

Term 1 – 20th September 2024

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



I am really sorry to have to report that over last weekend, significant damage was done to our forest school area by some individuals that evidently have very little care for the local community. The photographs below show where they have broken the supporting post that holds the barrier over the river as well as the canopy over the fire pit that we have only relatively recently put up.



The canopy has been deliberately ripped and also had cigarette burns in it. There were loads of cigarette butts on the ground as well as other litter. This follows damage earlier in the year where trees were damaged and items used in forest school thrown into the river. I am sure that you will be as infuriated as I am at this blatant vandalism. The children that have been in forest school this week, have also been dreadfully upset. I have reported it to the police and I would also ask the local community to be vigilant and report anything unusual. We know the lots of members of the public walk their dogs along the footpath that is adjacent to the school so may see something. Thank you for your support.

Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher

Upcoming Events

2 nd Oct	Walk In Wednesday
4 th Oct	Harvest Festival at the Church 9:15am
8/9 th Oct	School Photos
24 th Oct	End of Term 1
25 th Oct	Staff Training Day
4 th Nov	Start of Term 2
6 th Nov	Walk In Wednesday
7 th Nov	Open Eve for Yr R prospective parents
Wk beg	
11 th Nov	Anti-Bullying Week
12 th Nov	Parents Eve 5:00-7:30pm
13 th Nov	Parents Eve 3:30-6:00pm
4 th Dec	Walk In Wednesday
5 th Dec	PTFA Christmas Wreath Workshop 6:30pm

Collection of Children at the end of the day

With most of the school now leaving at 3:15pm, the staff are finding it more challenging ensuring that children are leaving safely with an adult in the small space by the picnic benches, in front of Reception. We have therefore decided to try an alternative collection point. The children will lead out to the lower part of the playground and will line up facing up the slope of the playground, towards the gate. This will then allow all classes enough space and hopefully make it easier to spot parents and carers. Please can you allow enough space for us to lead the children safely to that point and please do not take your child unless the adult responsible for the class knows you have taken them. Thank you for your support.

Harvest Festival

Just a reminder to all parents that we will be holding our Harvest Festival next Friday morning at 9:15am in the Church. All are welcome. If you would like to donate any dried, tinned or long-life goods (no fresh foods please) for the school to take to the Church for distribution to the local community, I know they would be very grateful. Donations can be brought in any day next week – we will set up a table by the gate. We look forward to seeing you all at the Church on Friday.

Charity Bin at the front of the School

Please can we remind all parents that any donations for the charity bin at the front of the school must be placed inside the bin and not left beside it. Anything left by the bin is not taken by the charity workers that collect it. If the bin is full and you can't fit in your donations, please can you take them home until the bin has been emptied. Thank you

Walk In Wednesday

Our first Walk-In Wednesday of the year will be on Wednesday 2nd October between 3:15-3:45. For those of you who are new to the school, this is an opportunity to pop into your child's class and have a look at the work your child has been doing in the first few weeks of term and for them to share with you all that they would like to show you. The class teacher will not be available to discuss your child's progress specifically – if you would like to discuss anything in more detail, please arrange a separate time to meet with them. Walk-in Wednesday finishes promptly at 3:45pm as the staff are required in the weekly staff meeting. We look forward to seeing you then.

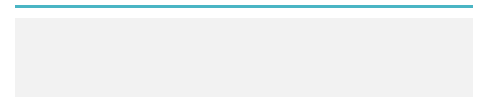
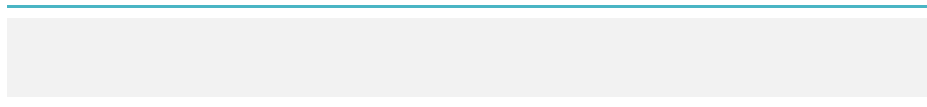
Class Assemblies – Terms 1 and 2

Class assemblies will be performed at 9:00am in the school hall.
Dates are as follows:

10 th October	Robin Class
17 th October	Falcon Class
24 th October	Parrot Class
7 th November	Kingfisher Class
14 th November	Duckling Class
21 st November	Toucan Class

Emotional Wellbeing Teams Workshops

There has apparently been some confusion and difficulty accessing the upcoming Workshop posters previously sent to parents for Terms 1 & 2. These have now been made in Microsoft Word and hopefully they now open showing all the information. The teams link is the wording 'Join the meeting now', you will need to CTRL and CLICK on this link to take you to the teams meeting. If you cannot access this way, you will need to go onto



Microsoft Teams and enter the Meeting ID and the Passcode which is displayed next to the link 'Join the meeting now'. Please see attached flyer.

Carnival of the Baubles | Ashford Town Centre | Sat 23 November

On Saturday 23 November, thousands of people will line the streets of Ashford Town Centre as this year's Carnival of the Baubles will once again kick off the festive season. The giant lantern parade featuring many local schools, groups and businesses will start at 5pm in the Lower High Street, and make its way up to the Bandstand, before moving along Bank Street and ending outside the Ashford Cinema in Elwick Place. Last year, the parade was led by Farrah the Fox, a giant mechanical puppet the size of a double-decker bus. This year we will welcome the magnificent Firebird who will stalk and peck its way through town with a fountain of sparks coming from its beak! So, make sure get to Ashford Town Centre early as the whole day will be fun filled with craft workshops and performances to keep everyone entertained. For more information please see flyer attached or visit: www.loveashford.com

PTFA updates

Krispy Kreme doughnuts

Thanks to those who pre-bought doughnuts for collection on Friday , 288 doughnuts were sold and gobbled.

Thanks as always for supporting PTFA activities, all profits raised always go directly to the school.

Christmas Wreath making Thursday 5th December 2024

The PTFA have organised a Christmas Wreath Making session 18:30 – 21:00 on Thursday 5th December 2024. It's £40 per person which includes all you need to make a traditional wreath, plus a festive drink and a mince pie. The event will be hosted by professional florist, Katie, from Flower Show Presents and last year we completely sold out so do book early to avoid disappointment. Bookings can be made at <https://mersham-school-pta-1.sumupstore.com> and more information about the event will be shared on the PTFA Facebook page closer to the time.

Pre-loved uniform

As well as lots of school jumpers and cardigans, we also have lots of other useful school items such as trousers and coats. As the weather is getting colder, if anyone is struggling with clothing to keep children warm please do let the school office know or email preloved@mershamschoolpta.co.uk to discreetly find out what we have in stock.

