



Term 2 – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020

# Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

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



We have been really pleased to welcome back Years 1, 3 and 5 this week along with all members of staff that were required to self-isolate at that time. Unfortunately, we have now lost Year 2 until the last day of term but I hope they are all enjoying some Christmassy learning at home!

On the 17<sup>th</sup> December (last day of term) we will be making available a 'Christmas Google Classroom' that can be accessed by all children until the end of 18<sup>th</sup> December. On there will be links for the pantomime and the Elf visit so that all children who are currently not in school do not miss out. The classroom code will be sent to all parents via Parentmail next week.

Cheryl Chalkley  
Headteacher

## Upcoming Events

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

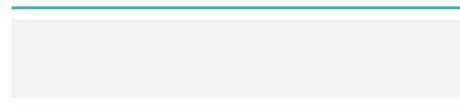
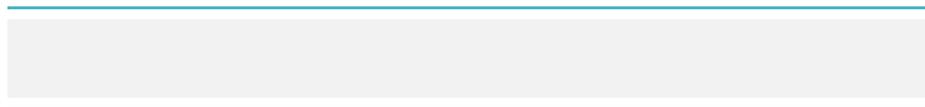
## Positive Covid Tests During the Christmas Holidays

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](mailto:headteacher@mersham.kent.sch.uk) – emails will be checked each morning **up until the 23<sup>rd</sup> December** for this purpose only to ensure that any other members of the school community can be notified.

## Poppy Appeal

We have been informed by the British Legion that we raised £251.10 through the annual poppy appeal this year. This is the most that the school has ever raised to date. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



## **Christmas Dinner**

We will be serving Christmas dinner on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. If you would like your child to have a Christmas dinner, please could you ensure payment is made to Caterlink directly, in the usual way.

## **Virtual Class Stalls**

At the Christmas Fair, classes usually make some lovely Christmas crafts that you are then able to buy. The money raised from the class stalls goes into the class budget and enables class teachers to purchase all sorts of 'extras' that the class would otherwise not benefit from. In order to try and raise some money for the classes, the children will all be making something Christmassy as they would have done. We are asking if everyone could please donate £1 to the class before Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December and the children will bring home their Christmas goodies on the last day of term. Please could donations be given to the class teacher. Thank you in advance.

## **Christmas Cards**

Many children will want to write Christmas cards for their friends and bring them in – with all the restrictions in place, we have agreed as a staff to adapt this slightly this year. Children can bring in cards from the beginning of December for their class only. They will be posted in a post box in each classroom. The post box will be 'sealed' two days before the end of term to enable all the cards to be quarantined sufficiently before being distributed altogether at the end of term.

## **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.

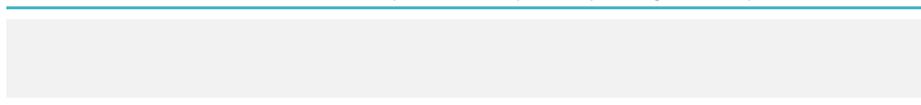
We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Mersham Primary School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways, clearing access points etc.

*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](http://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](http://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.

## PTA News and Updates



### Useful info and updates in the run up to Christmas....

- ❖ Please can payments of £5 per child per event (Panto and Elf visit) be made on parentmail, to cover the cost of the christmas activities taking place between now and the end of term
- ❖ In the event of a year group not being in school, links to the events will be shared via google classrooms, to enable all to enjoy
- ❖ Raffle prizes are being announced on the PTA Facebook page, keep an eye out for all the great prizes!
- ❖ Raffle tickets will be on sale at drop off and pick up. Cash or card taken. Minimum card payment is £5. We can also send payment link to a mobile phone for remote payment
- ❖ Years 1, 3 and 5 will have their own special non-school uniform day on Wednesday 9 December, chocolate can be donated if not done already
- ❖ Thank you to all that donated chocolate last week! Please remember if your child needs a Free From alternative these need to be donated and labeled with your childs name

