

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449

Next week, I will be undertaking Ofsted Inspector training so will not be in school all week, in case anyone should wonder where I am! I am part of a pilot project that Ofsted is running in Kent (and other parts of the country) to train school leaders to be able to support inspection and we will be a new type of inspector, to be known as Ofsted Peer Inspectors. In my absence, Mrs Benjamin (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday), Mrs Jackson (Monday) and Mrs Sly (Thursday) will be the senior members of staff should you have any concerns.

**Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher**

Spring Census Day - Thursday 15th January

Thank you to all those children and parents who had a school dinner on Thursday, this makes a big impact on our funding for the year and we are grateful for your support.

School Census Day is a vital statutory collection of data by the Department for Education (DfE) that helps determine our school's funding and builds national education statistics. The census occurs 3 times a year; Autumn, Spring and Summer.

Parent Governor Elections

Just a reminder about the letter sent last week about the Parent Governor elections. If you have not yet voted, please do take the time to read the information sent and place your vote. I have reattached the letter, that includes the link for voting, for your convenience.

AC Ashford Football Club

Please see attached flyer from AC Ashford Football Club who are offering a football club for children in Years R and 1.

Miss Munday raising money for SANDS

Every day in January, Miss Munday will be running 2k to raise money for Sands. Sands is a charity that ensures anyone affected by the loss of a baby receives support, care, and understanding. They also campaign for change, provide vital training, and fund research.

If you'd like to donate, the link to Miss Munday's donation page is below.

Thank you for your support,

Miss East

<https://fundraising.sands.org.uk/fundraisers/amberchesson>



Upcoming Events

4 th Feb	Walk in Wednesday
6 th Feb	Glow Disco
13 th Feb	End of Term 3
27 th Feb	Interim reports out
5 th March	World Book Day
31 st March	Easter Service at the Church

Class Assemblies – Terms 3 and 4

Class assemblies will be performed at 9:00am in the school hall.

Dates are as follows:

5 th February	Robin Class
12 th February	Duckling Class
12 th March	Toucan Class
19 th March	Kingfisher Class
26 th March	Parrot Class
2 nd April	Falcon Class

Dance Club at Mersham

Get Their Feet Moving & Grooving!

Calling all **KS2 movers and shakers!** Our After-School Street Dance Club is the perfect way for your child to have fun, build confidence, and burn off some energy after class. From learning cool dance routines to mastering their Groove on the dance floor, this club has it all!

 **Starting:** Wednesday, 7th January 2026

 **Time:** 3:15 - 4:00 PM (right after school!)

 **Location:** Mersham Primary School

 **Who:** Years 3-6 only (KS2)

Monthly Payment Info:

 **Fee:** £30 per month

 **Payment:** Direct debit via our online admin system (set up upon registration).

 **Schedule:** Payments are spread evenly over 12 months for smaller, manageable amounts.

 **Cancellation:** One-month notice required.

Sibling Discounts Available! (t&c's apply)

Your child will develop confidence, coordination, teamwork and resilience in a fun, positive environment led by Ellie Director of New Groove Creative.

Spots are limited—secure your child's place today!

Ready to join the fun?

 [\[Sign Up Here\]](#)

PTFA News

Do You have any Unwanted Gifts?

We are having a Gift Amnesty to prepare for our next Elfridges! If you were lucky enough to have been gifted more presents than you need, please consider donating them to the PTFA. We rely heavily on donations to stock our shop with a variety of lovely gifts. Any unwanted gifts are gratefully received and can be dropped into the school office anytime in January. Thank you!

Glow Disco 2026!

We are thrilled to be hosting this years Glow Themed disco on Friday 6th February. Tickets cost just £5 each, and £3.50 for additional siblings, and includes a large hot dog or generous slice of pizza, unlimited squash, and plenty of glow bracelets to keep children on theme! More information can be

found on our new and improved booking system: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/mershampta/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=110298>

We are also desperately in need of volunteers, particularly for the KS2 Disco. If you are able to volunteer, please email hello@mershamschoolpta.co.uk. Thank you!

Amazon Wishlists

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who has purchased items from the Class Amazon Wishlists. This is a fantastic way to directly support your child's class with resources! The wishlists remain open for all classes, with just a few items left to get. QR codes for each class can be found on the attached poster.

Winter Weather Guidance from Kent County Council

Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families

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 challenging 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. Given those circumstances, it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be on-site.

We recognise that it is important for our school to remain open, so parents can continue 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 make the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made, we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website, which can be accessed here: <https://www.kentclosures.co.uk>

To receive alerts, it is necessary for parents to register and sign up for email and/or Android smartphone notifications on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an email alert to let parents know if **Mersham Primary School** is closed. It is free to use.

Local radio will sometimes provide information on 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 caution – it can be really icy on the road in front of the school and through the village/country lanes.

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 the weather dictates.

Many thanks for your support in helping **Mersham Primary School** remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.