
Term 1 – 12th September 2025

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



With Autumn definitely being in the air, please can I remind you to ensure your child has the appropriate clothing, including a coat, in school for the activities that they are doing that day i.e. PE, Forest School etc. Please also ensure all items of clothing are named – this means we can quickly identify who's jumper etc we have found and return it to them – we have had several parents looking for lost jumpers (often brand new!) this week but they have had no name in. Don't forget that the PTFA have a stock of second hand uniform available should you need any additional items – please contact the PTFA directly via their Facebook page if you would like anything.

**Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher**

Upcoming Events

12 th Sept	Yr R starting full time
22 nd Sept	Flu Vaccines
3 rd Oct	PTFA Magic Show from 3:30pm
10 th Oct	Harvest Festival at The Church 9:15am
16 th Oct	End of term 1
17 th Oct	Staff Training Day
27 th Oct	Start of term 2

Emotional Wellbeing Teams Coffee Morning

Don't forget the Emotional Wellbeing Teams are hosting a coffee morning on Thursday 18th September at 9:00-10:00am in the hall. They will be available to not only introduce themselves but also discuss the support that is available through their service. All parents are welcome. Please see flyer attached.

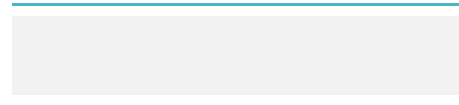
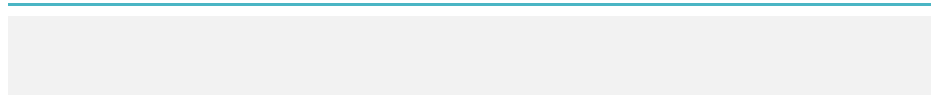
Jewellery

Please can I remind all parents that the only jewellery permitted in school are a basic watch i.e. not a smart watch and stud earrings. There are a number of girls in particular who are wearing hooped earrings which are a huge health and safety risk should they catch them by accident. All children wearing earrings should either be able to remove them for PE or should not wear them on PE days, again for health and safety reasons. Thank you for your support.

Peanut allergies in School

We now have more than one child in the school who has a severe peanut allergy. Those concerned are not allowed to eat, or have any contact with, peanuts or foods that 'may contain peanuts'. Everything that they eat has to be checked and even if it says 'may contain' it has to be checked because it may not be safe for them to eat. They will become particularly ill if they eat or have contact with peanuts. They have medication to help them recover, but sometimes it may be necessary to go to hospital.

As a school, we have sought help from school nursing and Anaphylaxis UK and as we become more 'Allergy Aware', we need your help to keep these children safe and healthy. An increasing number of schools and nurseries are putting these measures in place to safeguard children and manage the risks that severe allergies present. We cannot categorically enforce a completely 'nut free'



environment, and as the leading allergy organisation, Anaphylaxis UK, does not advocate schools becoming nut-free. What they do recommend is that schools become 'Allergy Aware'. By being 'Allergy Aware', Mersham Primary School is aiming to reduce and mitigate the risk posed to children in our school with allergies.

You can help by ensuring:

- That wherever possible packed lunches, including snacks, avoid products such as peanut butter or cereal bars that contain obvious large pieces of peanut.
- Your child knows only to eat their own food; please let your child know that touching others food or swapping food could make another child very poorly.
- Your child is able to wash their hands with soap thoroughly every time after eating so they don't get any crumbs/contamination on anything in the classroom/around the school.
- Talk to your child about allergies and how they can make a child feel.

Thank you for your support to keep children safe and well.

School Sports Kit

A number of children have not returned sports kit before the end of last term. Please can you ensure that this is returned as soon as possible so that there will be sufficient school kit for children to be able to wear at sporting events this coming year.

RSPCA Ashford Garden Cattery Open Day

Please see attached flyer with information about an open day on Saturday 20th September.

Ashford Family Hubs

Please find attached more information regarding what is on offer from the Ashford Family Hubs.

Ashford Borough Council preparing draft Local Plan for consultation

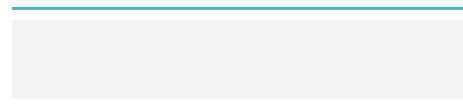
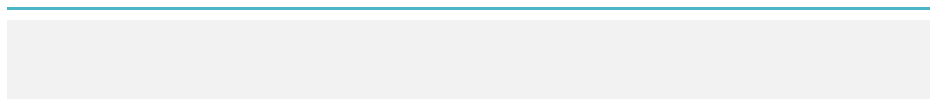
Ashford Borough Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the borough and is inviting local communities to get involved in the process.

The council will be consulting on a draft version of the Plan, known as a Regulation 18, for eight weeks from Monday 18 August to Monday 13 October 2025. The consultation will be live on the council's website on 18 August, and a series of public events are planned for September and October.

A Local Plan provides the opportunity to shape the places that we live, work and socialise. It addresses housing and employment needs and provides a series of planning policies covering many other topics such as community facilities and infrastructure, the natural and historic environment, adapting to climate change and achieving well designed places. Although the general principle of the plan is to encourage growth within the economy of Ashford and plan housing delivery, our Local Plan will also seek to protect Ashford's valued assets including our landscapes, heritage, and open spaces for leisure and nature.

Once adopted, the policies within a Local Plan are used as the starting point to decide planning applications for future development.

This consultation is the first formal consultation stage of the plan-making process and follows a series of community engagement events held last year entitled 'Our Local Plan Explained'. These events were held to engage the community at the earliest stage of the process so that the community



could find out what the Local Plan is, how to get involved and to understand the plan-making process.

Cllr Linda Harman, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing Delivery & Communications said: "This draft Local Plan sets out the Council's direction of travel on a number of key planning matters. This first formal stage of the Local Plan process seeks residents' views. Everyone is affected by planning so it's important that we give residents and organisations an opportunity to have their say and to help shape our emerging Local Plan. I very much hope that people will engage in the process. By working together with residents and other stakeholders we can ensure that development is appropriate and delivers the affordable homes and infrastructure that our borough needs."

Please see video and attached flyer for more information

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMvjf4jSPI0>

PTFA News

Informal PTFA meeting – Thursday 18th September 15:15 – 16:15

A huge welcome to those who are new to Mersham school this year. You may not be aware of what the PTFA (Parents, Teachers & Friends Association) means yet.... we'd love to tell you more! Perhaps you've been at Mersham School for a while but wonder what the PTFA does, who we are or how you can get involved?

If you have any new ideas or feedback on any of our activities, we'd love to hear from you.

We'll informally be meeting at the Farriers after school on Thursday 18th September 15:15 – 16:15. There's no specific agenda and everyone is welcome. We'd love to see some new faces as well as those we know and love already.

Every year we coordinate memorable events for the children and raise a huge amount of money for school, but we can't do this without the wonderful volunteers that make it happen.

Magic show – Friday 3rd October

The PTFA are excited to be welcoming Amigo's Magic for an evening of magic, mayhem & comedy on Friday 3rd October. There will be two performances on the day:

- 1) 15:30 - 16:30 - A child-only (supervised) performance after school for Mersham school pupils
- 2) 17:15 – 18:15 - A family show for children, adults, grandparents and friends.

Tickets are on sale now on the Mersham PTFA SumUp store (<https://mersham-school-pta-1.sumupstore.com>) or via the link/QR code in the attached poster. Discounts are available for siblings and larger families.

Your School Lottery – sign up

Your School Lottery is an exciting weekly online lottery for parents/carers who want to get involved and support the school's fundraising efforts. Tickets cost just £1 per week. When you buy tickets, you'll automatically be entered into a guaranteed weekly cash prize for one supporter of our school plus the chance to win the top jackpot prize of £25,000!

When you sign up, our school gets a percentage of the ticket price so you can feel doubly good about taking part. To sign up, visit <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk>.

