



Term 3 – 14th February 2025

Mersham Primary School

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We held our very last Mersham Monkeys this morning for parents and toddlers in the local community. Mersham Monkeys has had a regular slot in school each week for over 10 years and it has been a really difficult decision to stop running it. However, unfortunately it is no longer financially viable for the school and we must put the needs of the pupils who are already attending school first. I would like to say a huge thank you to Miss Wheeler who has done an amazing job of leading Mersham Monkeys for the last few years and building really positive relationships with the families that have attended. Thank you also to all those of you who have attended over the years that have made it such a warm and friendly event.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable half term break.

Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher

Snacks at Breaktime

Several members of staff have brought to my attention that many children are eating unhealthy snacks at breaktime e.g. savoury snacks, cakes and biscuits. Ideally, children should be having a healthy snack such as a piece of fruit, chopped up fruit or vegetables such as carrots, cucumber or peppers or dried fruits such as raisins.

PE Kit

Please can I remind parents that children should still be wearing school jumpers on PE days when they come in, in PE kit. We are seeing lots of children wearing other sports tops and hoodies instead which are not school uniform. Thank you for your support.

New Groove Creative Dance Club

There are still places available for the KS2 New Groove Creative Dance Club that will be running after school on Wednesdays from the 5th March. Please see email sent from Mrs Benjamin on 29th January for more information or speak to the school office.

Book fair

Thank you to all those who have already visited the Book Fair. Just a reminder that it will still be at the school after half term until Thursday 27th February.

Upcoming Events

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

World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 6th 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.

Kent Family Hubs – please see attached flyer

Kent County Council (KCC) would like to find out about families' experiences of the services available at Family Hubs and/or through Start for Life.

Feedback is essential for us to improve our services moving forward.

To take part, please complete our Kent Family Hubs Visitor Survey, by following this link

<https://survey.kent.gov.uk/rhzoip>

Class Assemblies – Terms 3 and 4

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

Dates are as follows:

27th February

Duckling Class

7th March

Parrot Class

Please note date change due to World Book Day.

13th March

Kingfisher Class

27th 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 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 23rd February – Thursday 2nd April

Term 5

Monday 20th April – Friday 22nd May

Bank Holiday – Monday 4th May

Term 6

Tuesday 2nd June – Friday 17th July

Staff Development Days – Monday 1st June, Monday 20th July and Tuesday 21st July

PTFA Updates

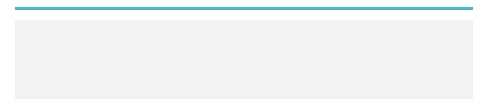
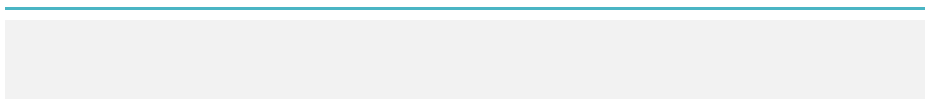
Book fair 10th - 27th Feb

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 10th - Friday 14th February, and after half term Monday 24th - Thursday 27th 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

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 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.

