
Term 3 – 5th January 2021

Mersham Primary School

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Despite the current circumstances, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and I hope you were all able to enjoy Christmas in some way. It is a real disappointment to us all that the situation is not currently safe enough for every child to return to school until after the February half term at the earliest. I hope you are however finding Google Classroom an improved way of learning at home compared to the first lockdown – if you are having any difficulties, please contact the class teacher via the class email and they will be able to help you. I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff team for all that they are putting together – they are also learning at huge speed exactly how Google Classroom works and I hope that what we are able to offer continues to develop and improve as we get better at understanding all its functionality!

**Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher**



Upcoming Events

5 th Jan	Start of Term 3
12 th Feb	End of Term 3
22 nd Feb	Start of Term 4

Wellbeing Check ins with pupils

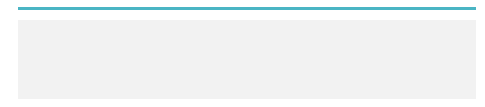
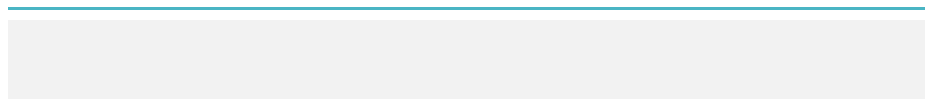
Using Google Meet, we will be organising small group live sessions with the class teachers from next week. Please look out for further information on Parentmail.

Key Worker Childcare in school

Like many schools, we have considerably more children in school compared with the first lockdown. In March/April, we had less than 3% of children coming into Mersham. This time, we have approximately 20% of children coming into school. There are concerns both locally and nationally about these numbers in schools and that this will not help in the reduction of transmission rates as well as also putting a strain on staffing, particularly where class teachers are trying to juggle home learning with supporting children in school. If you are considering requesting childcare, because you meet the eligibility criteria, please can I emphasise that this should be requested as a last resort only. If there is someone at home, then it is far safer for children to remain at home rather than potentially increase the health and safety risks for those in school. Thank you.

School Laptops for Home Learning

I am pleased to say that we were able to distribute all the Chromebooks that we received free from the DfE. The school has allocated some further funds to purchase 10 more Chromebooks. We tried to buy these before Christmas but were unable to because of a lack of supply as the DfE have bought so many! When I have more news about this then I will again write to parents inviting them to make an application for a device, if needed.



Free School Meals

All those pupils who are in receipt of free school meals will be eligible for supermarket vouchers again, as previously. It looks as though this will be supplied by Wonde which is what the school has been using, but I am just waiting for confirmation from KCC. Please note this is **not** for those pupils who receive Universal Free School Meals because they are in Years R, 1 and 2.

Statutory Assessments

You may well have seen in the news that the Government has cancelled all statutory Primary assessments again this year. That means that the children in Years 2 and 6 will not take SATS tests, there will be no Phonics checks in Year 1 or 2 and no Multiplication Check in Year 4.

Using Xbox or PlayStation for Home Learning

This maybe helpful for some families as an alternative way of accessing Google Classroom

Using Xbox or PlayStation to access Hwb

Accessing your remote learning. An alternative method of accessing remote learning during times of lockdown.

Xbox

1. Plug a keyboard in to the Xbox USB slot
2. Go in to my games and apps
3. Find Microsoft Edge and select
4. Type in: Hwb and log in as you would in school
5. You can then access your work through Google Classroom or OneDrive and use key packages including:
 - Word
 - Teams
 - Excel
 - PowerPoint
 - Your emails
6. To move around you use the Xbox control or plug in a mouse

PlayStation

1. Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (it is WWW with dots around it)
2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller
3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications
4. Go in to applications and you will find the internet browser
5. Type Hwb into the browser and log in as you would in school
6. You can then access your work through Google Classroom or OneDrive and use key packages including:
 - Word
 - Teams
 - Excel
 - PowerPoint
 - Your emails



PCSO Newsletter

Please find attached the latest newsletter from the local PCSO

Messages from Rev Denyer at Mersham Church

The Church are offering to provide parcels of essentials to anyone who would benefit from them. They can arrange getting them to school or delivering or to be picked up from The Rectory or church. If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from this support, please contact Mrs Chalkey on headteacher@mersham.kent.sch.uk

Rev Denyer has also provided the attached activity sheet which he thought might be of use to families at home. It contains activities and reflections linked to the week in the church year.

