



Term 2 – 28th November 2025

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

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Thank you very much to everyone who came along to the Christmas Fair today – it was great to see so many people in the hall and I hope you and the children enjoyed it too! On behalf of the school, I would like to say a huge thank you to the PTFA for all their hard work in organising not just the fair but also Elfridges this week, which has meant the children have been able to arrange gifts for family and friends. It is a mammoth job to put together and their hard work is really appreciated by all. Equally, I would like to thank the staff for organising their stalls and all the wonderful products that they had available to sell. I know the children have had a lot of fun this week creating those items and I have no doubt that they were pleased to be able to share them with parents and other family members.

**Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher**

Sporting News

Sports Hall Athletics

On Tuesday, I had the pleasure to take 8 children from Year 4 to the Stour Centre to participate in a carousel of sporting activities. The activities included balance, obstacles, throwing, hockey skills and pushing curling stones. The children participated with enthusiasm in every event and demonstrated an excellent team spirit. Thanks also to Kelly Jones for supporting us with the event. Mrs Cox

The Choir

The Choir have a busy schedule of events over the next couple of weeks! Members of the choir have already sung beautifully at the Light Up Mersham event last Saturday evening, outside the Royal Oak pub and at the Ashford International for Carols by Candlelight. Carols by Candlelight also involved children from six of the other schools in the CARE Foundation Trust and it really was magical listening to the 70 children singing their hearts out! In addition, the event raised £345 for the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Charity. Thank you to all those who came along to either event to support. This weekend, the choir will be singing outside Tesco on Saturday morning between 10-12am, raising money for the school and at Mersham Church's carol service on Sunday evening at 7:30pm. The church will be serving mulled wine and mince pies beforehand. Again, all are welcome to come along to both events.

Upcoming Events

9 th /10 th Dec	Ducklings and Parrots Christmas Production 1:30pm
12 th Dec	Christmas Service in the Church 9:15am
17 th Dec	Class Christmas Parties
18 th Dec	Pantomime
19 th Dec	Christmas Dinner
19 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
19 th Dec	End of Term 2
5 th Jan	Start of Term 3
7 th Jan	Walk in Wednesday
4 th Feb	Walk in Wednesday
13 th Feb	End of Term 3

Christmas Cards in School

As we head into the season of goodwill...instead of children taking their Christmas cards into their classes, the Phoenix Room is now the new hub for cards! We will have a post box outside the Phoenix Room for everyone's cards which the children will then sort and deliver!

We look forward to receiving lots of wonderful cards to deliver this year! Miss Read and Miss Wheeler

Parent Governor Vacancy

Due to the resignation of one of our governors, we now have a vacancy for a Parent Governor.

Being a school governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding voluntary role. It provides an opportunity for people to make a real difference to our young people, and to give something back to the local community. Individuals will also be joining the largest volunteer force in the country. Our school needs a governing board that has balance and a diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to enable it to be effective.

There is no requirement for interested individuals to understand the education system, just to possess the necessary skills, character and time to contribute. There is plenty of training available to help new governors learn about education plus we offer a mentor to support. Schools benefit from a range of professional knowledge on their governing board.

The governing board provides strategic leadership and accountability in our school. It has three key functions:

- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

The average time commitment is four hours per month, although it will vary depending on the needs of the school and the role. This includes 6 full governing body meetings per year. As well as these meetings governors may like to contribute to such specific areas as Health and Safety and Finance. If this is something you might be interested in and you would like more information, please contact Mrs Chalkley to discuss further.

Supermarket Vouchers for the Christmas Holidays

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.

For future reference however, please note that The Household Support Fund which is responsible for the supermarket vouchers for school holidays will cease to exist from March 2026. It will be replaced by a new initiative, the Crisis Resilience Fund, aimed at providing targeted assistance for those most in need. At present, it remains unclear whether the new fund will include financial support for families eligible for free school meals during school holidays. Further details are expected in due course

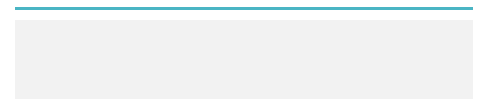
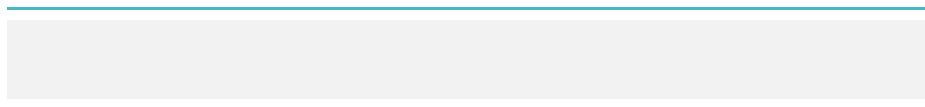
Class Assemblies – Terms 1 and 2

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

Dates are as follows:

11th December

Toucan Class



Junior Adventure Group (JAG) Staff Vacancy

JAG are looking for an After School Club Manger for the club at Mersham Primary School. If anyone is interested in the role or if you know anyone who maybe interested, more information can be found via this link.

<https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/join-our-team/job-application/?adid=640970>

PTFA News

Christmas Fair

A big thank you to everyone who came along this evening and made the fair such a great success. We will provide a further update before the end of term.

Winter Weather Guidance from Kent County Council

Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected, and it can be challenging to maintain an education service.

As a fundamental principle, every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However, schools may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Given those circumstances, it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be on-site.

We recognise that it is important for our school to remain open, so parents can continue to work and pupils can continue to learn. **Mersham Primary School** will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways, clearing access points, etc

How will we let you know if the school is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, Mrs Chalkley may have to make the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made, we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website, which can be accessed here: <https://www.kentclosures.co.uk>

To receive alerts, it is necessary for parents to register and sign up for email and/or Android smartphone notifications on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an email alert to let parents know if **Mersham Primary School** is closed. It is free to use.

Local radio will sometimes provide information on school closures.

What can you do to help?

Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/winter for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.

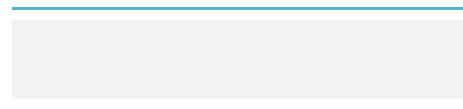
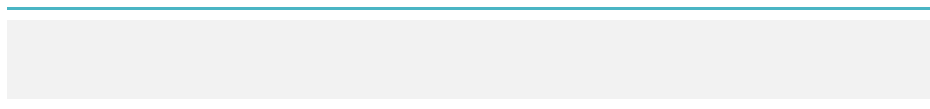
Please approach the school with caution – it can be really icy on the road in front of the school and through the village/country lanes.

Check with the school to see whether you need to provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided.

Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies, etc. or even a change of clothing.

If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school.

This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if the weather dictates.



Many thanks for your support in helping **Mersham Primary School** remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

