
Term 1 – 18th September 2026

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



Last year we started the Parent Forum and we have had two really useful meetings that have enabled us to obtain helpful feedback from those parents involved. The next meeting is on Wednesday 23rd September at 2:15pm. It would be great if we had a couple more parents who would be interested in joining the group – I have attached a flyer with further information about what is involved. If you are interested, please email me on headteacher@mersham.kent.sch.uk to discuss further.

Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher

Staffing News

I am very pleased to let you know that Mrs Benjamin had a little girl earlier in the week. Rosie Benjamin weighed 7lb 12oz and both mum and baby are home and doing well. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mrs Benjamin, her husband and Rosie's very excited big sister!

School Drop-off – Concerns raised by the local community

Please can I remind all parents again that they should not be pulling up in front of the school, in their cars, to drop children off – this is so dangerous, especially with the railway bridge that can block the view of oncoming vehicles. I have had contact from members of the community, including a local business this week, about the dangers involved. The local business has large vehicles that are struggling to get through the village because of parents parking on yellow lines. As I have said previously, this is a serious accident waiting to happen and it would be appreciated if parents could park responsibly, for the benefit of the whole community.

Safeguarding pupils in After School Club

It has come to my attention that some parents (and toddlers) were using the toilets in the hall at the end of the day. Because the hall is used by children in After School Club, for safeguarding reasons, we cannot allow these toilets to be publicly available to parents. We are therefore now locking the hall doors so that they cannot be accessed from the playground by anyone other than staff members. Should any parent/toddler have a desperate need to use a toilet, please come down to

Upcoming Events

21 st Sept	Flu Vaccinations
15 th Oct	Harvest Festival at the church 9:15am
22 nd Oct	Last Day of term 1
23 rd Oct	Staff Training Day
2 nd Nov	Start of Term 2
6 th Nov	Interim reports out
16 th Nov	Odd Socks Day
	Anti-bullying week
16 th Nov	Parents Evening 5-7:30pm
18 th Nov	Parents Evening 3:30-6pm
25 th Nov	Open Evening for Prospective Year R parents 5-7pm
17 th Dec	Christmas Church Service 9:15am
18 th Dec	End of term 2

Reception or myself on the gate and we can enable you to have access to the toilets at that end of the school, with a member of staff escorting you should children still be in their classrooms.

Open Evening – Wednesday 25th November

We will be holding our annual Open Evening for prospective parents of children starting school in September 2027 on Wednesday 25th November from 5-7pm. Please see attached poster with further information and I would be grateful if you could share with any other families you may know, who have a child starting school next year.

After School Club message

We have started to put together a craft box for the After School Club. If you have any unwanted card, craft bits, wool, paper plates, bubble wrap, kitchen roll card, etc (sorry - no toilet roll card) could you email me on Kim.wenn@mersham.kent.sch.uk and I can arrange to meet you to collect any items at the school reception before the club starts, or when you collect your child from the club at the end of the day. Many thanks Mrs Wenn and Miss Norman

Folkestone Model Railway Exhibition

Folkestone Model Railway Exhibition will be at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September 2026 and we would love to see some of your families there.

Please see the poster attached and for more details please see our website:

www.folkestone-mrc.com

Folkestone Junior Chess Club

The FJCC is the only dedicated junior chess club in SE Kent. If your child is keen to play chess they may like to find out more. FJCC would be delighted to see them and improve their chess.

<https://folkestonejnrcchess.wixsite.com/juniors>

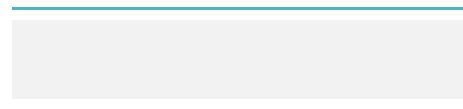
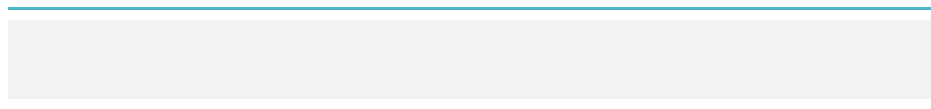
FJCC: St John's Hall, 2 St Johns Church Rd, Folkestone CT19 5BQ

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme – October Half Term

Kent County Council are pleased to confirm that funding has been secured through the Crisis and Resilience Fund to extend the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme into the October 2026 school holidays.

The HAF Programme offers funded holiday activities, enriching experiences and healthy meals for children eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals. The programme helps children stay active, build friendships, develop new skills and access nutritious food during the school holidays. Please note however, that the recent changes in free school meals eligibility will mean that some families may not now be eligible for the HAF Programme.

Further information about the programme is available on the Kent County Council website: Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-haf>



As in previous holiday periods, bookings will be managed through the **HolidayActivities** platform and automated EVouchers will be issued to eligible families on **1st October 2026**.

Some families who were previously eligible for a funded HAF place may no longer meet the eligibility criteria following changes to their Free School Meal status. Further support and information can be found here:

Further support with childcare costs <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/help-with-childcare-costs/further-support-with-childcare-costs>

Crisis and Resilience Fund <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/cost-of-living-support/crisis-and-resilience-fund>

Kent Family Hub <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/kent-family-hub>

PTFA News

Get Involved with the PTFA

Volunteering

We are already planning our Christmas events and are looking for volunteers to help with Elfridges and the Christmas Fair. If you can help in any way, whether it is dressing up as an Elf to help at Elfridges, or spending a couple of hours behind the scenes supporting the Christmas Fair, please get in touch! It's a magical time in the PTFA!

Dates of events will be coming soon!

Welcome to the PTFA, Duckling Parents

We were delighted to meet some new faces at our informal PTFA meeting on Thursday and we look forward to meeting more of you soon.

We are helping Duckling Class parents connect and as a result there is now a Duckling class WhatsApp group - it's not overseen by the school or the PTFA but simply a way for all the Duckling parents to connect as and when you'd like!

To join, you can either:

📞 DM the PTFA via Facebook or Instagram

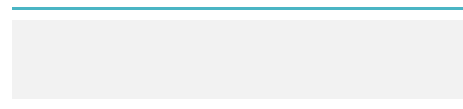
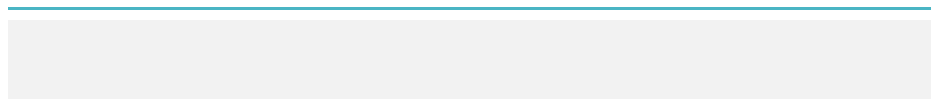
📞 email the PTFA on hello@mershamschoolpta.co.uk

📞 Contact the school office with your number who will share it with our Treasurer who will help you get connected!

Term Dates 2026-2027

Term 1

Tuesday 1st September – Friday 23rd October



Staff Development Days – Tuesday 1st September and Friday 23rd October

Term 2

Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December

Term 3

Monday 4th January – Friday 12th February

Term 4

Monday 22nd February – Thursday 25th March

Term 5

Monday 12th April – Friday 28th May

Bank Holiday – Monday 3rd May

Term 6

Monday 7th June – Wednesday 21st July

Staff Development Days – Monday 19th July, Tuesday 20th July and Wednesday 21st July

