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Term 4 – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

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# Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

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



**Thank you to everyone who took part in World Book Day – it was amazing to see such fabulous costumes! Congratulations to all the class winners who truly blew the judges away with their creativity! During the week, the children also took part in a range of other activities to promote a love of books and reading that included; reading with children from another class, sharing a story with a different teacher as well as a carousel of activities, with different teachers, linked to a story, on World Book Day itself. A huge thank you to all the staff for their hard work and especially Mrs Sly for overseeing all the planning and organising of Book Week.**

**Cheryl Chalkley  
Headteacher**

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## Staffing Updates

After nearly seven years at the school, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Sly at the end of this term as she has made the decision to take up a position at The Beacon School, a special school in Folkestone. She has made a huge contribution to the school in terms of her expertise in Early Years and in Reading, particularly phonics and whilst we wish her every success in her new role, she will be very much missed. Mrs Cox will be covering the class in terms 5 and 6 to ensure some continuity for the class until the end of the year. Miss Higgins, who is also a qualified teacher, will be covering the teachers' PPA time in place of Mrs Cox, again until the end of the year.

You may have also noticed that Mr Oatham is not in school at the moment as he is recovering from some minor surgery. To support the school in the interim, Mr Graham Reed is covering aspects of that role until Mr Oatham returns to work.

## Sporting News - Sportshall Athletics Years 1&2 Sportshall Athletics - Infant Agility

On Tuesday morning, we had the pleasure of taking ten children to the Stour Centre for the Sportshall Athletics competition with fifteen other schools. The children shone in all areas—running, jumping, and throwing—and their enthusiasm and support for one another stood out. A highlight was watching one of our relay teams dig deep and race from third place to first, something the organisers praised. We couldn't be prouder; they were wonderful ambassadors for our school. Mrs Cox and Miss Higgins.

## Upcoming Events

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 9 <sup>th</sup> March  | Science Week                                 |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> March | Walk in<br>Wednesday                         |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> March | Non-uniform day<br>(Easter Egg<br>donations) |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> March | Easter Egg Bingo<br>3:30-5:00pm              |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> March | Easter Service at<br>the Church<br>9:15am    |

### **Year 3 and 4 Sportshall Athletics**

On Wednesday morning, 18 children from Year 3 and 4 participated in Stour Centre Sportshall Athletics competition alongside 15 other schools. It was such a pleasure to see how they all supported each other in all areas, which consisted of jumping, running and throwing. They all showed dedication and never gave up. One of many highlights was when we came first in the 2 by 2 boys relay! We all celebrated every moment as a team.

The children showed readiness, respect and safety at every turn, representing Mersham beautifully. We could not be more impressed or proud of each and every one of them and would like to thank parents and carers for ensuring their children could get there and experience such a special day.  
Mr Fraser and Mrs Croucher

### **Year 5&6 Sportshall Athletics**

On Tuesday afternoon, we had the pleasure of supporting nineteen enthusiastic children from Years 5 and 6 at a lively, noisy and wonderfully hectic athletics competition involving fifteen schools. Our pupils took part in a wide range of running, jumping and throwing events, pushing themselves to achieve the very best for their team. Several children stepped into extra events at the last moment, while others showed incredible determination—one relay team even powered from last place to an impressive second.

Throughout the afternoon, the children demonstrated independence as they navigated the busy timetable and showed outstanding team spirit, cheering one another on at every opportunity. We were delighted to finish 4th overall and proud to be placed 1st among the small schools. Well done team! Mrs Cox and Miss Higgins

### **Folkestone Junior Chess Club**

Folkestone Junior Chess Club is the only dedicated junior chess club in all of SE Kent and has been going for more than 10 years. For more information about joining the club, please see the link <https://folkestonejrchess.wixsite.com/juniors>

### **Football Camp for 4 – 12 year-olds this Easter break (see attached flyer)**

Here's an opportunity to sign your child up for a few days of active fun during the Easter break with Premier Football School. PFS are running a football camp for boys and girls aged 4 - 12 and welcomes all abilities. This activity camp will run from Monday 13th – Wednesday 15th April at Ashford Independent School. Parents simply drop-off at 10.00am and pick up at 3.30pm. The fee is just £13 per day and children receive a trophy to take home! Children play in groups according to their age and ability in a fun and safe environment. To reserve a place or find out more, visit [www.premierfootballschool.co.uk](http://www.premierfootballschool.co.uk) or contact 07821 573837 / [premierfootballschool@gmail.com](mailto:premierfootballschool@gmail.com) .

### **Ashford Rugby Club – Girls Rugby Festival (see attached flyer)**

We are delighted to invite your pupils to attend a FREE Girls' Rugby Festival designed to inspire more girls to get involved in rugby in a fun, supportive and inclusive environment.

✿ Special Feature:

The Women's Rugby World Cup Trophy will be in attendance, giving players a fantastic opportunity to have their photo taken with the trophy!

This event is proudly funded by England Rugby and delivered in partnership with TSC Rugby Academy and Ashford Rugby Club.

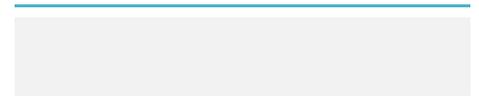
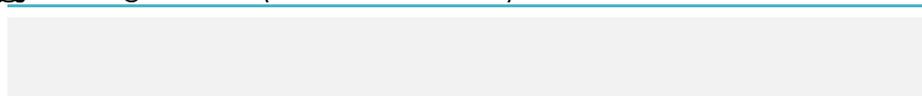
Event Details:

📍 Ashford Rugby Club, Kinneys Fields, Kinneys Lane, TN24 9QB

📅 Saturday 21st March

🕒 10:30am – 1:00pm

👧 Girls aged 7–12 (School Years 3–7)



 FREE to attend

The session will include:

- Fun rugby activities for all abilities
- Contact and non-contact options
- Games and skill-based challenges
- Qualified and experienced coaches
-  Photo opportunity with the Women's Rugby World Cup Trophy

Our aim is to create a positive first experience of rugby and inspire the next generation of female players.

Parents can register here:

 <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/e3d1e86b1c274ee482c0e8b587684fb4>

### **Miss Maher's Quiz – 13th March.**

Following the success of the last quiz, Miss Maher is organising another one at the school on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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!

### **Kent PACT (Parents and Carers Together) Annual Survey (see attached flyer)**

“Kent PACT Annual SEND Survey is now LIVE!

Parents and Carers across Kent are invited to share their experiences of Education, Health and Social Care. Tell us what's working, what isn't, and what needs to change.

With a Kent County Council (KCC) Ofsted inspection approaching, your feedback is more important than ever. Your responses help us build a clear evidence-based picture and directly influence services provided by KCC, the NHS, social care, and national SEND discussions.

Please take a few minutes and click here to complete the survey and make your voice heard - [2026 KP SEND Survey | portal-kentpact.co.uk](#)

As a thank you, 4 participants will win Amazon vouchers: £60, £40, £25 and £25.

### **Social Media Consultation – message from Sojan Joseph, MP for Ashford**

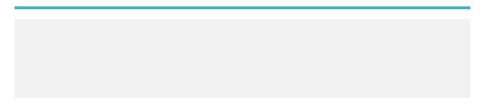
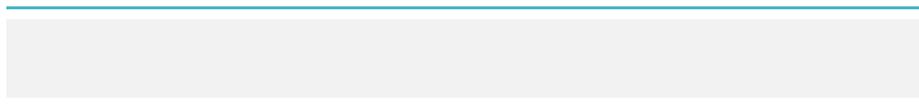
I am writing to make you aware of a national consultation launched this week by the Government: “Growing Up in the Online World.”

The consultation seeks views on children's experiences online and the role of social media in their lives. The consultation is also open to parents and carers of children aged over 10, and I would therefore be appreciative if you could consider sharing the details with families at your school, particularly parents and carers of pupils in Years 5 and 6.

The consultation can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/growing-up-in-the-online-world-a-national-consultation>

This is an important opportunity for parents and carers to help shape future policy around children's online safety, digital wellbeing, and social media use. Their input will help inform the Government's approach to ensuring young people can benefit from the online world while being properly protected from harm.



## **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 <sup>th</sup> March	Toucan Class
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Kingfisher Class
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Parrot Class
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Falcon Class

## **PTFA News**

### **Easter egg non uniform day – 20th March**

On Friday 20th March children are invited to wear their own clothes for the day.

In exchange, the PTFA would like to poach your kind donations of an easter egg (or equivalent).

We're not yolking - these will be used as prizes at our Easter Egg bingo on 27th March, so save the date as more information about that will be out next week.

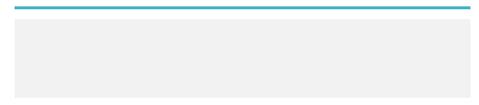
We'll collect your egg-cellent donations on the gate.

## **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!

