

Term 3 – 28th January 2019

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



Last week, all classes began using a new electronic system for monitoring behaviour in the classroom called Trackit Lights. The system is virtually the same as the previous traffic light system used in the class with all children starting the day on 'green'. The children can earn house points for good behaviour and work through the day and can see that immediately, which they have found really motivational. Should there be poor behaviour, they can also see their name moving onto 'amber' and ultimately 'red', as before. If their behaviour improves, they can always get back to 'green'. The system also allows senior leaders to monitor behaviour across the whole school more effectively which we hope will benefit everyone. Please see the class teacher if you would like to know any more.

**Mrs C Chalkley
Headteacher**

Valentine Disco

The PTA have kindly organised a disco for all children on Friday 8th February (see details below). Children in Year R and KS1 can bring a change of clothes to change into after the end of the school day. If parents are unable to come in and assist the younger ones changing, then school staff will help as needed. School staff will ensure that belongings are collected from the classroom prior to parents picking up at the end of the disco.

Walk in Wednesdays

Walk in Wednesdays up until Easter will be on 6th February and 3rd April. There will be no Walk in Wednesday in March as Parent's Evening will be taking place at that same time so there will be an opportunity to see work then instead.

Supervision of children at the end of the day

Please can I remind parents to supervise young children carefully at the end of the day on the playground. Children should not be allowed to play in the early years outdoor area or on the lower playground where they may disrupt learning that is still continuing in the classrooms. I appreciate your support in advance.

Upcoming Events

6 th Feb	Walk in Wednesday
8 th Feb	Disco KS1 3:30-4:30 KS2 5:00-6:30
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
3 rd April	Walk in Wednesday
5 th April	Easter Service 9:30am
5 th April	End of Term 4
23 rd April	Start of Term 5

Reading Award

Well done to Hawking Class (Year 5) who have won the reading award this week with a total of 93% of children in the class reading three times or more during the week. This was closely followed by Ahlberg class (Year 4) with 83%, and Churchill class (Year 6) with 74%.

Term Dates 2019-20

We have (along with some other schools in the CARE Foundation Trust) made the decision to adjust our term dates next year to allow for a longer holiday in May. Please note that this is for ONE YEAR ONLY and will not necessarily occur in future years. I am aware that this will probably suit some families but perhaps not all, however it has been agreed we will trial it on this occasion.

Term 1

Tuesday 3rd September – Friday 18th October
Staff Development Day - Monday 2nd September

Term 2

Monday 28th October – Friday 20th December

Term 3

Monday 6th January – Thursday 13th February
Staff Development Day - Friday 14th February

Term 4

Monday 24th February – Tuesday 31st March
Staff Development Day - Wednesday 1st April

Term 5

Thursday 16th April – Friday 22nd May
Bank Holiday – Monday 4th May

Term 6

Monday 8th June – Thursday 23rd July
Staff Development Days – Thursday 4th and Friday 5th June

Big Garden Birdwatch from Mr Ives

The RSPB has run the 'Big Garden Birdwatch' from over this weekend (26th-28th of January). The event is accepting submissions until the end of today Children of all ages can get involved in spotting winter birds and are encouraged to log anything they find on the RSPB website. Some winter birds include:

- Blackbird
- Blue tit
- Chaffinch
- Dunnock
- Great tit
- Greenfinch
- House sparrow
- Even Woodpigeons

Any birds you find can be logged on the website free of charge! There are names and pictures to help children identify any species of bird they find on their website. This is the perfect opportunity to engage young scientists and nature lovers! There is still time to get involved today!

Class Assemblies for Terms 3 and 4

These assemblies will be performed at 9:05am in the school hall. Dates are as follows:

7th February : Nightingale class (Year 2)

14th February : Donaldson class (Year R)

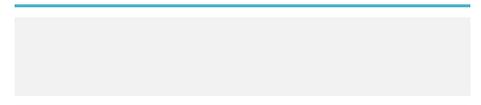
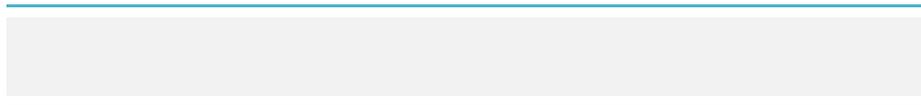
28th February : Attenborough class (Year 1)

14th March : Ahlberg class (Year 4)

21st March : Hawking class (Year 5)

28th March: Kinney class (Year 3)

4th April : Churchill class (Year 6)



PTA News & Updates

Valentines Disco – Friday 8 February



Payment for the disco can either be made on parentmail, or to Carla in the office. Please can you also remember to state what your child would like to eat, so we can order the correct amount of food!

PTA meeting – Tuesday 26 February

7pm in the Farriers, all are welcome

Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families

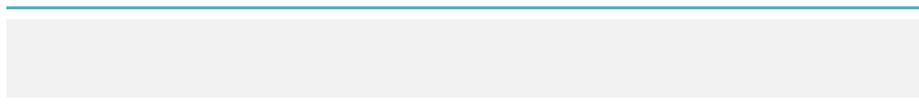
Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

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.

