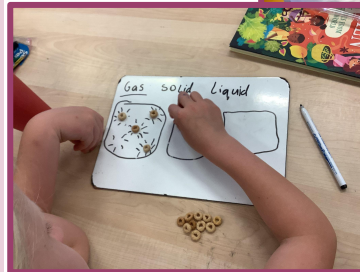


Year 4

Year 4 have been exploring States of Matter in their Science lessons through an exciting investigation using lemonade and raisins.

The children observed how the carbon dioxide gas in a fizzy drink affected the raisins, causing them to sink and float.

They used their knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to discuss how particles behave and move, while also exploring the idea of density. The children loved taking part in this fun, fizzy way to bring their Science learning to life.



In the email, you will be stepping into Liam's shoes - writing as him - so we need to use first person pronouns: I, me, my.

How are **your** parents **feeling**? Why?

I notice that ____ which makes me think they are ____.

What are they **doing**?

They are ____ which ____.



Year 5

Year 5 have been immersing themselves in an exciting new Space unit; their curiosity has truly been out of this world! The children headed out onto the field and became celestial bodies, working together to map out the relative sizes and distances of our Solar System. Getting the whole class to spread out like planets certainly provided everyone with an appreciation for just how enormous Space is! The children have also begun reading Cosmic by Frank Cottrell-Boyce, stepping into the shoes of Liam and using their imagination to see the world from his perspective. The children have even written from the perspective of Liam to his dad, explaining how he thinks he is enjoying a trip to the Lake District...when, in fact, he is actually in Space!



Year 6 Trip to PGL Marchants Hill

Our Year 6's recently returned from an unforgettable residential trip to Marchants Hill in Surrey. The four days were filled with exciting outdoor adventures that have created memories that will last a lifetime. Throughout the trip the children shone, embodying the Merryhills Values every step of the way.

We began our week on Sunday settling into our rooms and unpacking our belongings. We then had dinner together and prepared for our first outdoor activity: PGL team games.



Our values at the core...

After a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast, our intrepid Year 6's took part in a whole range of outdoor pursuits. We started the day with 'Giant Swing' - the teachers even had a go too!

Teamwork was key when the children were tasked with building a raft and going out on the water. They listened and communicated well and this was a great success (even if some of them did fall in the water!)

The schedule was jam-packed with activities including: archery, aeroball, orienteering, challenge course and fencing.



Cheering each other on...

On Monday night, we took a night walk through the woods with our torches to the campfire, where we heard stories, sang songs and toasted marshmallows... delicious!

Many of our brave and resilient Year 6's had to overcome their fears when climbing Jacob's ladder or conquering the climbing wall. It was amazing to see them challenge themselves to go as far as they could with the rest of the group cheering from down on the ground.

On the last night, we had the disco, where we celebrated our brilliant week together. More photos will be shared on the Google Classroom late this week but we wanted to share a sneak peek here.



Library Appeal: Picture Books Needed

Miss Lucas and our wonderful librarians have been working hard to organise our school library, and it is looking fantastic. During our review, we have identified that we are running low on quality picture books. If you have any picture books at home that your children have outgrown, we would warmly welcome donations to the school.

These books will help us ensure all pupils have access to engaging, high-quality stories that support their learning and love of reading. Please drop any picture book donations to the school office. Thank you for your support.



Join us for a creative coffee morning!

We are excited to invite our arty and creative parents to help us with a special project – creating a brand new welcome wall for our school.

Our current welcome wall has served us well over the years, but we feel it is now time for a refresh. We would love to gather your ideas and creativity to plan a project that children in each class across the school can work on together. Our aim is to capture our 6 school values: Respect, Kindness, Resilience, Curiosity, Responsibility, Collaboration and celebrate our wonderful school community as it is today in 2026.

If you would like to get involved, please come along on Friday 9th October 2026. Full details can be found [here](#).

Enfield in Bloom Awards 2026

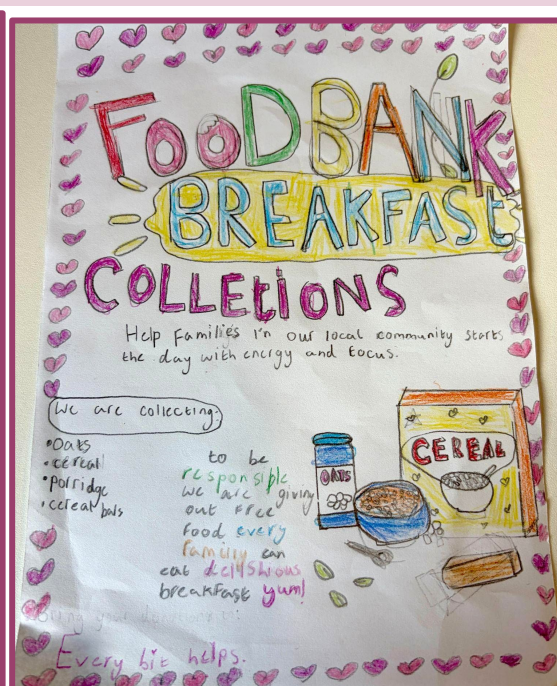
We are delighted to share that our Gardening Club has been recognised with a Silver award for 'Best School Grounds with Environmental and Educational Aspect'. This wonderful achievement reflects the dedication and hard work of all the children who attend the club each week. The young gardeners are warmly invited to join us at the awards ceremony on Wednesday 28th October at 7.00pm, which will be held at the Chicken Shed Theatre. Mrs Worby will be attending on behalf of the school to collect our award.

We are incredibly proud of all the children involved and would like to extend a special thank you to Ms Choi for her continued support of our Gardening Club throughout the year.

Food Bank Collection:

The theme for Food Bank Aid school collections is Breakfast – helping people in our North London community start the day with energy and focus. We're asking our school to collect oats, porridge, cereal and cereal bars.

Year 4 are asking for all collection to be brought into school on the **8th October**.





Spotlight on Inclusion

We recognise that some children benefit from additional movement breaks during the school day. These short breaks can help children regulate their emotions, support their wellbeing and prepare them to engage positively with their learning.

We use a range of recommended strategies that can be carried out safely within the classroom. These might include spending a few quiet moments in a designated space, completing a simple classroom “job”, gentle exercises, breathing techniques or short periods of pacing.

Our priority is always to keep children safe. For this reason, movement breaks take place within the classroom and do not involve children walking around the school building independently.

Enfield Guidance on supporting school attendance can be found here: [Emotional Based School Non-Attendance \(EBSNA\) | Educational Psychology Service](#)

The Educational Psychology Service and Family Hubs will be offering support for families whose children are experiencing worries or barriers around attending school. The sessions will be offered on a half-termly basis starting in the autumn term. Further details about the next network meeting and a link to sign up can be found [here](#)



Parenting Support

We are excited to share two fantastic opportunities for parents and carers in our school community to access free, evidence-based parenting support this autumn.

Each course lasts for 13 weeks and is designed to help parents reduce conflict and build stronger family relationships. Full details can be found in the attached flyers. [Stronger Families](#) & [Stronger Relationships](#)



Spotlight on Online Safety

“Wait... what does THAT mean?”

If you’ve ever heard your child use a word or you’ve read it online and quietly thought, “I have absolutely no idea what they’re talking about...” we are here to help keep you up to date with terminology used. One word that seems to be prevalent at the moment is ‘doxxing’. ‘Doxxing’ is the sharing of someone’s personal information online without their permission. For more information on how to keep children’s personal information online safe please read the article [here](#) from internetmatters.org.



Inclusion Padlet for Parents



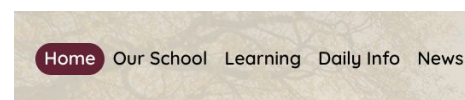
On our **Amazon Wishlist** you can find items we would love to have in our school, from wet play equipment to equipment outside. If you can help in anyway, we are always very grateful.

[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.



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”