



# Merry Hill Matters

Issue 109 - 19th December 2006

Dear Parents

## Chanukah

Thank you to Mrs Sharaby and Mr Abrahams who came in to school last week and this week to talk to the children about the Jewish Festival of Chanukah, which this year started on the evening of Friday 15th December and finishes on Saturday 23rd December. Thank you for the delicious donuts!

## National Children's Homes Collection

At the last count we had collected £435 for National Children's Homes. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously during the exit collections for the Nativity and the Year 1 and 2 Christmas songs, and to those people who chose to put a Christmas message in the Newsletter and to make a donation to NCHs instead of sending cards.

## School Travel Plan Update

In November we were awarded a silver travel plaque in recognition of our efforts to encourage more children to walk to school. At Merry Hill we have managed to reduce the number of car journeys taken to get to school, and this is when overall car usage in Hertfordshire has gone up. Well done to everyone for their efforts. Let's see if we can continue the good work in the New Year.

In January there will be a shelter erected to provide some respite from the weather for those hardy souls who do walk to school!

## Teachinherts Live!

On Thursday 4th January Hertfordshire are running an Open Afternoon (2.00-6.00pm) for anyone interested in becoming a teacher. If you would like to find out about routes into teaching, or are thinking of returning to teaching, then this is for you. For more information visit the website:  
[www.hertsdirect.org/teachinherts](http://www.hertsdirect.org/teachinherts)

## BBC

BBC Television is currently producing a three-part series looking into the social and cultural changes in Britain over the past ten years.

They are currently looking for a case study to use in the work/life balance section. They are specifically looking for a working woman who is married or cohabiting, with two or three young children. Also, the case study in mind cannot have too much hired help. Instead, the working mum needs to be quite involved in child care, so that they can highlight the complexities and the struggle of 'having it all'.

If this sounds like you and you would be interested in finding out more, then please contact Stephen Barrett on 0208 752 5951 or at [stephen.barrett.01@bbc.co.uk](mailto:stephen.barrett.01@bbc.co.uk)

## Finally

Finally, some words of wisdom from Stavros (Easy Jet), *'Fit your own oxygen mask before attending to others.'* If, as busy parents, we lack the oxygen of energy and joy, we may become unable to breathe energy and joy into others. So, however busy you are: Take time for yourselves.

All of the staff join me in wishing you a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. Have a great break!

Pauline Hannibal  
Headteacher

School re-opens for children on Thurs 4th Jan.