



Merry Hill Matters

Issue 17 - 17th September 2004

Dear Parents

Lunchtime Vacancy

I would like one more person to join our lunchtime team. The job is for one and a quarter hours a day for five days a week in term time. The hourly rate is £5.32. If you think you might be interested please come to see me. I would consider a job share if that would be more convenient.

New Parents

The best way to find out how Merry Hill ticks is to get involved! One way that you can do this is to help out in the School Café on Wednesdays from 3.00-3.45. If you think that you can spare three quarters of an hour (especially if your child goes to Fit Club on that day) to help run the Café, please contact Kelly Hardwidge on 020 8950 3740.

PTA Meeting - Everyone invited

All parents are automatically members of the Friends of Merry Hill. Why not go along to the first meeting of FOMH next Thursday (23rd) at Marci Homewood's, 1 Frobisher Close, at 8.00pm and find out how you can become a part of the team.

Handwriting Video

We have had a tremendous response from parents to our Handwriting Workshops with over 100 parents attending. Thank you to all the staff who helped make the sessions such a success.

If you were unable to attend, but would like to watch the handwriting video, please enquire at the school office and we can arrange for you to borrow it.

Handwriting Resources

The Friends of Merry Hill have kindly agreed to sell stocks of triangular pencils and handwriting books etc at the Wednesday School Café. I will let parents know when the resources are in stock.

Free Water Bottles

Thank you once again to Friends of Merry Hill for supplying the children with free water bottles.

Be part of The World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Mrs McMahon is organising a coffee morning in the Merry Hill dining room at 9.00am on Friday 23rd September. By attending this coffee morning you will be helping Macmillan Cancer relief to raise over £4.5 million to provide practical and emotional support, which is a real lifeline to people living with cancer. Every cup of coffee counts! If you are unable to attend but would like to make a donation, please see Mrs McMahon on the playground.

Meeting - Reception Class

All Reception parents are invited to an important meeting about how we teach reading at Merry Hill and how you can support your child, both in reading and in other areas of the curriculum. The meeting is next Wednesday (22nd) at 7.00pm.

Meeting - After School Football Club

Thank you to all those parents who expressed an interest in their child attending an after school football club. I have arranged a short meeting with Rob Clarke and Nick Perchard from Watford Football Club for 2.45 on Thursday 23rd September for any parents who would like to know more.

Meeting - School Dinners

I am working very closely with Herts Catering about the promotion of healthy eating. I have invited Ruth Wilcox and Sue Veale from Herts Catering and Rita Henke our school cook to a Parents Meeting in order for them to understand any concerns you may have about school lunches and to outline their future plans for school lunches at Merry Hill. The meeting is at 2.00pm on Monday 11th October.

Fit Club

Fit Club starts again on Tuesday 21st September. It is open to children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Please see separate letter.

Board Games Club

Board Games Club starts again this Friday (17th) and runs through to Christmas. Thank you to Mrs Smith for running this club.

If your child has a place at the club please note that there are some Fridays when the club does NOT take place.

If you were unsuccessful in gaining a place for your child we will ensure that you have first priority after Christmas.

Workforce Remodelling

The DfES national initiative 'Workforce Remodelling' is moving into a crucial phase. As part of this national agreement, by September 2005 all schools will have a statutory obligation to guarantee teachers at least 10% planning, preparation and assessment time (PPA).

At Merry Hill, during the Autumn Term, we are trialling a response to this contractual change by providing non-contact time, on a rota basis, provided by Mrs Perry as follows:

Monday	1M
Tuesday	1S
Wednesday	2H
Thursday	RC
Friday	2G

More information is available on www.remodelling.org

Independence

Thank you to parents for encouraging your children to say 'goodbye' to you in the playground and to come into school by themselves.

Wet Mornings

On wet mornings the children are allowed into class five minutes early, at 8.45am.

Gate Rota

Parents may have noticed that a member of staff is now on security duty at the main gate by Mrs Eells' office, between 8.50 and 9.00am. This adult can make sure that children do not leave the premises again once parents have sent them in.

Morning Messages

First thing in the morning is a very busy time for class teachers - I am on the playground most mornings, so if you have a message for your child's teacher please see me and I will pass it on. If I am not on the playground please come in and leave the message with Mrs Eells, the School Secretary.

Afternoon Messages

The teachers bring the children out on to the playground after school, so if you have a quick message you can speak with them then. Again I am usually on the playground after school, so you can have an informal chat with me then.

Informal Meetings

All teachers are usually available between 3.15pm and 3.45pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please feel welcome to call in for a chat about your child's work and progress. A visit to see a particularly good piece of work is a great morale booster for all concerned.

Meetings with me

You can call in to see me at any time, but an appointment will guarantee that I am available.

Road Safety

A group of parents (Mr and Mrs Green, Mrs Martin, Mrs Parker, Mrs Southern and Mrs Vignaux) and I met with representatives from County yesterday to discuss the school's concerns regarding road safety around Merry Hill.

It was a very productive meeting and we will be contacting parents shortly with further information regarding a public meeting for parents, local residents, PC Chittenden, Council representatives and other interested parties.

Parents' generosity

After our unhappy experience last week with vandals damaging some dolls we were heartened this week to receive a number of dolls donated by parents.

Thank you to everyone who has responded in such a generous manner.

Pauline Hannibal
Headteacher