
Term 3 – 13th January 2020

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



I would like to say a huge thank you to John Hockley and Lindsay Best and all at the Farriers for their generous support with buying three new much needed netball posts and nets. The children will surely get a great deal of pleasure and use out of them in years to come. Very belatedly, (for which I apologise) I would also like to thank Mr Webb for donating the Christmas Tree that was out on the playground before Christmas – again this was very much appreciated and enabled us to celebrate in style!

Mrs C Chalkley
Headteacher

Class Assemblies – Terms 3 and 4

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

30th January	Kingfisher Class
6th February	Duckling class
13th February	Parrot Class
27th February	Penguin Class
5th March	Toucan Class
19th March	Falcon Class
26th March	Robin Class

Year R applications for September 2020

Just a reminder that the closing date for applications for places in Reception for September 2020 is on Wednesday 15th January at midnight. Applications can be made via this link.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places>

Plastic Ring Packaging Recycling

Our school has been accepted as a recycling point for plastic ring packaging. The Eco-eagles have been excited to start a recycling scheme since before our Christmas break. We have until the 24th January to collect any used plastic ring carriers from cans and tins

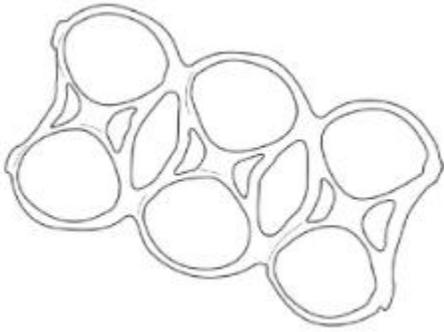
Upcoming Events

21 st Jan	PTA Meeting and AGM
5 th Feb	Walk in Wednesday
6 th Feb	Young Voices O2
10 th Feb	Friends and Family week
13 th Feb	End of Term 3
14 th Feb	Staff Training Day
24 th Feb	Start of Term 4
2/3 Mar	Parent's Evenings
9 th Mar	Science Week
13 th Mar	Non-Uniform Day for Easter Egg Bingo
20 th Mar	KS1 Easter Egg Bingo
27 th Mar	Easter Service 9:30am
27 th Mar	KS2 Easter Egg Bingo
31 st Mar	End of Term 4
1 st Apr	Staff Training Day

Online Safety Guides for Parents

This week's guide from National Online Safety is all about **TikTok**. Many children will have seen videos filmed on this app and perhaps have experimented themselves – this guide provides some useful tips on how to manage that safely with your child.

such as the ones in the picture. The collection area will be in the box outside the school office. Families are able to bring in as many as they would like or are able too.



Many thanks,
Mr Ives and the Eco team

Free Books with The Sun newspaper and Harper Collins

From Saturday 23rd November until Saturday 18th January, The Sun and The Sun on Sunday will be providing tokens towards free books for schools. The school needs to collect 3,500 in order to get a pack of 105 free Collins Big Cat books. If you receive any vouchers, please can you pass them to Miss Tripp in the office. Thank you!

Co-opted Governors Needed

We already have our full quota of parent governors but should you be aware of anyone from the general community who would be interested in taking on this role and would like to learn more please contact Lesley Caldwell (Chair of Governors) on chair@mersham.kent.sch.uk

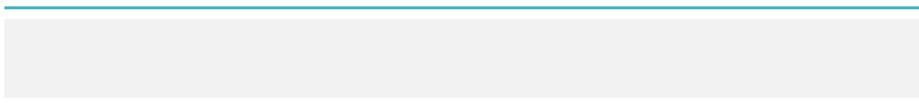
Being a school governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding voluntary role. It provides an opportunity for people to make a real difference to our young people, and to give something back to the local community. Individuals will also be joining the largest volunteer force in the country. Our school needs a governing board that has balance and a diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to enable it to be effective.

There is no requirement for interested individuals to understand the education system, just to possess the necessary skills, character and time to contribute. There is plenty of training available to help new governors learn about education plus we offer a mentor to support. Schools benefit from a range of professional knowledge on their governing board.

The governing board provides strategic leadership and accountability in our school. It has three key functions:

- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

The average time commitment is four hours per month, although it will vary depending on the needs of the school and the role. This includes 7 full governing body meetings per year. As well as these meetings governors may like to contribute to such specific areas as Health and Safety and Finance.



We are currently seeking co-opted governors with experience in one or more of the following areas : finance, human resources, legal, marketing and public relations, property and estates management or organisational change.

Winter Weather Guidance for Parents

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.

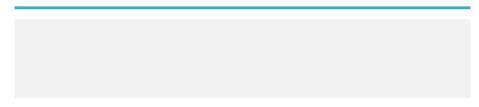
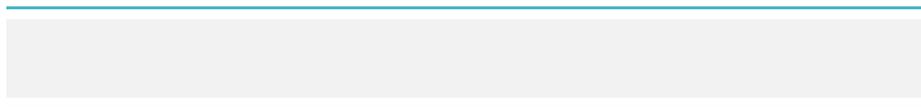
How will we let you know if the school is closed?

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 <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/what-we-look-after/winter-service> for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.
- Please approach the school carefully – the hill can become very icy and it may be preferable to park at either the top or bottom and walk to the school entrance.
- 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 backup 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.



PTA News & Updates



Fundraising thermometer – tracking the amount of money we raise!

You have probably seen this outside the school gate. It is a way for us to see and track how much money we raise. Last term we raised £2000! This all goes back to the school to directly benefit the children. Thank you for all your support; let's aim high!

Save the dates:



Friday 7 February

School disco!

More details to follow!

Tuesday 21 February

PTA annual general meeting, 7pm at the Farriers. Please come and join us for a drink, all very welcome...

