
Term 4 – 23rd February 2024

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



Please can I thank all parents for their patience this week with regard to the numerous technical difficulties we seem to be having at the moment! There have been issues all week with the phone lines – this seems to be caused by the internet dropping out which we are asking our Broadband provider to look into. We have also had problems with generating both the interim reports and with setting up parents evening appointments which were caused by technical faults within the Arbor and the Parents evening systems! Hopefully most of the issues have now been resolved and I would like to acknowledge the hard work put in by both Mrs Seal in the office and the class teachers to enable the reports to go out in time. Thank you all!

**Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher**

Upcoming Events

27/28 Feb	Parents Evenings
6 th Mar	Walk in Wednesday
8 th Mar	World Book Day
8 th Mar	Spring Disco R/KS1 3:15-4:15 KS2 4:30 5:45
25 th Mar	Easter Hat (non-Uniform day)
28 th Mar	End of Term 4

School Hours

Further to the information sent to parents on 3rd January about adjusting school hours to 32.5 hours per week in line with DFE expectations, I received written feedback from one member of staff and no written feedback from any parents. Following further discussion with staff, it has now been confirmed that from the start of term 6, i.e. 3rd June the following will apply:

- The start of the school day for **all** pupils will be 8:45am, with the school gate opening from 8:35am. Children will be marked as late if they are not in school at that time.
- The end of the school day for pupils in Key Stage 1 and 2 will be 3:15pm.
- The end of the school day for pupils in Year R will be 3:05pm, as it is currently.

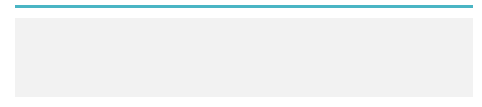
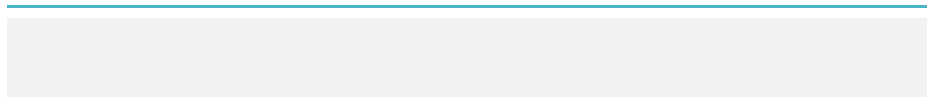
World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day with our annual fancy dress parade on Friday 8th March. Please come to school dressed as your favourite book character. On this day, we welcome parents to come into school with your child and join us on the bottom playground for our parade. Prizes will be awarded to the best dressed boy and girl in each class.

Our book fair will take place in the school hall from 3:15 to 4:00pm on the following days- Friday 1st March, Monday 4th March, Tuesday 5th March, Wednesday 6th March and Thursday 7th March. You will be able to pay with cash or online. We can't wait to see your costumes!

World Book Day School Dinner Menu

Please find attached a special menu that will be offered on Thursday 7th March if your child would like to try something different.





Work During the holidays

We have had quite a bit of work completed over the half term break. This has included putting hand dryers in the toilets and lights outside the hall (thank you very much Mr Stevens!), an opening window in the school kitchen to improve ventilation, upgraded and improved CCTV cameras on the school site and fabulous new flooring in the IT area outside the toilets, which will be easier to clean. It has all really made a difference!

Emotional Wellbeing Teams

Please find attached flyers regarding workshops available to parents. These include:

Understanding Autism, Understanding Your Child's Behaviour and Understanding Resilience

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.

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
14th 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 25th 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

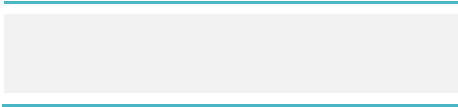
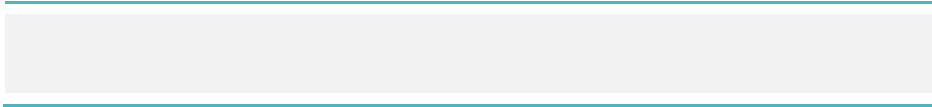
Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 23rd May

Bank Holiday – Monday 5th May

Term 6

Tuesday 3rd June – Friday 18th July

Staff Development Days – Monday 2nd June, Monday 21st July and Tuesday 22nd July



PTA Updates

Smarties challenge Feb 2024

We hope the children enjoyed the Smarties gifted from the PTFA before half term. If they have collected any coins in their empty tubes, please return them to the office, labelled with their name/class. Alternatively, donations can be made online via the PTFA's online shop: <https://mersham-school-pta-1.sumupstore.com>

Once we've counted the totals, we'll announce next week which class has earned themselves an additional non uniform day.

School disco 8th March 2024

The PTFA have planned a school disco for years R, 1 & 2 at 15:15-16:15 and years 3, 4, 5 and 6 at 16:30-17:45. To book your child's place, please visit the PTFA online shop at <https://mersham-school-pta-1.sumupstore.com>.

Please contact the PTFA on hello@mershamschoolpta.co.uk if there are any issues with this

Book sale volunteers

The PTFA are looking for volunteers to help at the book sale each day on 1st-7th March from 15:15-16:00. If you're able to help, please contact anyone from the PTFA directly or via hello@mershamschoolpta.co.uk. As well as selling lovely books to read, the school financially benefit from the book sale too, so we'd all be grateful for your help in making this a success.

Spring Wreath Making

We'd love you to join us in making a beautiful Spring wreath. With the help of professional florist, the PTFA will be hosting a session on 21st March 2024 at 18:30 in the school hall. Further information can be found on the attached leaflet and via the PTFA Facebook page. Numbers are a little low currently so we're really hoping we can proceed with this activity.

Non-uniform/Easter hat competition

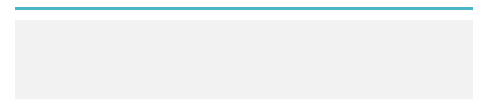
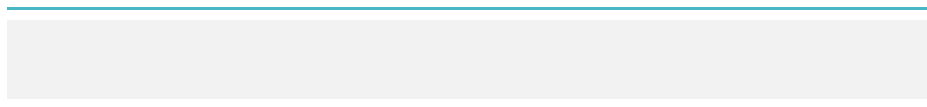
This has been rearranged for Monday 25th March to avoid the school trip. More information will follow [PTFA committee update](#)

A virtual PTFA meeting is planned for 4th March @ 19:30 via Zoom. During this meeting we'll agree PTFA spend, agree committee members and plan upcoming events. Please contact the PTFA on hello@mershamschoolpta.co.uk if you'd like the Zoom link to attend, we would love to see lots of you there.

Kent County Council Wrap Around Care Survey

The Education People's Early Years and Childcare Service is conducting a survey on behalf of Kent County Council, of parents/carers and expectant parents to determine interest in the childcare entitlements that are being introduced this year and their arrangements for wraparound care of any primary school aged children. The survey will also gather the views of parents/carers using or wanting to use more childcare in Kent. This combined information will help us assess where there are gaps in provision.

<https://survey.kent.gov.uk/ChildcareSurvey>





Musical Performance at Ashford School

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

Ashford School – Wednesday 28th February 7PM, Brake Hall, East Hill, Ashford. TN24 8PB.

Admission is FREE via this link ONLY www.ticketsource.co.uk/Ashfordschool using the password: FREEADMISSION

Limited Tickets Available on a first come first served basis. A maximum of 5 tickets per family.

Recommended for ages 6+

Run time: 2.30 hours (including interval).

A range of refreshments will be available.

If you don't know the musical-

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 myself at bournel@ashfordschool.co.uk.

