
Term 3 – 7th January 2019

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

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Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a very enjoyable break. This week is Creative Maths week and all classes are looking at creative ways in which we use maths across the curriculum and as part of our day to day lives. Do take the opportunity to talk to your children about how you use maths on a day to day basis.

Mrs C Chalkley
Headteacher

Choir Performance at Pilgrim's Hospice

I would like to congratulate the children from the choir who performed a selection of Christmas carols at the Pilgrim's Hospice on the last day of term. They were all a credit to the school and I know their singing was very much appreciated by the patients, staff and volunteers at the hospice who were able to come along and listen in the recreation room.

The Mersham Mile

With a view to further increasing the children's health and wellbeing, we are currently in the process of introducing 'The Mersham Mile' into our curriculum. The idea is that children will be given the opportunity to run (or walk) for 15 minutes at least twice per week in addition to their usual PE lessons. Please therefore ensure that children have trainers with them in school everyday. If you would like more information about this initiative, please visit the following website or ask Mrs Maher. <https://thedailymile.co.uk/>

Swimming – Years 4, 5 and 6

Swimming starts for all children in Years 4, 5 and 6 tomorrow (8th January). Children will need to ensure they have their swimming kit with them and that any jewellery is not worn on that day. The weekly cost is £4.32 – please can you ensure that this is paid either by cheque or via Parentmail.

Children due to start school in September 2019

Please note that the closing date for Year R applications for September 2019 is 15th January. Please go to <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places#tab-2>

Upcoming Events

7 th Jan	Creative Maths week
15 th Jan	Closing date for Year R Applications 2019
14 th Feb	End of Term 3
15 th Feb	Staff Training Day
25 th Feb	Start of Term 4
4 th Mar	Parents Evening 3:30-6:00
5 th Mar	Parents Evening 5:00-7:30
7 th Mar	World Book Day
11 th Mar	Science Week
15 th Mar	Non-Uniform Day for Easter Egg Bingo
22 nd Mar	Easter Egg Bingo KS1
29 th Mar	Easter Egg Bingo KS2
5 th April	Easter Service 9:30am
5 th April	End of Term 4
23 rd April	Start of Term 5

Parking at the Village Hall

Please can I remind all our parents that the parents of children attending Mersham Little Stars have priority parking at the Village Hall when the nursey is open. I have received several complaints that some of our parents have been extremely rude and inconsiderate to parents and staff at Mersham Little Stars and whilst I know parking is difficult at key times, this is not acceptable within our community.

Breakfast Club and Early Drop off

We are starting to see quite high numbers of children coming into Breakfast Club and Early Drop off on some days, which is great. However, please could I ask that you book in advance so that we are aware of numbers and can monitor health and safety for the children accordingly. If numbers continue to rise we may need to consider whether we need to impose a maximum number of children who can attend.

Social Media

Please can I remind all parents that no personal information about children at the school should be posted on social media without the parents' explicit permission. This includes names, photographs and video clips. This also applies to closed groups. This is for safeguarding and data protection reasons and individuals who do post information without permission need to be aware that they could be subject to legal action. Thank you for your co-operation.

Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

As a fundamental principle every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However, schools may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Mersham Primary School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by e.g. gritting pathways, clearing access points etc.

How will we let you know if the school is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, Mrs Chalkley may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website. To determine whether Mersham Primary School is open or closed please visit www.kentclosures.co.uk. Search for the school in the search box. The Kent Closures website may also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries. We also recommend parents sign up for Email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an email alert to let parents know if Mersham Primary School is closed. Local radio will sometimes provide information of school closures.

What can you do to help?

- Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/winter for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.
- Please approach the school from the front entrance as usual.
- Check with the school to see whether you need to provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided.
- Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Many thanks for your support in helping Mersham Primary School remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

