
Term 4 – 22nd March 2024



Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



In the lead up to the end of term, we have some Easter events planned. On Monday, the PTFA have organised a fabulous Easter hat competition – we very much look forward to seeing all the amazing creations. Then on Wednesday morning, we will have our Easter service at Mersham Church. The service will start at approximately 9:15am and all our welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Easter break and we look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 15th April.

Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher

Staffing Updates

Thursday 21st March will be Mr Dewey's last day at the school and he is going to be very much missed by the whole school community. Mr Dewey has been at the school for the last nine years doing an incredible job with the school's finances and personnel requirements. Over the years, he has also put his hand to almost any other job that may need doing around the school including assisting the various caretakers with their roles, fixing IT issues, helping on the gate and in the dinner hall, ensuring tea and coffee is in the staff room and helping many members of staff (as well as the odd parent) with any car trouble! I hope you all will join me in wishing Mr Dewey the very best for the future as well as a very long and happy retirement.

Mrs Kingston has done a fantastic job over the last few weeks learning the ropes under Mr Dewey's guidance and we know she will also become indispensable moving forwards.

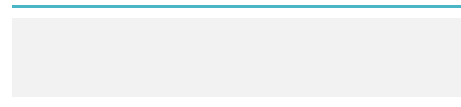
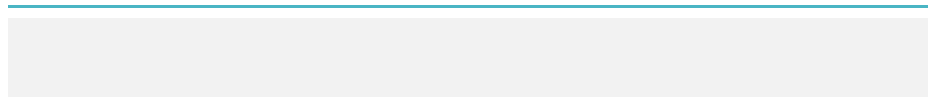
I would also like to welcome back Mrs Harris who will be returning from maternity leave on Wednesday. She will resume her role teaching Year 3 for 3 days a week and Mrs Quantrell-Evans will teach for two days per week. I would like to thank both Mrs Quantrell-Evans and Mrs Cox for all their hard work in enabling Mrs Harris' maternity leave to be covered effectively over the last few months, at a time when short term recruitment of teaching staff is incredibly difficult.

Use of the track alongside the school by cars

Please can I ask all parents to not drive cars or vans along the track by the side of the school at any time. Several parents are using it to drop off and pick up from breakfast club, after school club and

Upcoming Events

25 th Mar	Easter Hat (non-Uniform day)
27 th Mar	Easter Service at the church – 9:15am
28 th Mar	End of Term 4
15 th April	Start of Term 5
1 st May	Walk in Wednesday
6 th May	Bank Holiday
Wk Beg	Year 6 SATS
13 th May	
23 rd May	End of Term 5
24 th May	Staff Training Day
3 rd June	Start of Term 6
5 th June	Walk In Wednesday
14 th June	Tea on the Field and Summer Fair
28 th June	Sports Day (KS1 am KS2 pm)
3 rd July	Walk in Wednesday
19 th July	End of Term 6
22/23 July	Staff Training Days



other after school activities. The track is not a public road and belongs to Network rail. It is for access to the high speed link by Network rail staff, the farmer who owns the land behind the school and for emergency access to the school only. Many children and their families use the track to walk to and from school and it is used extensively by dog walkers in the local area. I have had a number of complaints from parents as well as members of the community about inconsiderate driving as well as children nearly getting hurt – it is an accident waiting to happen. Thank you for your support in keeping the area around Mersham Primary School a safe place.

Supermarket vouchers for those eligible for Free School Meals

Supermarket vouchers will automatically be sent to all eligible families on 28th March. Each child will be eligible for a voucher worth £20.

Class Assemblies – Terms 3 and 4

Class assemblies will be performed at 9:05am in the school hall.

Dates are as follows:

14th March

Parrot Class

Trip To Paris

Thank you to those who have asked about my trip to Paris last week – it was a phenomenal experience for me both personally and professionally. The conference at UNESCO headquarters included a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Salamanca Statement which was a commitment by 92 countries to inclusive education and the right to education for every child. This

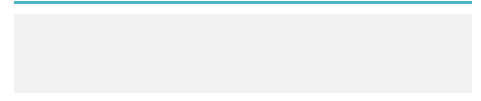
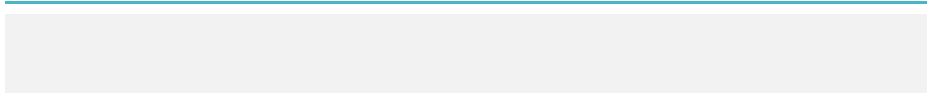


was followed by a two day gathering of educators from around the world, organised jointly by UNESCO and the International Forum of Inclusion Practitioners.

I attended the conference alongside the headteachers from Goat Lees Primary

School and Challock Primary School (who are also part of the CARE Foundation Trust that Mersham Primary School belongs to). It was fascinating to hear that the challenges in other parts of the world are not at all dissimilar to those in the UK, with calls worldwide for greater investment in education, improved training for staff and a complete overhaul of the curriculum to better suit the needs of all learners, including wider access to vocational training.

In addition, I had been asked by the organisers to present as part of a panel discussion on the afternoon of Day 1. It really was an honour (albeit very nerve wracking!) to have that experience. I was joined on the panel by educators working in Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the USA. To top it all, I felt extremely privileged



that the organisers included me in the list of 149 organisations and individuals (from 39 countries) for a Global Inclusion Award in recognition of my commitment to inclusion, as an educator. It really was exciting to be part of an event that I have no doubt will be a catalyst of change globally.



I would like to conclude by saying a huge thank you to Mrs Benjamin, the staff and the governors for enabling me to be out of school to attend such an amazing event.

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.

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

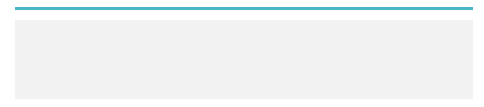
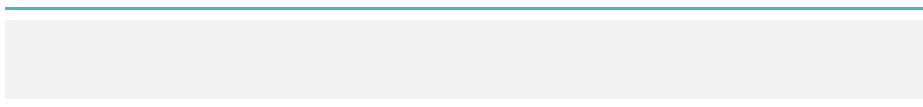
Monday 6th January – Friday 14th February

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

Disco 8th March

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the disco last Friday. We couldn't run big events like this without the PTFA volunteers and school staff who gave up their time to help.

As well as being a fun event for all, we raised more than £500 towards the new desks and chairs needed for school.

Non-uniform/easter hat competition

On Monday 25th March, the children can wear non-uniform for a suggested £1 donation on the gate.

We'll be judging an Easter hat competition so would love to see your creations - there are prizes! See the attached flyer for information.

Premier Football School Easter school holiday fun for 4 – 12-year-olds!

Premier Football School are delighted to announce they are running a kids football school in Ashford during the forthcoming Easter break at The North School from **Wednesday 3rd – Friday 5th April** for boys and girls aged 4 - 12 of all abilities. Parents simply drop-off at 10.00am and pick up at 3.30pm. The fee is just £13 per day and all children who attend receive a trophy! Activities include a kids World Cup tournament and a penalty shootout competition with prizes! We are a non-elitist grass roots organisation and children play in groups according to their age and abilities in a fun safe environment. Should you wish to book, please visit www.premierfootballschool.co.uk or call 07821 573837.

Godinton House Easter Activities

Please find attached a flyer advertising our Easter Holiday events and activities. We are running an Easter trail, crafts and Spring nature workshops. All of our Easter activities and entry to our gardens is free for under 16s and only requires a paying adult (£8) to accompany them.

Please also have a look at our newly updated website www.godintonhouse.co.uk for more information about upcoming events.

Aldington Boot Fair

Please find attached a flyer from Kaleidoscope Childcare regarding a boot fair at Aldington Village Hall.

