



Term 2 – 13th December 2024

Mersham Primary School

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I can't believe we are almost at the end of Term 2! Next week will be busy with a range of Christmas events including Ducklings and Parrots Christmas Production, Christmas Dinner (don't forget your Christmas Jumper that day too), the Pantomime and finally the Christmas Service on Friday. Most children really enjoy all the festivities at this time of year but some children will find it incredibly overwhelming and find it difficult to cope with the change of routine and excitement. If your child is struggling, please do speak to their class teacher so that we can look to support them with enjoying the final week of term!

**Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher**

Upcoming Events

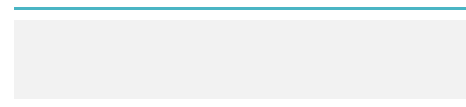
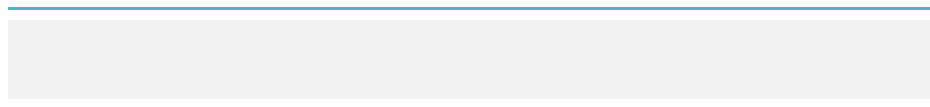
- 16/17th Dec Year R and KS1
Production 1:30pm
- 18th Dec Christmas
Dinner/Christmas
Jumper Day
- 19th Dec Pantomime in
school
- 20th Dec Christmas Service at
the Church 9:15am
- 20th Dec End of Term 2
- 6th Jan Start of Term 3
- 14th Feb End of Term 3

Mersham School Choir



The Choir have been really busy this week bringing festive cheer to the local community. On Sunday evening, they sang at Mersham Church for their carol service and on Wednesday morning, they sang for the

patients and staff at the Pilgrim's Hospice. We had so many compliments from members of the local community about how fantastic they all were – it was a real pleasure to see the joy they brought. A huge thank you to all the parents who supported in getting the children to these locations and an even bigger thank you to Mrs Fellows for all her hard work in planning, organising and practising with the choir.



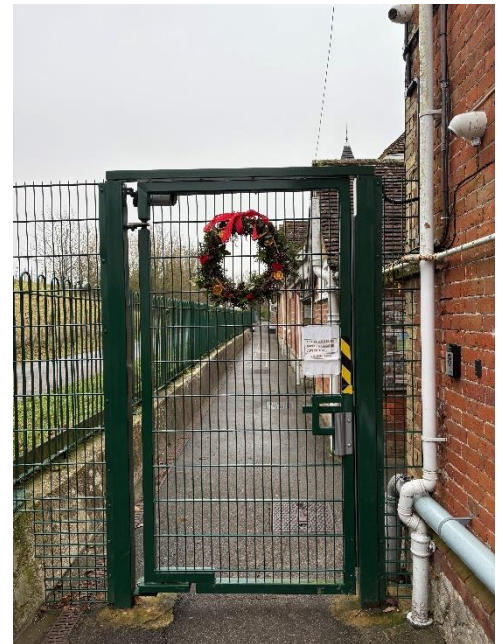
Class Christmas Parties

Class teachers will be organising Christmas parties for their classes next week but just to let parents know, we have decided not to include any food this year. This is because we now have several children in school with allergies and we would like to minimise the risk of a serious reaction.

Forest School with Paul



The children that attend forest school with Paul on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon have been really busy making Christmas decorations. They made the beautiful Christmas trees that have been on display in the Church using an old palate and have used other natural materials to create the stunning Christmas wreath that is hanging on the school gate. A huge thank you to Paul and Miss Read for supporting the children who made these!



Supermarket vouchers for pupils eligible for Free School Meals.

For all those pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals, (this does not include pupils in Reception and Key Stage 1 who are all eligible for Universal Free School Meals) food vouchers to the value of £60 will be sent by email on the last day of term to cover the Christmas holidays.

Parent information session - SEND coping at Christmas

Please find attached details of Parent Information Session that focusses on helping children with Special Educational Needs to cope with managing the Christmas season.

The Book Trust Recommendations

If you are looking to buy high quality books for your children for Christmas, you may like to look at the recommendations from The Book Trust. They have recommendations for all ages and interests and will definitely support in finding a whole range of texts that you may be completely unaware of!

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/for-primary-schools/book-recommendations/>

Wrap Around Care

We would really like to know parents views about what they need either now or in the future, in relation to Wrap Around Care i.e. Breakfast Club, After School Club, Holiday Clubs. We would be really grateful if as many parents as possible could complete the short survey, via the link below, to let us know what would be useful moving forwards. Please do complete the survey if you are currently using these services at school and if you think it may be useful in the future – it will really help the

school to plan forwards to meet the needs of working families. Thank you in advance for your support. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSHL6VK>

Ice Skating Sessions for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Kingsnorth Parish Council are having a Christmas wonderland on the recreation field on 21st and 22nd December and people can book to skate. They are running two SEN ice skating sessions from 1000 - 1030 on those days where it will be quieter and not so many people on the ice.

Here is the link if you have families that you feel would benefit -

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1023489644077?aff=oddtcreator>

PTFA Updates

Christmas fair

Thank you so much for supporting the our Christmas activities last week. It was a manic, but beautiful, week!

The Christmas fair was a little bit crazy but such a fabulous event to spread a little festive cheer. Together, in just a couple of hours, we raised £663 for the school via the PTFA, and additionally the teacher's stalls raised a further £342 which they're able to spend on resources as required by their classes. Our rainbow raffle hampers were stunning, thank you for your donations and to those who pulled the hampers together. This year we held our "Elfridges" event separately to allow the children to shop for gifts, raising another £268. This couldn't have happened without our elves who helped children shop and wrapped the gifts.

Thank you to everyone who got involved.

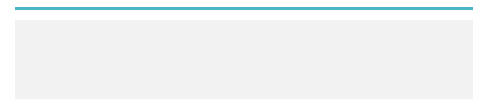
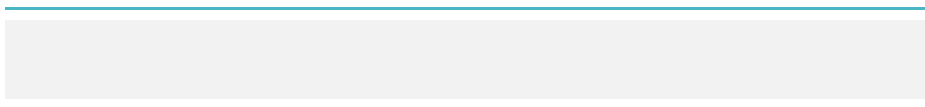
PTFA fundraising summary

As we're almost at the end of the year, we wanted to look back at our activities over the last couple of terms.

Since September 2024, we've raised almost £3,000 together, as can be seen on the attached breakdown. As a result of your efforts and generosity, we've been able to buy desks & chairs for classrooms, new play equipment for Duckling Class, gifts from Santa and supported our lovely wraparound care facilities. The PTFA also facilitated a community day where we helped freshen up our school grounds.

However – we'd love to be able to do more. A small handful of people work tirelessly to make the PTFA magic happen... if we had just a few more pairs of hands we'd be able to deliver so much more. If you're able to suggest any new ideas or able to give a little time to help plan and implement our activities we'd be very grateful. Do contact us via the class WhatsApp groups, Facebook or by emailing hello@mershamschoolpta.co.uk to get involved.

Gladiator visit January 2025



The PTFA are very excited to announce that we have an exciting visitor coming to visit our school next term. On Thursday 30th January, Zack George (AKA Steel) from the TV Series "Gladiators" will be visiting the children at school to speak about healthy balance eating, hydration, confidence and mind-set. He will then visit each classroom to answer questions and meet the children.

To support this visit, you'll see sponsor forms coming home with children next week to launch our "£20.25 in 2025 fundraising challenge". We're encouraging the children to get active in January and raise funds for school.

Facebook page

We thought it might be helpful to remind everyone that we have a PTFA Facebook page where we share information about our events and activities and can connect as a community. You can join us by searching for "Mersham School PTFA" on Facebook.

