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Term 1 – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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# Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

[www.mersham.kent.sch.uk](http://www.mersham.kent.sch.uk) 01233 720449

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I have previously mentioned how well the children have managed the return to school, having had such a long time at home due to lockdown and most are continuing to cope incredibly well. However, three weeks in and we are just starting to notice how tired some of the children are getting – it has been exhausting for them all getting to know new routines, adjusting to the new way of life in school, re-establishing friendships and getting back into the swing of learning. If you have any concerns at all about your child, either in or out of school, please do talk to a member of staff – we are fully anticipating that some children may find the return to school more difficult than others.

**Cheryl Chalkley**  
Headteacher

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## Hot School Dinners- Reduced menu available from Monday.

Due to health and safety constraints we have not been able to offer any hot meals up until this point. This is because they cannot be served safely in the school hall, due to lack of space and the requirements to keep classes separate from each other as well as the logistics of our school site and carrying hot meals to the classrooms. In an effort to try and offer something to children, particularly those eligible for free school meals, we have worked with Caterlink to come up with a reduced menu (please see attached) which will be available from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September. These will be delivered to classrooms in bags, with the idea being that cutlery will not be needed. Initially, hot food will be provided on Mondays and Fridays with packed lunches provided, as before, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. **All children in Years R, 1 and 2 will be eligible for these free (Universal Free School meals)** along with any children in Years 3,4,5 and 6 who are eligible for free school meals. These can also be purchased for children in Years 3,4 5 and 6 as previously through the Caterlink website. If this works well, we will look to extend the hot food available to other days in the week. For those new to the school, you can pick and choose what your child prefers each day e.g. they could have hot food on Mondays and Fridays but bring a packed lunch from home on the other days – they just need to make it clear to their class teacher in the mornings whether they are having a school meal or a packed lunch from home.



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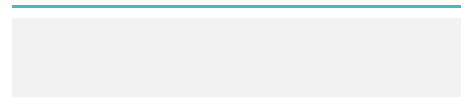
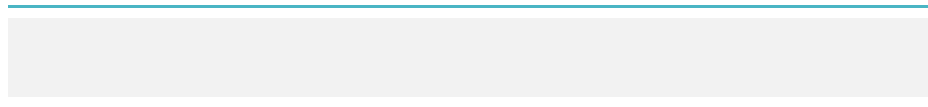
## Upcoming Events

15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Kent Test
23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	End of Term 1
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Start of Term 2
4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Flu Vaccinations (all Year groups)
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	End of Term 2
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Staff Training Day

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## Privacy Notice

Please note the school privacy notice has been updated in line with guidance related to the Covid-19 pandemic. This can be found on the school website.



## **COVID Symptoms – Guidance for schools from Kent County Council**

There is a lot of frustration at the moment I know, with regard to children having to be kept off school with a mild illness that is unlikely to be Covid-19. With the challenges associated with the testing system as well, this is just making the situation for parents worse. Whilst I fully appreciate these challenges, the guidance is quite clear and is as follows:

*There is a national 'case definition' which identifies Covid symptoms as:*

- *a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)*
- *a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)*
- *a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal*

*Where an individual presents with one of the above symptoms they should self-isolate and receive a test. We understand that there is much discussion nationally regarding additional symptoms and their link to Covid 19, however the above three symptoms remain the only symptoms where an individual needs to isolate and seek a test unless they are requested to seek a test by a health professional.*

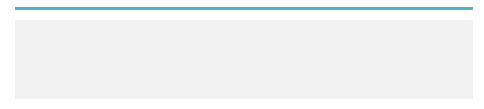
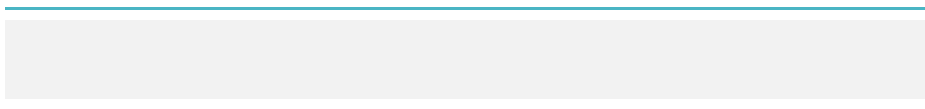
*We are also aware of cases where children or staff present with one of the above symptoms for a short period of time, such as 1 day, and then wish to return to school without testing or self-isolation when they no longer have these symptoms; often after having discussed their symptoms with a health professional such as a GP who concludes they are likely to have an illness other than Covid.*

*We have sought advice on this matter and it remains that anybody presenting with one of the three symptoms must isolate for 10 days and only return prior to that if they have received a negative test result and feel well. It is important that schools consistently follow the procedures set out in their policies and risk assessments and that those policies are based on current guidance, which has not changed on this matter. A telephone consultation with a health professional that reports Covid is unlikely is not a reason for the school to deviate from the policy where an individual has had one of the three Covid symptoms.*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#ending-self-isolation-and-household-isolation>

## **Year 6 Parents – The Wye School**

The Wye School have asked us to let prospective Year 6 parents know that due to the new social distancing rules that have come in to effect, they have had to cancel their planned Open Mornings. New plans will be published soon on the school website. Please accept their apologies for the change of plans and any inconvenience caused.



## Canterbury Choral Society Youth Choir

The Canterbury Choral Society Youth Choir are looking for new members – please see attached flyer.

## Parents Evenings

Just to let you know that Parent's evenings, that usually take place at the start of term 2 will all take place virtually this year. Further details will be available nearer the time.

## Class emails

Just a reminder that if you have any non-urgent questions for the class teacher, please use the class email addresses. These are being checked regularly by the class teachers.

[ducklingclass@mersham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ducklingclass@mersham.kent.sch.uk)

[penguinclass@mersham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:penguinclass@mersham.kent.sch.uk)

[parrotclass@mersham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:parrotclass@mersham.kent.sch.uk)

[robinclass@mersham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:robinclass@mersham.kent.sch.uk)

[kingfisherclass@mersham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:kingfisherclass@mersham.kent.sch.uk)

[toucanclass@mersham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:toucanclass@mersham.kent.sch.uk)

[falconclass@mersham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:falconclass@mersham.kent.sch.uk)

## PTA News & Updates



Welcome back! We are looking forward to another great year of fundraising and having fun. It may just be in a different way!

A big welcome to all new parents joining the school, we hope all the Ducklings have settled in well.

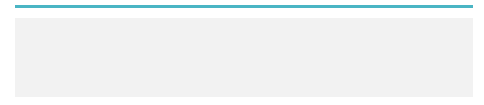
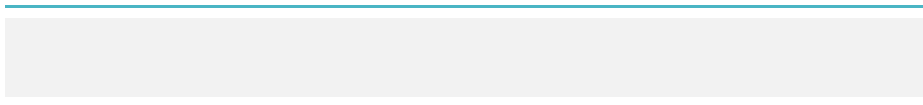
## PTA meetings

These will still happen this year, but are likely to be virtual. We would love to meet any new parents who have recently joined the school, it is a great way to meet new people, have fun and raise much needed funds for the school.

## Charity bin

This is located outside the front of the school, and helps raise money for both the school and our chosen charity. Please can people put items into the bin in smaller bags, as the large black bin bags tend to block the chute!

## PTA Facebook page



We have a Facebook page that is a great source of information about PTA events and is regularly updated with information for parents. Please invite new parents to join this group.

**Class representatives**

We will be reviewing these to ensure still current and will of course be looking for a representative from the new class R!

**Second hand uniform**

Thank you to all those who have donated, it is a great way to pass uniform on, and raise money for the school. We welcome donations of any good condition uniform.

A BIG thank you to Sarah Groves who has collated, washed, and arranged sales of items

**Who is who on the PTA?**

**Joint chair – Louise Morgan & Felicity White**



**Treasurer – Claire Gregory**



**Secretary – Sally Stock**



**Second hand uniform officer – Sarah Groves**

