
Term 6 – 12th July 2024

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



With a busy final week of term a head, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a fantastic summer holiday – I know that the children and staff alike are ready for a break! With the exception of the new Year R intake, children return to school on Tuesday 3rd September. We would also like to wish all the children in Year 6, moving onto their secondary schools every success as they start at their new schools. Happy holidays!

Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher

Upcoming Events

15 th July	Reports to parents
15/16 July	Yr 6 Production 6pm
19 th July	End of Term 6
22/23 July	Staff Training Days
2 nd Sept	Staff Training Day
3 rd Sept	Start of Term 1
12 th Sept	Kent Test
13 th Sept	Yr R in full time

Sporting News

What a fantastic week of sport we have had at Mersham this week and I am not referring to the football!

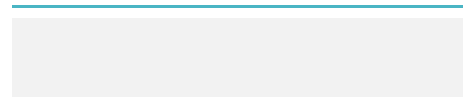
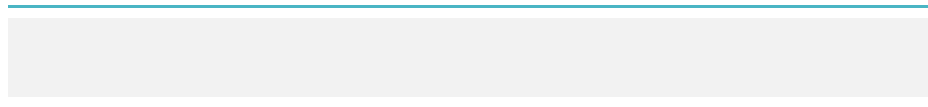
Year 1/2 Rapid Fire Cricket – Kent Finals

Following on from the news that the Year1/2 Rapid Fire Cricket Team won the Ashford tournament a couple of weeks ago, the team represented Ashford in the Kent Finals at The Ashford School on Thursday. The team played magnificently and won all their matches except one, which they drew. This resulted in them in a tie break for first place with Slade Primary School who were representing Tonbridge. The tie break was decided on the number of runs scored and sadly, the school representing Tonbridge had scored just 10 more runs than us so were declared the overall Kent winners. The team represented the school brilliantly and the whole school is very proud of their achievement – Rapid Fire Cricket runners up in the whole of Kent!

Ashford and District Primary School Sports Association (ADPSSA) Athletics Tournament

Children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 all competed in the ADPSSA Athletics Tournament last Saturday at The Ashford School and I am very pleased to announce that the Mersham team were the overall winners of the Small Schools Tournament. The last time the school won overall was in 2014! There were some amazing achievements by all the team in their individual small school heats as well as overall against the middle and large schools. Key highlights over all schools were:

- 1st place in Upper Boys Relay (James, Samuel, Chris and Oscar)
- 3rd place Upper Girls Sprint (Dianne)
- 3rd place Upper Boy Sprint (Samuel)
- 1st place Lower Girls Relay (Darcey, Octavia, Bailey, Charlotte)
- 3rd place 400m Boys (Chris)
- 1st place 400m Girls (Chloe) – 4th fastest time recorded since the ADPSSA tournament was first organised
- 1st Mega Howler Throw Boy (Dexter) - new ADPSSA record, beating the last record that has stood since 2008 by 2.67m!



A huge well done to the whole team – they too made Mrs Benjamin and I exceptionally proud of their achievements!

New Attendance Policy with effect from September

In light of changes in DFE policy that come into effect during August, the attendance policy has been updated and will be on the school website from September. **Key changes that parents need to be aware of:**

- We will be asking for evidence of medical appointments that take place during the school day for all pupils. Examples include a copy of an appointment letter or a screen shot of a text confirming the appointment.
- Changes to penalty fines. The penalty fine for 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks is going up to £80 within 21 days, or £160 within 28 days. The penalties also become more serious over time e.g. if a parent went on holiday each year during term time.
- If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil, the parent must pay £160 if paid within 28 days i.e. there is no discount.
- A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the issue of the first penalty notice. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time within those 3 years, alternative action will be taken instead

Food Vouchers for pupils eligible for Free School Meals.

An email will be sent to all parents of pupils eligible for free school meals on Friday 19th July with information regarding claiming food vouchers for the Summer holidays. Each child is eligible for £100 voucher.

Breakfast Club/Early Drop Off

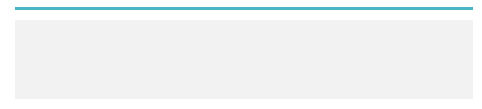
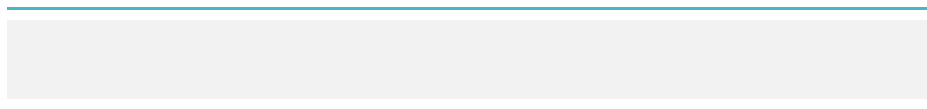
With costs of food and staffing ever increasing, we will be having to increase the cost of Breakfast Club from £2.50 to £3.50 from September. The charges for Breakfast Club have not changed in the ten years that it has been running, so a slight increase is long overdue. In addition, with the changes in school hours, we have made the decision that from September, we will no longer offer the option of Early Drop Off at a reduced charge. Breakfast Club will continue from 7:45am until 8:35am when the gates open for the rest of the school. Children will continue to be able to have the option of breakfast up until 8:15am. After this time, breakfast will no longer be served to allow the Breakfast Club staff sufficient time to clear up the kitchen before the start of school day.

Medication in School

Any medication required by a pupil, whether prescription or non-prescription medication, should not be administered in school without the written consent of a parent/legal guardian. In order to tighten up on health and safety, we will no longer be keeping spare paracetamol in the school office for occasional use by pupils, following verbal consent from a parent over the phone. In future, if a child has a mild complaint for which paracetamol may be administered e.g. headache, parents will either be requested to come into school with the medication and administer it themselves or provide medication from home e.g. Calpol, Nurofen for Children and complete the usual medication consent in the office.

Forest School – request from Miss Dengate

If anyone has any unused kitchen equipment such as plastic bowls, cups etc that they would be happy to donate for the mud kitchen in forest school, Miss Dengate would be very appreciative. Inevitably, equipment does get broken and damaged as the children use it so we are constantly looking to find replacements. Thank you in advance.



Holiday and Food Programme (HAF) for pupils eligible for free school meals

For those pupils who are eligible for free school meals, you will automatically be emailed vouchers for the summer holidays for the HAF programme. Further information for parents are available on this link <https://help.holidayactivities.com/hc/en-gb/sections/12061341995153-Parent>

Class Assemblies – Terms 5 and 6

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

Dates are as follows:

18 th July	Duckling Class
19 th July (2pm)	Falcon Class Leavers Assembly

Ashford Quiz Trails – please see attached flyer

- A healthy walk - educational for primary age children- low-cost - learning their local history!
- Quiz Trails are created by us, a Mum and two daughters. They are educational - a great way of sharing local history which comes under the requirements of the National Curriculum. Healthy, an outdoors walk exploring and a break from digital.
- We are an Approved Activity by the Children's University Kent. Quiz Trails have clues for adults PLUS an extra set of clues for children - aimed at 5 to 11 year olds. As you know, learning outside school plays a vital role in helping children's development as young learners, confident individuals, and responsible citizens - as well as being vital to their wider well-being.
- We are also a CIC - a Community Interest Company. We're approved by the HMRC as a business whereby profits go back into the community rather than private shareholders. We deliberately keep our trails low-cost at only £5.99 so that a family or group can spend many hours having fun together and achieving for a very low cost. Only one copy is needed as they're made for sharing.

Homewood Summertime Stars Reading Competition

Please see attached flyer for more information.

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

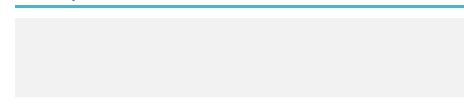
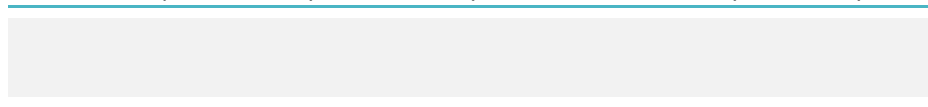
Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 23rd May

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 Jul



Pneuma Church Events

As we look forward to school holidays and (hopefully) more sun, we wanted to let you know of the upcoming free events we are hosting. We have everything from a school uniform week with ice cream social, to picnics in Victoria Park, and craft events at the Beehive in town



SUMMER AT PNEUMA

- Pneuma Compassion**
Access all our Compassion Projects
Kids crafts available throughout school holidays
Monday to Friday 9:30-12
- School Uniform and Ice Cream Week**
Come get school uniform for your kids
and ice creams for all! 22 - 26 July | 9:30-12
- Compassion Cafe**
Coffee, cake, kids crafts and activities
27 July & 31 August 10-12pm
- Pneuma Sundays**
All-in Sunday services from 9:30-10:30am
- Family Feast - Picnics in Victoria Park**
4th & 18th August, 12-2pm
Near the play area (look for the flag!)
- Pneuma Kids and Families Walk**
9th August 10:30am at The Warren
- Pneuma Kids Craft Event at The Beehive**
20th August 11:30 - 12:45pm £2 per child
- Youth Drop-in at The Beehive**
6th August 2 - 3:30pm
Games, drinks and snacks for Yr 6 - 13s

 **Pneuma Church**
Bringing life to the city

Follow on social media for more information on what's happening over the summer or visit our website www.pneumachurch.uk/events
Pneuma Church, Ashford Works, Cobbs Wood Ind. Estate, Brunswick Road, Ashford TN23 1EH.