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Term 3 – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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# Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

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



With half term upon us and the weather not looking great for next week, I imagine children will be looking for things to do indoors. Inevitably, for many, that will include electronic devices! With that in mind, I thought it would be useful to relaunch with parents the Online Safety guides, on a regular basis. This week, I have selected the guide to TikTok which is becoming increasingly accessed by younger and younger children. I will look to send a new guide each week moving forwards. Wishing you all a very good break and we look forward to seeing you back in school on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

**Cheryl Chalkley**  
Headteacher

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## Staffing Update

Miss Mason, who has been working largely in Year 4 as a teaching assistant, has had her last day with us today. We wish her every success for the future.

## Eat Them to Defeat Them

Nourish, our school meals provider, has given every pupil a pack of information and resources to encourage them to eat more vegetables over the half term.

## Breakfast Club/Early Drop off

Please can I remind all parents that if they wish their child to attend breakfast club or early drop off, they **must ensure that their child is booked in advance**. We are now often getting days where we have over the maximum of 30 children in the hall in the mornings, where parents have not pre-booked places and children arrive anyway. We should not be exceeding 30 children for health and safety reasons. If children are not pre-booked, we may need to turn them away.

## Free School Meals Supermarket vouchers

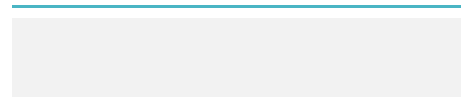
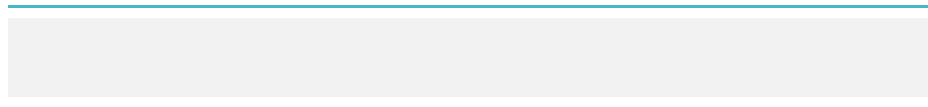
All children who are eligible for free school meals will receive a £10 supermarket voucher for the half term break. These will be emailed to eligible families on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

## Emotional Wellbeing Teams Coffee Morning – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 9:00am

The Emotional Wellbeing Team, Bridget Valle and Emma Horne will be running a coffee morning to introduce themselves and the work that they are doing in school. Any parents who are interested in meeting the team and finding out more will be very welcome to come along. It will be held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 9:00am in the hall.

## Upcoming Events

9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	End of term 3
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Start of term 4
22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Emotional Wellbeing Teams Parent Coffee Morning
23 Feb	Smarties Challenge
27/28 Feb	Parents Evenings
6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Walk in Wednesday
8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Spring Disco R/KS1 3:15-4:15 KS2 4:30 5:45
22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Easter Hat (non- Uniform day)
28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	End of Term 4



## **Class Assemblies – Terms 3 and 4**

Class assemblies will be performed at 9:05am in the school hall. **Please note that the date for Parrots class assembly is now confirmed.** Dates are as follows:

29th February	Duckling Class
7th March	Falcon Class
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Parrot Class
21st March	Robin Class
28th March	Toucan Class

## **Term Dates 2024/25**

Please find below the term dates for the next academic year:

Term 1

Tuesday 3rd September – Thursday 24th October

Staff Development Days - Monday 2nd September and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October

Term 2

Monday 4th November – Friday 20th December

Term 3

Monday 6th January – Friday 14th February

Term 4

Monday 24th February – Friday 4th April

Term 5

Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 23rd May

Bank Holiday – Monday 5th May

Term 6

Tuesday 3rd June – Friday 18th July

Staff Development Days – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, Monday 21st July and Tuesday 22nd July

## **PTA Updates**

Please see the calendar attached.

### **Smarties challenge Feb 2024**

The Children will be given Smarties tubes from the PTFA this week (dairy/gluten free option will be given to those with known allergies), as per the attached flyer.

Hopefully, you will all be waited on hand and foot, as the children try to earn coins to fill their Smarties tubes.

Please can children bring tubes back to school by 23rd February so that the class totals can be counted. The class who raise the highest average £/child win their own non uniform day!

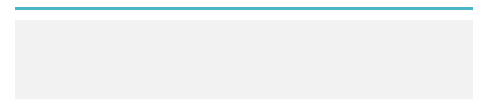
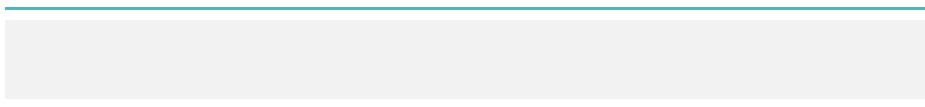
### **PTFA committee update**

Thanks to those who got in touch with the PTFA regarding committee positions after the communications last week.

An informal committee meeting will be held at Thursday 8th February at 15:30 at the Farriers Arms, to discuss the available committee positions or whether anyone can take on elements of the roles.

Children are welcome but to be mindful of not disturbing the pub-goers we'll bring some activities to keep them entertained.

### **Spring Wreath Making**



The PTFA have organised a spring wreath making event, after the success of the fabulous Christmas session. Further information can be found on the attached and via the PTFA Facebook page.

### **School disco 8th March 2024**

The PTFA are organising a school disco on Friday 8th March. KS1 (Year R - Year 2) will be 15:15 - 16:15 and KS2 (Year 3 - Year 6) will be 16:30 - 17:45.

Payments for this disco can be made via the PTFA's online shop: <https://mersham-school-pta-1.sumupstore.com>. Please add your child's name and class in to the "name" box so we know who is attending each disco. Links will be shared on the PTFA Facebook page too.

The price for one child is £5 and siblings are £3. There is a drop-down box to select to sibling price. If you have any questions, contact Jemma Hanger or email [hello@mershamschoolpta.co.uk](mailto:hello@mershamschoolpta.co.uk)

### **Emotional Wellbeing Team Workshops for parents**

Please see attached flyer with details of workshops that are coming up.

If you would like to join, please raise your interest with the school so that they can send you the link.

**OSI – Online Support for Parents Around Childhood Anxiety** – please see attached flyer from the Emotional Wellbeing Teams for more information

OSI, is an online platform designed to help parents to learn tools and techniques to help their child (aged 5 to 12 years old) to overcome difficulties with worries/fears/anxiety.

We have had some amazing outcomes and feedback from families around their experience of OSI, which has supported parents/carers to support their child with a range of worries, such as worries related to going into school, bedtime fears, specific phobias e.g., dogs, insects, injections and many more. We want to see more families benefit from OSI and they will only know to contact us if you help us promote this.

The intervention is a combination of weekly calls with our service and online guidance. We aim to help parents/carers guide their young person to begin to feel braver and happier in overcoming their worry or fear using the OSI techniques. The interventions are part of our services offer so not available to all schools. For parents/carers to access this offer, they are required to email us to let us know they are interested and have read the information on our website. We will do the rest!

### **Kent Family Hub**

Please see attached flyer for more information.

### **Musical Performance at Ashford School**

Ashford School would like to invite you to the open dress rehearsal of their musical: Little Shop of Horrors.

When: Wednesday 28th February 7PM

Where: Brake Hall, East Hill, Ashford. TN24 8PB.

Book: Admission is FREE via this link ONLY [www.ticketsource.co.uk/Ashfordschool](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Ashfordschool) using the password: FREEADMISSION at the checkout. Available on a first come first served basis.

Age: 6+

Run time: 2.30 hours (including interval).

#### Musical Synopsis

On the slum streets of Skid Row, where dreams struggle to thrive amidst the concrete cracks, a humble florist shop becomes the setting for our extraordinary tale. Little Shop of Horrors is a twisted story of paranoia and plants (but not the kind that sit idly on your windowsill). This comedy musical has become a phenomenon boasting multiple Broadway and West End runs as well as a 1986 film adaptation.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school on 28th February. If you have any difficulties using the booking system please contact the Performing Arts Administrator, Miss Bourne at [bournel@ashfordschool.co.uk](mailto:bournel@ashfordschool.co.uk).

