

Term 3 – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025

# Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

[www.mersham.kent.sch.uk](http://www.mersham.kent.sch.uk) 01233 720449



With Spring hopefully just around the corner, please do take a look at the events that are planned for next term – this includes World Book Day and a Spring Disco. Don't forget the Book Fair will also be in the hall next week at the end of each day – a huge thank you to the members of the PTFA for organising a team of volunteers to run that after school. For every book sold, the school gets a contribution towards buying books for the school. Therefore the more books we sell, the more we can purchase for the school!

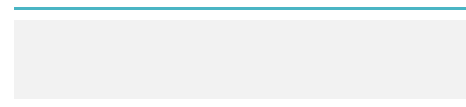
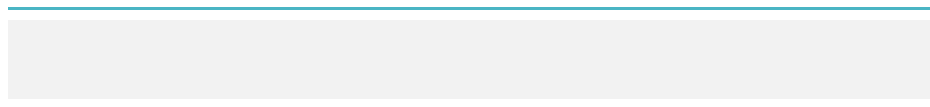
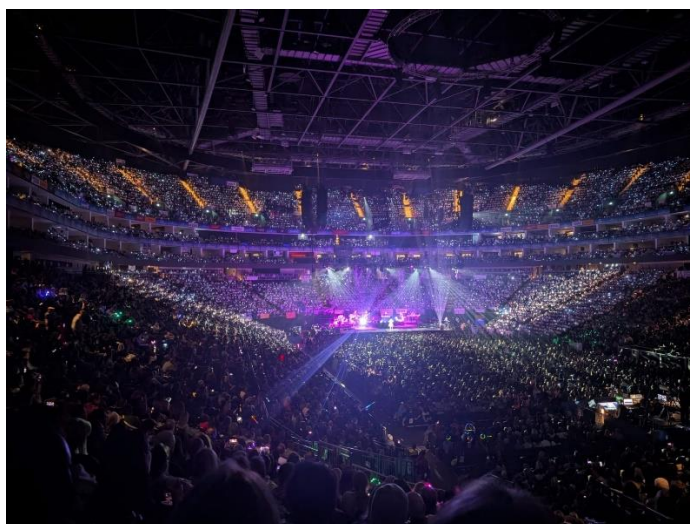
**Cheryl Chalkley**  
Headteacher

## Young Voices at the O2

On Tuesday, 15 members of the school choir travelled to the O2 arena in London to take part in the Young Voices concert. The children sang as part of the world's largest children choir - there were over 8,500 children performing! The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all of the choir and was an unforgettable experience. A big thank you to all of the parents and carers who supported this trip and joined us at the O2 to watch the performance.

## Upcoming Events

10-14 Feb	Book Fair
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	End of Term 3
24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Start of Term 4
24-27 Feb	Book Fair
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Interim reports to Parents
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Eve 5-7:30pm
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Eve 3:30-6:00pm
6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Spring Disco Yr R-3 3:15 - 4:15pm Yr4-6 4:30 – 5:45pm
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Service at the Church 9:15am
4 <sup>th</sup> April	End of Term 4



### **Book fair competition**

Our book fair is due to start on Monday 10th February and we have an exciting competition where you could win a £5.00 voucher to spend on books at the fair! All you need to do is submit a photo of yourself reading in the most weird and wonderful place imaginable! We are looking for the most creative photo from each class. Yes! That's six £5.00 vouchers up for grabs, 1 for each class, so get snapping! Please hand your photos in to your class teacher or send them to your class email address.

In addition to this, every pupil that makes a purchase at our book fair will be able to deduct £1.00 from their total in honour of World Book Day. You do not need to show the voucher, just simply take it off your total when you pay.

Please submit your photos by Monday 10th February. Enjoy! Mrs Sly (English subject lead)

### **World Book Day**

World Book Day is on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Children will have an opportunity to dress up as their favourite book character on that day and more information will be provided nearer the time.

### **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 £10 will be sent by email on the last day of term to cover the half term holiday.

### **Gas Works – Kennington Road, Ashford**

Please find attached information from SGN about roadworks that will have a significant impact on the Kennington Road area. They have asked us to share the information with our families.

### **Kent Family Website from the NHS**

The Kent Family Website is a really useful website from the NHS with information about children's health from age 0-19. <https://family.kentcht.nhs.uk/#>

If you have teenagers in the household, the [www.healthforteens.co.uk](http://www.healthforteens.co.uk) is also another brilliant website.

### **Mersham Monkeys**

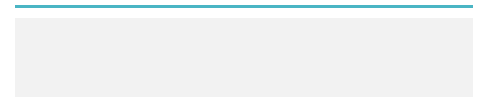
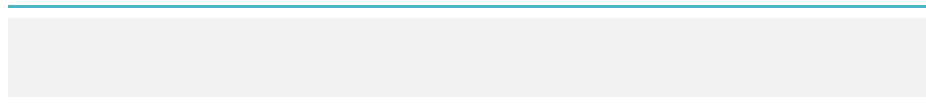
Mersham Monkeys, our Parent and Toddler Group, has been running in the school for over 10 years and has been attended by numerous parents as well as other members of the community. However, we have come to realise that with the growing challenges in school, it is no longer financially viable to run, particularly in terms of staffing. We have therefore made the difficult decision to close Mersham Monkeys at the end of this term. The last session will be on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Class Assemblies – Terms 3 and 4**

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

Dates are as follows:

6 <sup>th</sup> February	Robin Class
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Falcon Class
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Duckling Class



**7<sup>th</sup> March**

**Parrot Class**

**Please note date change due to World Book Day.**

13<sup>th</sup> March

Kingfisher Class

27<sup>th</sup> March

Toucan Class

### **Ashford Borough Council – Play Train naming competition**

Help us choo choo-se a name for our new play train

Younger visitors to Ashford Town Centre will soon be able to get on board a new dedicated play space, as plans for a new train themed play area have been unveiled by Ashford Borough Council (ABC). The project will see the installation of play equipment in the raised area in front of the bandstand creating a fun, attractive space for young children and families to enjoy in town.

The equipment will be specifically designed to reflect Ashford's unique heritage, incorporating elements related to the town's railway history, like locomotives, carriages, and platforms. The type and style of the play equipment has been chosen with sustainability in mind as well as considering things like maintenance, damage, anti-social behaviour in the design process. It has also been designed with accessibility and access for children of all abilities.

Help us name the new play area

Only one thing is missing – a name! We are launching a naming competition in all primary schools in the borough asking pupils to come up with a name for our new area. Something which is fun, train themed or Ashford-related!

The requirements are simple – all ABC needs is your suggestions emailed to us, and we will choo-choo-se the best one. All entrants must be aged between 4-11 and it must be their own idea (so no cheating from parents). Entries can be submitted via email to [media@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:media@ashford.gov.uk) ABC also asks that the name of the child, their age and their school are included with every submission, as well as a parent or guardian's contact details, so we know who to contact if they win.

The winner will have their idea for a name officially adopted and included on a plaque in the new play area and be invited to unveil the sign at the official opening of the play area with The Mayor of Ashford this Spring (exact date to be confirmed). They will also win a family ticket from Kent and East Sussex Railway and some train themed goodies from Kompan.

The competition opens on Monday 3 February and the closing date for entries is 5pm on Monday 17 February.

### **Term Dates 2025/26**

Please find below the term dates for the next academic year:

#### **Term 1**

Tuesday 2nd September – Thursday 16th October

Staff Development Days - Monday 1st September and Friday 17th October

#### **Term 2**

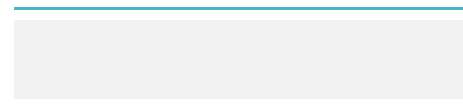
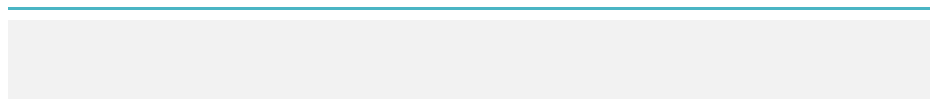
Monday 27th October – Friday 19th December

#### **Term 3**

Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February

#### **Term 4**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April



## **Term 5**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Bank Holiday – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May

## **Term 6**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

Staff Development Days – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July

## **PTFA Updates**

### **£20.25 fundraising challenge**

Thank you so much to everyone who raised money through our £20.25 fundraising challenge. We loved seeing the creative ways that you did this! We raised a total of £290 which is a great start to the year.

We'll be able to share more about some of the ways your fundraising via the PTFA will benefit the school very soon.

### **Book fair 10th - 27th Feb**

The PTFA will have volunteers running the book fair over the next couple of weeks. Thank you as always to the lovely people that have volunteered to run this.

This will be after school in the hall from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, and after half term Monday 24<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

Please do come along and support the school by buying books and items from the book fair. The more you buy the more the school gets, and it's a lovely opportunity to get the children excited about books and reading.

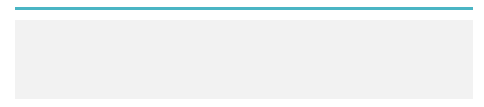
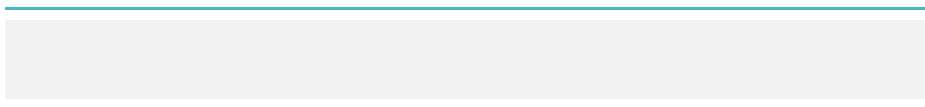
Whilst the book fair is on, the PTFA will also have a selection of pre-loved uniform to be bought, along with a full stock list of what else we have available.

### **Spring disco 21st March 2025**

The PTFA excited to be hosting a spring school disco!

Years R-3 will be 15:15 - 16:15 and Years 4-6 will be 16:30 - 17:45. Prebuying a ticket for your child is essential if they want to attend. Tickets are now available to buy via our online shop <https://mersham-school-pta-1.sumupstore.com>

These events cannot run without volunteers - if you're able to help at either disco please get in touch via WhatsApp, via Facebook or by emailing [hello@mershamschoolpta.co.uk](mailto:hello@mershamschoolpta.co.uk)



## **Pre-loved uniform**

We have HUGE stocks of pre-loved uniform available so please do consider this if you need to replace anything. This includes stocks of grey trousers and skirts as well as items displaying the school logo.

To find out more, please email [preloved@mershamschoolpta.co.uk](mailto:preloved@mershamschoolpta.co.uk) or Ms Tripp can forward on any requests to our lovely PTFA volunteers who look after pre-loved uniform stock.

We'll also have a selection of preloved items available at the book fair, along with a full list of the uniform stock we currently have.

