
Term 2 – 15th November 2024

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

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The children have been involved in a whole range of activities this week as part of national Anti-Bullying week. The theme this year was 'respect' which also links perfectly with our school values and our school rules. The week started with an assembly with PCSO Harris from the local police team who came to talk about the impact of bullying on those involved. In addition, many of the children have also completed the annual anti-bullying survey to enable them to voice any concerns they may have. Thank you to everyone for wearing their odd socks on Tuesday – a fantastic way to remind us about diversity and difference and the positive impact this can have on our community. A special thank you must also go to Miss East for co-ordinating all the activities across the school

**Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher**

Staffing

I would like to welcome Mrs Natalie Lyons to the staff team this week. Mrs Lyons has been appointed as the new Office Manager and we are very pleased to have her on board. Over the next few weeks, Mr Dewey will continue to be in a couple of days a week to help Mrs Lyons with her induction and he will then finally be able to retire! We are incredibly grateful to him for supporting us in the interim, I don't know what we would have done without him!

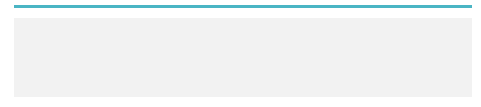
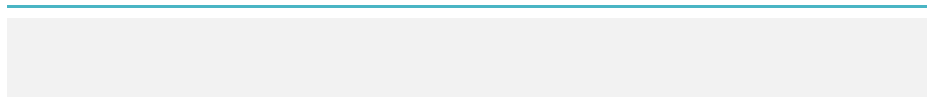
Mrs Seal has also decided to leave her role as After School Club lead at Christmas in order to pursue other opportunities. She has been instrumental in getting our After School Club up and running and once again, we are all extremely grateful for all she has done for the school. I know she will be very much missed by both the children and the staff! At the start of term 3, Ms Hannah Wolstenholme will be taking on the lead role in After School Club and we have appointed Miss Sara Smith to support each day with Ms Wolstenholme. Miss Smith has experience working in wrap around care settings and I know she was also be a great addition to the team. She is planning on popping in to meet some of the children at some point before the end of term.

Visit to the Department of Education

On Monday, Mrs Harris and I were invited as special guests to join Capt Simon Dean OBE from Challenger Troop at the annual Remembrance Service at the Department of Education in London. After the service, we also got to meet the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Bridget

Upcoming Events

22 nd Nov	School Disco – Yrs R-3 3:15-4:15pm, Yrs 4-6 4:30-5:45pm
26 th Nov	Coffee Morning 9:00 Emotional Wellbeing Teams
29 th Nov	Non-Uniform Day for Christmas Fair
4 th Dec	Walk In Wednesday
5 th Dec	PTFA Christmas Wreath Workshop 6:30pm
6 th Dec	Christmas Fair 3:30pm
16/17 th Dec	Year R and KS1 Production 1:30pm
18 th Dec	Christmas Dinner/Christmas Jumper Day
20 th Dec	Christmas Service at the Church 9:15am



Phillipson MP. It was a real privilege to be invited and to have a brief opportunity to share our views on the future of education with the Secretary of State herself.



Further School Security Measures

Following the vandalism that took place in the Forest School area last term, I was put in contact with a local Police Dog Handler. I was unaware until I spoke to PC Rollings that Police Dog handlers are not allowed to let the police dogs off the lead in public places when they are off duty. This means that the dogs never get the chance to explore in the same way as many other dogs, when they are off duty with their handler and their family. Therefore, any opportunity to exercise the dogs on private land is gratefully received with the added bonus that they are providing a form of guard dog service whilst they are doing so. With that in mind, PC Rollings has now got access to the school field outside of school hours in order to allow her Police Dog (and occasionally her family Dalmatian) to exercise off the lead (any mess will obviously be cleared up!). In return, we are hoping that this will also provide another deterrent to any trespasses on school land.

Safeguarding Concerns from the community.

We occasionally have parents and members of the community who have concerns about the welfare of a child at the school. Any concern can now be reported directly to the school safeguarding team through a form that is on the Safeguarding page on our website. The form can either be accessed through the web link on that page or through the QR code that is also on that page.

Class Assemblies – Terms 1 and 2

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

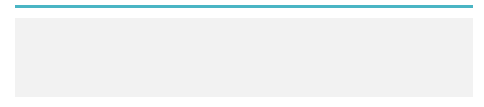
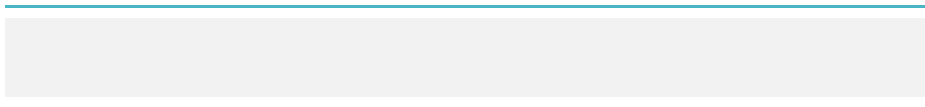
Dates are as follows:

21st November

Toucan Class

Emotional Wellbeing Teams Coffee Morning.

The Emotional Wellbeing Teams will be holding another coffee morning on Tuesday 26th November at 9:00am in the school hall. All parents are welcome to pop along and meet the team and find out more about what they can offer. More details to follow.



PTFA updates

PTFA updates:

There is lots of lovely stuff going on this term, so a PTFA "things to remember" calendar is attached.

Victor's fundraising

A huge thank you to Victor Vasilev in year 5 who has recently raised a huge £380 for the PTFA as part of his 2nd Dan karate black belt journey. As soon as he knew the challenge, Victor was adamant he wanted to raise money towards new playground equipment at school... which has now been ordered! We're so proud and grateful of his efforts, thank you Victor.

Christmas cards & items via Class Fundraising

Our Class Fundraising shop has temporarily reopened from 15th November until 25th November. If you'd like to order, please visit the website via the links on your children's forms.

This is the last opportunity to order to allow enough time for Christmas delivery.

School disco - Friday 22nd November 2024

Thanks to those who have already booked. If you'd like your child to attend, please don't leave it until the last minute to book as it helps us plan the numbers for food etc:

<https://mersham-school-pta-1.sumupstore.com>

We need a few extra volunteers to supervise at the disco, particularly at the Yr 4-6 event. Please get in touch via Facebook or WhatsApp ASAP if you're able to help.

Non-uniform day 29th November

Children are invited to wear their own clothes to school. In return (if you're able) the PTFA are asking for two donations for Christmas please:

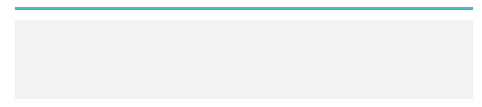
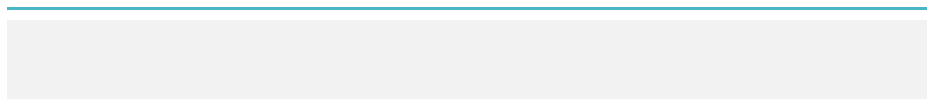
1. an Elfridges gift donation (see attached flyer)
2. A chocolate item for our tombola

Further information is attached.

Rainbow raffle

Each class has been assigned a colour and before 4th December, we'd be grateful if you can bring in an item in your class colour.

- Ducklings - Red
- Parrots - Orange
- Robins - Yellow
- Kingfishers - Green
- Toucans - Blue
- Falcons - Pink



More information is on the attached flyer. The hampers containing all of your items will be raffled at the Christmas Fair on 6th December.

Christmas Wreath making - 5th December 2024

We've had a flurry of bookings this week and are excited to be planning the details for the evening. If you'd like to book your place, the cut off is 28th November so we can let our florist know what materials to bring. Bookings can be made at:

<https://mersham-school-pta-1.sumupstore.com>

Christmas jumper donations

Do you have any Christmas jumpers that are perhaps too small for your child this year or are unwanted? Please consider donating these to the PTFA so we can pass them to a new home via a jumper sale closer to Christmas.

Jumper donations can be left with Ms Tripp in the office (please label them so she knows where they need to go). Thank you!

