



Term 2 – 14th December 2020

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



It has been an incredibly challenging term for all of us and I would like to thank you all once again for being so supportive during this difficult time. I would also like to thank the entire staff team who have worked so hard, managing to adapt to sudden changes with professionalism and the children's best interests at the centre of everything. If I am honest, I think that there will be further class closures in term 3 and it may well be Easter time before things hopefully start to settle. In addition to this, Brexit may result in further complications that we may need to contend with in term 3! I would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and I hope you are all able to safely spend some quality time with your families.

Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher

Upcoming Events

11 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
16 th Dec	Christmas Dinner
17 th Dec	End of Term 2
18 th Dec	Staff Training Day
4 th Jan	Staff Training Day
5 th Jan	Start of Term 3

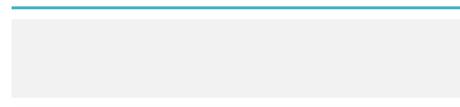
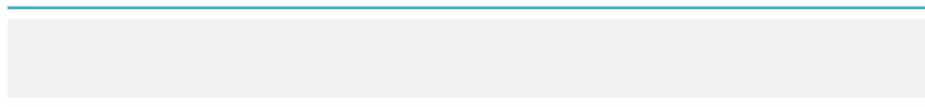
Positive Covid Tests During the Christmas Holidays

The DfE have asked us to make parents aware of the following information:

- Where a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), **having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school**, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- If a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), **having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school**, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. Should you find yourself in this situation, please contact Mrs Chalkley on headteacher@mersham.kent.sch.uk – emails will be checked each morning **up until the 23rd December** for this purpose only to ensure that any other members of the school community can be notified.

Brexit

Schools have been advised to plan for disruption in the New Year caused as a result of the Brexit transition period ending. It is possible that road systems could be blocked meaning that parents and staff are unable to get to the school and there could be possible delays in essential supplies reaching the school. Put simply, if there are difficulties, the school will operate in a similar way to when we have extreme weather (see information below). If the disruption is for an extended period



of time, we will be able to switch to Google Classroom for online learning as we have done recently when classes have had to self-isolate.

Winter Weather Guidance – official guidance from KCC

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 gritting pathways, clearing access points etc.

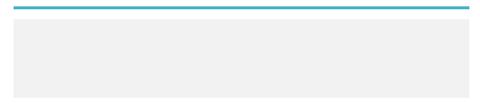
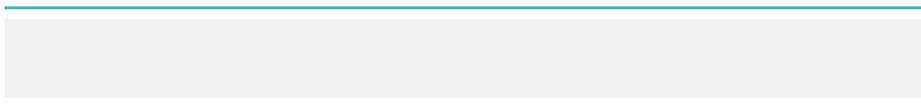
How will we let you know if the school is closed?

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 with care particularly because of the hill and slopes around the school grounds
- 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.





Festive updates....

- ❖ Please can any remaining payments of £5 per child per event (Panto and Elf visit) be made on parentmail, to cover the cost of the christmas activies that have taken place/about to take place
- ❖ Links to the events will be shared via google classrooms, to enable all to enjoy. The Panto has been very well received so far...
- ❖ Thank you to all that have donated chocolate. The ever popular chocolate tombola will be taking place in the classrooms this week..
- ❖ Thank you to all who purchased raffle tickets. Prize winners are listed on the PTA Facebook page. Many prizes were vouchers, but some of the wonderful prizes are waiting in the office to be collected. Thank you to everyone who donated or obtained prizes
- ❖ **WE RAISED £618 WHICH IS AMAZING, THANK YOU! THIS GOES DIRECTLY BACK TO THE SCHOOL TO BENEFIT ALL CHILDREN**

Save the Children – Christmas jumper day

The children all looked very festive on Friday, it was great to see. Thank you to everyone who donated. We raised £186.40!



Merry Christmas, here's to more fundraising in 2021, love all at the PTA xx

