
Term 6 – 17th July 2026

Mersham Primary School

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What a busy last week of term we have had! Well done to all those children who took part in the Rock Steady Concert and to the amazing Year 6s for their highly professional production of The Island Rocks, it really was a pleasure to watch. Then of course, we had our Ofsted Inspection, in a week that most school leaders would acknowledge is one of the least ideal times for that to happen! A huge thank you to everyone for their support – the staff team were absolutely awesome (this was a real team effort from start to finish) but the children were also brilliant and thank you to all of you who either responded to the parent survey or spoke with one of the inspectors. The final report will take longer than usual because of the summer holidays but I look forward to sharing that with you hopefully before the end of September.

It just leaves me to wish all those who are leaving us today every success in your new schools and to everybody I hope you have a wonderful summer break and we look forward to seeing you in September.

**Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher**

Upcoming Events

17 th July	End of Term 6
20 th July	Staff Training Day
21 st July	Staff Training Day
1 st Sept	Staff training Day
2 nd Sept	Start of Term 1
10 th Sept	Kent Test
22 nd Oct	Last Day of term 1
23 rd Oct	Staff Training Day
2 nd Nov	Start of Term 2

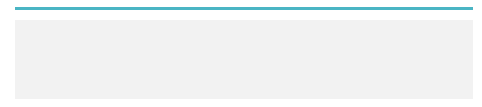
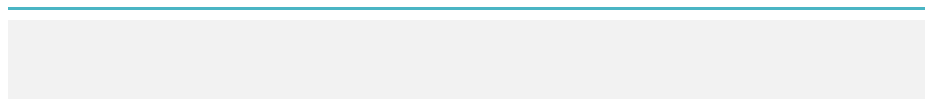
Staffing News

As previously shared with parents, Miss Maher and Mrs Fell will be leaving us today and we wish them all the very best for the future, whatever they choose to do next.

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Delaney today as she has taken up a role at The Beacon School where she will also have the opportunity to train to become a teacher. She will be very much missed at the school but we also know that she will make an amazing teacher and we wish her every success for the future too. We will advertising over the summer holidays for an additional teaching assistant to replace Mrs Delaney's role.

Bomb Disposal Team Robot Naming Competition

I am pleased to announce that the winning name for the Bomb Disposal Team's robot was 'Dispososaurus' which was suggested by Louie in Year 4. Well done Louie



School Dinners

We have let parents know some while ago but this is a reminder that for those children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who have school dinners (and who are not eligible for free school meals), the cost of a school dinner is going up to £3.10 from September.

Changes to Free School Meals

A letter went out previously explaining the changes to free school meal eligibility from September. Please read carefully as many more children will become eligible but it needs parents to submit a claim in order to access the benefits. If you should need any help, please contact the school office.

Great British Summer Savings – message from the Secretary of State for Education

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom. As part of this campaign, we have launched an attraction finder website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>

Reading Challenge

The Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge is back at Kent Libraries from Saturday 4 July to Saturday 5 September – and it's completely free to take part.

This year's theme, Read to the Beat, celebrates music, stories and creativity, encouraging children aged 4 to 11 to enjoy reading in a way that works for them.

Children can join at any time by visiting their local library, borrowing a book and getting started. They can also take part online by logging their reading digitally.

With flexible reading-related goals and rewards along the way, children can read to their own beat and build confidence over the summer.

Can't wait to start? As part of the National Year of Reading, you can Go All In and begin now by sharing your reading goals in the Kent Libraries Book Chat group on Facebook.

Library staff are on hand to help, and you can plan your visit with virtual tours and social stories available online.

Find out more at www.kent.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge

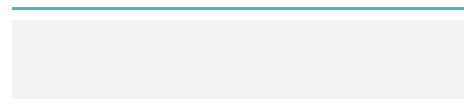
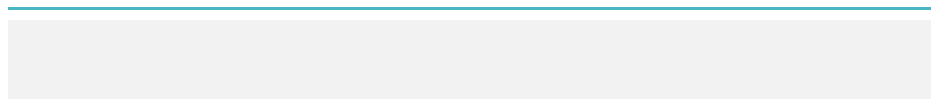
Hamstreet Youth Football Club

Please see attached flyer from Hamstreet Youth Football Club who are looking for new players.

Message from Manston Airport Museum (see flyer)

We are the RAF Manston History Museum, an aviation museum located in Manston, Kent, dedicated to preserving and educating the public on the history of Manston as an RAF base.

As we approach the summer holidays, the museum will be joining in on the Summer Savings Scheme and holding a special deal over the summer holidays. Children under 15 can come into the museum



for a special price of £5 and this will get them museum entry as well as a box of lunch from the NAAFI Café. This is valid from the 20th July until the 7th September.

Dance Workshops in Ashford – see attached flyer

Please see attached about some exciting creative dance workshops planned for ages 5 - 11. We also have bursaries available.

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

