
Term 3 – 13th February 2026

Mersham Primary School

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I cannot believe that we are already half way through the school year!

Some of you will have received letters today regarding absences and lates – we have sent these to all parents where children have attendance rates of less than 95% or have been late to school more than three times since Christmas. The government is now putting an increasing emphasis on improving attendance and ensuring children are in school on time to start their learning. Hence we have written to those parents, where this is currently not being achieved, at this half way point in the year. I know that many children were poorly with the flu virus that spread through the school before Christmas which will have affected attendance – it is therefore likely that, with good attendance over the rest of the year, that attendance will easily improve to levels above 95%.

Wishing you all a restful half term break.

**Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher**

Upcoming Events

13 th Feb	End of Term 3
13-26 Feb	Book Fair in the hall
27 th Feb	Interim reports out
5 th March	World Book Day
31 st March	Easter Service at the Church

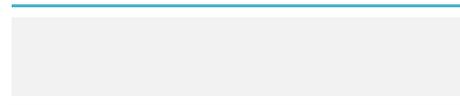
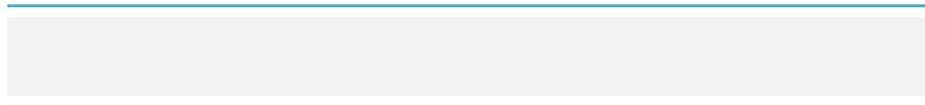
Breakfast Club and After School Club

Please can I remind all parents that if they need Breakfast Club or After School club that they do book in advance. Particularly in Breakfast Club, we have noticed people just arriving that we were not expecting.

I am also pleased to let you know that we have also appointed a member of staff for After School Club. We hope Miss Robin Norman will be starting with us after half term. Until we can appoint another member of staff, they will be supported by an existing member of the school staff as we have been doing this term. We hope to resume a full service, including food and opening hours until 6pm, after the Easter holidays.

Safer Internet Day 2026

On Tuesday, we marked Safer Internet Day 2026 with a whole-school assembly led by our Year 6 Cyber Squad. They shared important messages about smart technology, smart choices and staying safe online, including the growing role of AI in our daily lives. Throughout the week, children have



taken part in computing activities exploring how to use AI responsibly and safely, while also recognising the many positive opportunities it offers. Mrs Quantrell-Evans

Pencil cases in school

It is great that children are bringing in their own pens and pencils in a pencil case to help them with their work in school. However, we are noticing that some of these are very large or children are bringing in more than one pencil case and there is just not the room to have them on their desks! Please can I therefore ask that children bring just the one pencil case that ideally is small enough to fit in their tray. If it is too large, they will be asked to put it in their locker. Thank you for your support.

Celebrating Reading – Book Fair and World Book Day

As we lead up to 'World Book Day' on the 5th March we are preparing for the arrival of our book fair! Don't forget to come along and grab some great new reads, see our flyer attached. We really appreciate all of your support and purchases which raise additional funds for the school to purchase new texts. Mrs Sly will be launching a brand new competition for all children where they can earn certificates and prizes for their reading, look out for this in your child's reading record.

Our annual fancy dress parade will take place on Thursday 5th March where we invite pupils to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Parents are welcomed to join us in the playground from 8:35 where the parade will take place.

Supermarket Vouchers for the Half Term Break

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 break.

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. The new scheme does not allow for blanket provision of vouchers based solely on eligibility for free school meals and therefore it is likely that some families who are currently eligible, will not be eligible after that date.

Miss Maher's Quiz – 13th March.

Following the success of the last quiz, Miss Maher is organising another one at the school on Friday 13th March to raise money for the charity Sands which has a particular significance at the school, following recent events. Please find attached a flyer with further details. It would be great to see as many teams as possible!

Term Dates 2026-2027

Term 1

Tuesday 1st September – Friday 23rd October

Staff Development Days – Tuesday 1st September and Friday 23rd October

Term 2

Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December

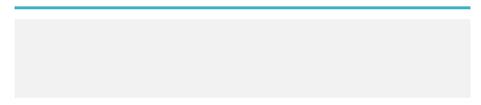
Term 3

Monday 4th January – Friday 12th February

Term 4

Monday 22nd February – Thursday 25th March

Term 5



Monday 12th April – Friday 28th May

Bank Holiday – Monday 3rd May

Term 6

Monday 7th June – Wednesday 21st July

Staff Development Days – Monday 19th July, Tuesday 20th July and Wednesday 21st July

Class Assemblies – Terms 3 and 4

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

Dates are as follows:

12 th March	Toucan Class
19 th March	Kingfisher Class
26 th March	Parrot Class
2 nd April	Falcon Class

England Rugby Y3-4 Girls event invitation for schools - Ashford RFC

Please see attached flyer for more information.

Ashford School Discovery Day - Saturday 28 February

Please see attached flyer for more information

PTFA News

Amazon Wishlists

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who has purchased items from the Class Amazon Wishlists. This is a fantastic way to directly support your child's class with resources! The wishlists remain open for all classes, with just a few items left to get. QR codes for each class can be found on the attached poster.

Do You have any Unwanted Gifts?

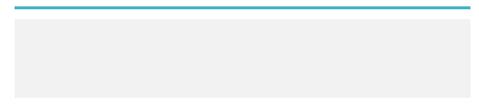
We are having a Gift Amnesty to prepare for our next Elfridges! If you were lucky enough to have been gifted more presents than you need, please consider donating them to the PTFA. We rely heavily on donations to stock our shop with a variety of lovely gifts. Any unwanted gifts are gratefully received and can be dropped into the school office anytime in January. Thank you!

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.

